



February 19, 2015

MINUTES

VALHALLA SCHOOL FOUNDATION REGULAR BOARD MEETING

In attendance:

J. Picard (by Skype)	J. Kochendorfer	B. Kjemhus	J. White	T. Campbell
J. Hauger	M. Gerow	E. Penner	S. Mumert	K. Rosvold
R. Tantawy	J. Moutray			

1.0 CALL TO ORDER – REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA Called to order with a quorum present at 6:07pm. (15/2-1) B. Kjemhus made motion for agenda acceptance with the amendments of 7.1 to 8.1 and adding 8.2 Calendar draft. R. Tantawy's name was spelled wrong on Agenda. AIF

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Dec 11/14) (15/2-2) T.Campbell made motion to accept the minutes as amended. AIF.

3.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES: B. Kjemhus explained that the bursary information has been forwarded on to K. Davidson from BRHS to be implemented this year.

M. Gerow arrived at 6:26pm.

4.0 BOARD DEVELOPMENT: R. Tantawy presented information about the issues with the German Program. He is having trouble with sourcing textbooks as well we have large class' which are not in a permanent room which can cause problems. There was discussion on the differences with High and Low German, High German being the dialect primarily used in Germany now, and Low German being a more regionalized version.

R. Tantawy left meeting at 6:43pm.

5.0 Reports

5.1 Chair: J. Kochendorfer gave a verbal report but included an attached report on the meeting with Minister Dirk's (15/2-3) B. Kjemhus made motion to reimburse for J. Kochendorfer for her expenses while attending the meeting with Minister Dirks, J. Hauger seconded. AIF.

5.2 Transportation Director: attached

5.3 Secretary Treasurer: attached. (15/2-4) M. Gerow moved to add \$10,000 to Superintendent Expenses and \$1000 to Superintendent Contract expenses for CASS, these to come out of general income. J. White seconded. AIF.

5.4 Principal: attached.

5.5 Superintendent: attached.

J. Moutray left meeting at 7:50pm.

6.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Executive Committee:

6.1.1 Superintendent Evaluation. (15/2-5) M. Gerow moved to go in camera at 7:51pm. (15/2-6) J. White moved to come out of camera at 8:05pm.

6.2. Finance Committee: nothing to report will plan a budget formation meeting.

6.3 Human Resources Committee:

6.3.1 Policies E102, G202, G203 are being reviewed but will need consultation with interested parties.

6.4 Program Committee: nothing at this time.

6.5 Governance Committee:

6.5.1 Vacancies: J. White has submitted her resignation as of the end of the March board meeting. M. Gerow has suggested he will not be returning after his term is complete. (15/2-7) T. Campbell moved to regretfully accept J. White's resignation as of March 19, 2015. AIF.

6.5.2 AGM- Reports, the chairs of all the committees have been asked to submit reports for the AGM. We are looking for a feature topic for the AGM.

6.6 Fund Development Committee:

6.6.1 B. Kjemhus will talk to the Valhalla Mercantile Café to see if we would be allowed to leave cookbooks there to sell. N. Kjemhus sold cook books at the 'It's a Beaverlodge Thing'

6.6.2 Tabled to after the organizational meeting. Should check into other potential grants.

6.7 Reports from Partner Organizations

6.7.1 VHS. Nothing at this time

6.7.2 VCS School Council: very successful Healthy Snack Program, people and organizations were very generous. Silent Auction in December did well. The D.A.R.E program has been requested by parents.

6.7.3 Playground: nothing to report

6.7.4 TAAPCS: minutes from last meeting are attached.

7.0 OLD BUSINESS Nothing to report

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 15 Year Renewal: we will be having a Strategic Planning meeting on February 28, 2015 at 10:00am. J. Picard will prepare documents for meeting.

8.2 Calendar Draft: calendars were circulated and explained for future approval.

Program Committee

February 28, 2015 TBA


9.0 EVALUATION OF MEETING: Governance will plan a meeting, wonderful meeting; recruit-recruit-recruit is the goal for now.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT: (15/2-8) M. Gerow made motion to adjourn at 8:50pm.

Next meeting is March 18, 2015



J. Kschendorfer – Chair



K. Rosvold Secretary-Treasurer

Each Charter was given the opportunity to share briefly (5 minutes) regarding their school and their success, particularly in light of Inspiring Education. Every charter was represented, mostly with superintendent and board chair, a few only had their superintendent, and we only had board chair. When in attendance all but one of the board chairs did the speaking on behalf of the schools, with one other sharing the speaking with their superintendent.

The minister responded with comments to each one which highlighted some of his priorities

- Good governance – kudos for focusing on the generative piece
- Impressed by the amount, quality, and scope of research
- Our peer coaching - kudos
- Impressed by allowing students to move to different levels in academics
- Wants to see risk taking, inquiry, student centered, mastery
- Asked about GSA's – only a few have them

Notes from other charters of interest:

- New Horizons – Partners with Elk Island for transportation, Sherwood Park is a hub for bussing; students move to classes according to ability in math (accelerating)
- MECC – condition on 15 year charter of academics, “never going to be there”
- CAPE – track their high school completion rate, only go to GR 9, but follow their students after, plus post-secondary; helping parents support education at home by working on “parent engagement”, not “involvement”

Discussed budget

- Alluded to need to reduce salaries in the big expense categories Education, Health, Human services

Respectfully submitted,

Jolene Kochendorfer

TRANSPORTATION REPORT FEB. 2015

The weather has been the biggest issue this past month and has proven to be quite challenging in my morning drives over our routes, lots of driving checking road conditions. On one morning I had to get Doug to pull me out of the ditch as I slipped off the range road, it cost me coffee and pie at the Merc.

The 3 new buses are coming up for their 6 month CVIP's, don't expect any problems with these buses, changed out the crossing arm assemble on 106 this was not warranty. The spare 104 is due for CVIP at the end of February; it does require some repairs mainly wiring issues. The Bluebird unit 105 had some repairs done wiring for Webasto engine heater, entrance door adjustment; we have no warranty on this bus.

I have been working with the principal and one teacher on a Bus behavior issue with one student as a result from the Mighty Peace field trip.

Thanks

John Moutray



Valhalla School Foundation

Operating Valhalla Community School, Northern Alberta's First Rural Leadership Charter School

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Secretary/Treasurer Report February 2015

Thank you for your cooperation in letting me have the time for my family vacation, it was a much needed family time that we have lacked for many years. Fortunately it actually only meant 2 days off, so worked well in my timing.

I continued with the everyday business of this office. Paying bills and handling emails and mail.

Dealing with issues with ATRF and their website.

Received confirmation of the WCB annual return only to find out that last year's numbers were under estimated for the annual return which has now left us with an unexpected large bill.

Made several trips to Beaverlodge to post office and bank.

Sent off information for the Valhalla School Bursary to Mrs. Davidson at the BRHS.

Received the Six Year Comparative Financial Report from Robert Mah.

Continued with finding information about the new benefit packages and products.

Looked into some budget issues, and have started to work on the budget for the upcoming year.

Working on the GRE (Government Reporting Entity) for this year.

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Rosvold
Secretary/Treasurer
Valhalla School Foundation

Principal's Report

To the VSF Charter Board

FEBRUARY 19, 2015

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STARTUP UPDATE **Error! Bookmark not defined**

CURRENT STATUS

- Enrolment.....

LOOKING AHEAD.....

CURRENT STATUS

- Enrolment

VCS Enrolment (Updated January 19, 2015)		
2014/2015	Classroom	Wait List
ECS - 15	15	K - 0
Gd 1 - 10, Gd 2 - 14	24	Gd 1 - 0, Gd 2 - 0
Gd 3 - 6, Gd 4 - 11	17	Gd 3 - 0, Gd 4 - 0
Gd 5 - 7, Gd 6 - 16	23	Gd 5 - 0, Gd 6 - 0
Gd 7 - 11	11	Gd 7 - 0
Gd 8 - 12	12	Gd 8 - 0
Gd 9 - 14	14	Gd 9 - 0
TOTAL	116	0

- Enrolment -- actual numbers (Gd K-9: 116, Gd 1-9: 101), FTE: 108.5 (K-9),
 - Sept., 2013: K-9 was 115, 1-9 was 110, FTE was 112.5
- Special Education students
 - One PUFs student-- funding applied for
 - One Code 44 student (Grade 3) -- funding in place
 - Several diagnosed (some medicated) ADHD students ... these are not funded
 - Many ESL coded students (grant available)
- Several students moved away or have taken extended trips

Recent Activity

- Ongoing work with students, teachers and parents on student management
- Ongoing work with families regarding attendance issues
- Third party observation of severe needs student and assessment for teaching as well as funding
- Ongoing work with Transportation Director and drivers on student management and other concerns
- Ongoing work with Secretary/Treasurer on admin, finance
- Monthly curriculum/program updates for parents have been implemented; admin working with teachers to ensure close family contact as needed for individual students
- Study Hall program being fine tuned; renamed SKILL (Study, Knowledge, Initiative and Life-long Learning) Program, study skill/basic academic module introduced and being developed
- PD provided: Gordon Neufeld (Power to Teach workshop), CHAMPS, Student Engagement – Peer Coaching (Suicide Awareness Workshop was scheduled for Feb.13 but had to be cancelled.)
- Feb. 5 – ASIST presentations to JH students
- Feb. 6 – VCS Public Speaking Competition
- Feb.10 - Mighty Peace Day (grades 6-9 attended)

LOOKING AHEAD

- VCS staff and management will be continuing to seek ways to intentionalize and strengthen the implementation of our charter's leadership mandate. We're also working on ways to improve our charter required cursive writing program.
- Need to continue working toward improved communication of our message with the wider community as well as *improving classroom to home communication*. We need to strengthen our message that parents need to partner with VCS by ensuring a daily (on school days) after-school, monitored homework time for doing assignments and (perhaps more importantly) studying core school subjects. We need to develop better tools/helps for parents to implement this practice.
- Interviewing for maternity leave replacement for Mrs. LeBlanc
- Implementing 1st round of peer coaching observations/discussions
- Admin is working to add value to VCS students' experience. Les Bouchérons booked for one day in March, 2015, investigating possibility of bringing Missoula Theatre next year – These programs are *extra-budget!* Fund raising is proceeding.
- March 5,6: Teachers Convention
- March 9-19: CTBS testing (scaled back from previous years)
- March 13: Term 2 Report Cards (Anna is working hard – still – to get Maplewood ready.)
- March 18 : Les Bouchérons
- Date TBD: VCS Returning Students Registration
- Date TBD: VCS Kindergarten Registration
- I continue to look forward to discussion with the board and any individuals concerning the ongoing direction of our school. The reality of the challenges all schools face can only be met by continual, creative cooperation by all of our school community ... something that I hold to be a privilege to be a part of!

Respectfully submitted,



Steve Mumert, Principal



Valhalla School Foundation

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

February 19, 2015

Main Activities and Developments

- **Meeting with Alberta Ed rep Cathy Rasmussen - AEP AERR / Charter Renewal (see notes below)**
- **Renewal application planning**
- **Meeting with HR Policy committee**
- **Meeting with Executive committee – Superintendent evaluation**
- **Planning for meeting with Minister**

Staff and Board Communication

- **Steve Mumert – Home-school communication, programming, coaching and professional development**
- **Karen Rosvold – Budget update**
- **John Moutray – Policy / Budget**
- **Board Chair – Agenda, Policy, Meeting with Minister**

Planning and Priorities

- **Policy Review**
- **15 Year Charter Renewal / Bylaws, Charter Update**
- **Strategic Planning – Future of VSF/VHS arrangement for facility**
- **Critical needs:**
 - **long-term, sustainable fund development to support school operation and transportation needs**

*Respectfully,
John Picard*

Notes on Meeting with Cathy Rasmussen:

AERR AEP

Discussion of items that were not clearly understood, improvement of results plan, correction of a few links that were not working (documents on Alberta Ed website/our website) – Overall, very satisfactory.

Charter Renewal

Valhalla Community School has another 3 years in its current charter. An application for another 5 year or 15 year charter must be submitted by December 1st of the final year of the current charter; in our case, December 2017. As well, in the new Education Act, there are a number of new Charter regulations.

For Charter Renewal:

1. Charter schools are expected to take part in research informed practice and action research that helps justify their charter focus.
2. Charter schools will be held accountable for showing innovation and engagement with a post-secondary institution.
3. Charters will need to show that student achievement is consistently strong or improving

The school must show multiple indicators of evidence of the criteria listed above in order to successfully attain a 15 year charter. Under the new Ministerial Order, the 5 year and 15 year charter applications will be expected to demonstrate how the school strategies (i.e. Direct instruction) align with the vision, policy shifts and guiding principles outlined in Inspiring Education.

Waiting until December, 2017 to apply, would allow us some time to begin building our research-informed practices. Focusing on helping staff explore ways to implement action research into the work of the school, would give the opportunity to collect a few years of data. Some type of partnership with a post-secondary institution or school jurisdiction that allows us to share our innovative practices is also necessary. As well, our AERR results this year do not prove consistently high or improving student achievement. Another few years of improving results would be to our advantage.

German Language Surveys

Other Mennonite communities have expressed interest in this and it is being worked on. I volunteered our school to pilot draft surveys when they are completed as this would permit us to be involved in an innovation and to offer an opportunity to our German-speaking parents.