

Charter Board Highlights December 2012

This has been an extremely busy time for board business. December 1 marks the final deadline for several Alberta Education submission requirements including: the revised budget (after the official Sept. 30 student count is in), the Audited Financial Statement, and the Annual Education Plan and Alberta Education Results Report. All of these reports already require a significant amount of work for our administration, however this year, since we are in the final year of our current charter's term; we were also required to submit our Application for Charter Renewal. All of these documents are posted on our website (www.valhallacommunityschool.ca) and are well worth taking time to review. You may find the Charter Renewal Application particularly interesting because it gives an overview of the full term of our charter. Thank you to our administration for their excellent work on these very important submissions.

A very timely opportunity presented itself on Dec. 13, in that we were invited to spend a half hour session with the new Education Minister, Jeff Johnson. This gave us an excellent venue to highlight our school and give information to support our request for renewal. Minister Johnson was very receptive to our message, and to the support of Charter Schools in general, so we were extremely pleased with our visit.

December 5 has been named International Volunteer Day. With that in mind, we would like to acknowledge all of the terrific support we receive from our volunteers. So many people devote their time in such a variety of ways: administrative, website, school council, ski hill, playground, regular and special events in the classroom or for class trips, sports, fundraising, and more. We truly value this work and recognize the immense advantage it provides for our school.

One brand new member of the Charter Board volunteer team is Donna Steyer, the interim director elected at our November regular board meeting. Donna returned to our community after working as a doctor in the States for several years and has 3 children in our school. We look forward to her contributions to the board. Our next regular meeting will be Jan. 31. Please note, in response to feedback requesting evening meetings, we have moved our regular meeting time to 5:30-8:30 p.m.

We would also like to acknowledge our appreciation of the great benefit to our students from the support and coaching they receive in their activities. Congratulations to Mrs. Flint and all those involved with the Valhalla Viking volleyball team for their excellent season! Also, for the staff and students' hard work on our Christmas program, which is a highlight we look forward to each year. Thank you to all of you for your dedication to, and enthusiasm for, these projects.

Now to all the staff, students, parents, and community members of the Valhalla Community School we wish you a well-deserved rest, a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!