

Welcome everyone, to another year at northern Alberta's first rural Charter School! As you know, our Charter Board has been given the mandate to deliver an innovative program grounded in whole-group direct instruction, incorporating mandatory second language and student leadership development. The responsibility for providing your children with this unique education is one we work hard to achieve.

With that in mind, I would like to thank our entire staff for their excellent effort and commitment in getting another year off to a great start. We sincerely appreciate how each person contributes to carrying out our vision in their daily work. In addition, in recognition of bus safety week, October 19-25, I would like to make a special note regarding our transportation staff. We are grateful to these dedicated people for their terrific work, transporting your children safely to and from school each day.

On the board front, there have been a few changes to note. Recently, we have regretfully received the resignations of directors, Donna Steyer and Monica Modrall. The charter board has truly benefitted from the involvement of these directors and we wish them all the best. The board has chosen to fill these vacancies in the interim according to Article 2: Section 9 of our bylaws. Our bylaws specify, a director must be 18 years of age or older, a parent or guardian of a child attending the VCS or a community member who is supportive of the mission of the VCS. For more information, the Bylaws, Charter and Director Nomination Profile Agreement can be viewed on our website or contact one of the directors on the Governance Committee (Jolene, Mike, Brenda). Please consider serving as a director. Several of our directors have expressed how much they have enjoyed their work on the board. It provides an interesting learning opportunity and a chance to provide valuable support to our school.

Further to this, as a result of previous discussions in response to a recommendation from Alberta Ed during our renewal process, we are clarifying our qualifications for "community" members of the Valhalla School Foundation. Originally, community members were described as those living within the designated local geographical boundary. Realizing that this limits interested individuals who live outside the area, but are nonetheless supportive of our school, we are creating a Declaration of Understanding for people without students in the school to sign, in order to confirm their membership in the Valhalla School Foundation.

Our next board meeting will be Oct. 30; interested individuals are welcome to attend. The charter board regular monthly meetings are open, although occasionally there are items of a nature that require us to move *in camera*. At such a time, guests would be asked to leave for the duration of the discussion; then welcomed back when that subject is finished. Approved minutes of the meetings are posted on our website <http://www.valhallacommunityschool.ca/>. Typically, meetings run from 6-9 p.m. Watch the monthly school calendar for dates.

Finally, thank you for choosing our school. We appreciate your support and look forward to wonderful year as we partner with you in the education of your children. Go Vikings!

Jolene Kochendorfer [jdkochendorfer@gmail.com](mailto:jdkochendorfer@gmail.com)

Charter Board: Jolene Kochendorfer (Chair), Brenda Kjemhus (Vice-Chair), Jennifer White,  
Mike Gerow, Tracy Campbell

Please call the school for director contact information: 780 356 2370