# **Vimy Ridge Public School School Council Meeting Minutes January 9, 2018**

1. **Update from Principal McCormack**

* Gifted program continues to be examined by the Board. Board is also looking at promoting positive student behaviours. Several resources to support: Supporting minds, etc. quiet areas in classroom, allowing students to stand, learning areas outside classroom (maker space), abc charts, etc.
* Canada students ranked 5th in PISA assessment in problem solving and 10th in math, of 75 countries assessed.
* At the school level: Continue to increase staff capacity with Number Talks
* Well-Being plan has been crafted. Staff will work on that during the upcoming PD Day on Feb 16. Will also look at Equity Continuum.
* Library to open next week for book circulation.
* Kathryn Ferguson- incoming vice-principal, she will be providing support to behaviour class BIP and grade 7 and maybe grade 2.
* Jan. 26 and Feb. 16 are upcoming PD Days.

**Update from student council**

* Students developed a voting system to choose school theme and mascot: Vimy Ridge Raptors was the winner. Next step is to develop mascot look.
* Junior/intermediate book club to start next week
* Primaries planning winter activity day.
* 2nd band to be created.
* Junior drama club to start with Ms Dale.

1. **Social/Events Committee Update**

* Movie night Jan 19: Boss Baby.
* Winter Wonderland Ball dance in February being planned. Suggestions welcome. Family event, not just for students.
* Chapters Night at South Keys has been booked for March 7- all proceeds from sales that night goes to school
* Staples Night for teachers, parents welcome to use discount as well. January 10-16. 20% office supplies.
* Lunch programs: 2nd sessions will start February 20. No more pepperoni pizza going forward, and only one size for Booster juices.

1. **Playground Committee Update**

* Waiting on student council to make a decision on playground items they would like and then committee can formulate a budget and business plan.

1. **Grounds and Safety Committee**

* Double-gate installed
* Crossing guard to begin at the beginning of February through the City
* Will work on bike racks in spring
* Winter Walk Day Kathleen Joy public health nurse February 7, Ms McCormack working to promote that. Working on a pedestrian safety presentation as well. No date yet.
* Red Cross has offered to train 10-12 older students at the school over 2 days. Beyond the Hurt, anti-bullying program, violence prevention.
* Parent suggestion: staff could wear vests instead of sashes to be more visible at recess time.

1. **STEM committee**

* Will meet again soon to create bins of 5 stations each so teachers can use bins for their students.
* Contact made with NASA so we can get stuff from them.
* Tammy to ask again for donated laptops from Mark Fisher for maker space, for the Lego Mindstorm kits we purchased.

1. **Treasurer’s Update**

* No changes to bank account balance.

1. **School Funds Update**

* Still have not received funds from School Board, funds (about $14K) not yet released. About $3,800 to be spent on robotics.
* Requirement from school board to spend 90% of funds we acquire in the school year. Council members encouraged to bring in our business cases to spend the money on the school.
* Sens draw raised enough money to buy 2 musical instruments.

1. **Roundtable**

* There is a need for students without lockers to store their rented musical instruments. Mrs. McCormack to look into a storage locker.
* Possibility to move timing of councils meetings to not coincide with FCCA meetings, perhaps to the second Tuesday of each month? Co-chairs to discuss.
* Can we get a list of clubs for parents, to post on school website?
* Discussion around the length of council meetings. To limit the length to 2 hours, members are asked to inform co-chairs one week in advance if there is a business case to be discussed, and attach it to the agenda so members can read and prepare questions. We can even collect the question before the meeting so the owner of business case can come prepared. Co-chairs to discuss this approach.