

Victor Primary School

VPS Building Council Minutes

April 19, 2018

Primary Conference Room 101

7:45 a.m.

Facilitator: Jen Check

Notetaker: Jen Check

Members: Kristin Abbott, Leah Besaw, Merry Braithwaite, Wendy Chiasson, Josh Doyle, Kelly Gelinas, Matt Mulvaney, Julia Reeder, Chris Space, Colleen Saar

Guests: Leah Kedley, Doug Schmidt

Minutes

#	Topic/Subject			
Opening				
1	Welcome	Facilitator		Doug was welcomed and the Guest Protocol was followed.
2	Approve minutes	Facilitator		Members approved the minutes from March 27, 2018.
3	Review agenda	Facilitator		
Guest Presentation				None
4				
Old Business				
5	Goal Work: Expanding Enriching Opportunities			<p>Expanding Enriching Opportunities (not the program) - VPS Building Council will determine a process to glean insight about topics and strategies to promote further enrichment opportunities for all children, both inside and outside the classroom setting, then make recommendations and outline a plan to incorporate enhancements.</p> <p>Doug Schmidt shared information about the enrichment program at VPS, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The enrichment program has been in place at VCS for approximately 40 years. • We are a part of a consortium through BOCES and collaborate with colleagues in other districts to review research, hear from guest speakers, and share new enrichment ideas. Doug will investigate whether teachers can be invited to attend meetings/presentations for topics relevant to our work with children. • The enrichment program goes through a review every 5 years to monitor and adjust our program based on the needs of children. • There are two enrichment teachers at the elementary levels. Doug supports children in first grade through

				<p>third grade. Amy Smith-Faczan supports children in fourth grade through sixth grade.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doug’s schedule fluctuates based on the needs of children, space, and overall building schedules. Currently, he works in the ECS for two half-days each week, supports children at VPS in the K/1 multiage program for a morning, and the rest of his schedule is spent working with children in second and third grade. He works his schedule around children’s special area classes and lunch times. • Discovery Quests are offered to children. These typically last about 6 weeks, with children coming in groups once a week. Depending on the nature of the class, the frequency and duration may change. Examples of Discovery Quests include stop motion animation, coding, philosophy slam, the cardboard challenge, candy cane making, and an escape room type activity with problem solving challenges incorporated. Topics are determined based on student interest and ideas Doug comes up with/learns about. A former student gave Doug feedback about how he is in a digital animation program in college because of his experience in the stop motion quest. • Light-Bulbing opportunities are available for children who have an intense interest in a topic or project. Teachers reach out to Doug in these cases. Doug works with the child to hear their ideas and works with them to come up with a project the child can take ownership of. Doug meets with the child regularly to provide support and resources as needed until the project has been completed. Examples of light-bulbing in the past include Pennies for People, a penny collection for The Apple Farm, and working with a child who learned songs and dances from the musical “Annie” and then performed them. This child has gone on to have a career in theater now that she is out of high school. <p>Members, together with Doug, began brainstorming potential ways to enhance enrichment opportunities for children, with a focus on enrichment for all that gets children excited and engaged, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating STEM Challenge boxes with all the materials and directions needed within a box that teachers could check-out. These boxes could be used by teachers during WIN time, indoor recess, transitions, as children come into their classrooms in the morning, or any other time that would make sense in their schedule. They could be used by whole classes or small groups of children. They could be used independently by children, facilitated by the
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				<p>classroom teacher, a teacher aide, a parent volunteer, or a high school volunteer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ During a conference day, teachers could help create boxes or we could partner with parent volunteers, parent groups or high school students/classes to create boxes. ○ Classrooms could take ownership of asking for specific donations for the school if they are needed for some activities (ex. One class asks parents for donation of cups, one class asks for donations of straws, etc.). ○ High school students could facilitate leading a lesson with the box using a simple structure (ex. 5 minute video clip, 2 minute teach-piece, 5 minute video clip, facilitate activity, 5 minute share). ○ During a few weeks during the winter months, consider having teachers show a video clip about a particular topic during their morning meeting. Then, during lunch time transitions, children could walk through the auditorium to engage in a learning activity related to the topic they learned about in the morning. The activity could be set-up through the lunch hours during that week for classes to visit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Members suggested looking at ways to integrate more opportunities for all children, perhaps during lunch times. VIS offers Lunch and Learn opportunities for children. Could we provide enrichment opportunities for children in the auditorium that would be set up for a week at a time in the auditorium where children can visit during 10 minute transition times. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider building-wide challenges with questions posed in classrooms during morning meeting times, which are then built upon with an activity in the auditorium during the lunch transition. A week-long challenge would provide time for all children to participate and solve the challenges. ● Consider ways to provide resources/materials to teacher aides to provide quick, fun enrichment activities to children during the 10 minute lunch transition. ● Consider bringing the Problem Solvers Math Club back. This was an opportunity where children were presented with a math challenge. They took them home to work on the problems if they chose. Children who chose to participate each month brought back their work and met in groups with a staff member to share their thinking and then stretch their understanding of the math concepts involved.
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider incorporating more enrichment/math/science concepts and activities into field days. Consider using some half days for enrichment studios within the school. The half-day after school offerings sponsored by PTSA have been a nice opportunity for children. <p>It was noted that while there are many wonderful ideas, we have to also consider the time and resources that would be needed, and make recommendations that are manageable to implement.</p>
New Business				
8				
8	Meeting Dates Reviewed			Our next meeting will be Thursday, May 10th from 3:30 - 4:45 p.m. in Room 101.
Closing				
10	Review assigned tasks	Minute Taker		
11	Set agenda and roles for next mtg.	Facilitator		<p>Review Minutes</p> <p>Safety Plan Review</p> <p>Goal Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent Connections/Communication - Parent Survey Data Enrichment Opportunities
12	Parking Lot Attendant	Facilitator		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate at the beginning of the school year to teachers about flexibility in scheduling children for strings and enrichment opportunities. This is based on the recommendation from the 2016-2017 building council that these can be scheduled outside of the WIN block to support children having the same opportunity to participate.
13	Roundtable	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A literacy night held at VIS went very well and was positively received. Perhaps events such as this one could be considered at VPS in the future.

Next Meeting Dates:

Thursday, May 10, 2018: 3:30 - 4:45 p.m. in Room 101

Thursday, May 31, 2018: 7:45 - 9:00 a.m. in Room 101