

Verdun Adult and Career Centre

Governing Board Minutes

May 13th, 2020

Attendance: Ashlea Paxton, Kara Woods, Benedetta Castiglione, Andrew Henry, Michael Sehn, Ben Levine, Prashanth Menon, Catalin Farcas, Ross Mckay, Mary Ann Davis, Alex Weinstein

Absent: --

1.0 Welcome – Director

Kara welcomed everyone at 3:10pm, Mary Ann joins us.

2.0 Approval of the Agenda

Prashanth motioned to accept the agenda. Benedetta seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion was passed.

3.0 Approval of the minutes of the last meeting (February 26th, 2020)

Mike motioned to accept the minutes from last meeting. Catalin seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion was passed.

4.0 Business Arising

4.1 Budget Consultation

Where do we want to invest money (infrastructure for more cohorts, etc.)? Possibly invest in more distance learning preparation, training and the equipment to do so. We would like to invest in a few rooms that would accommodate better social distancing.

Budget consultation needs to be sent by June 10th.

4.2 Governing Board Composition

Please see two composition documents. Our number of representatives has changed due to new programs. We will request that we be permitted 5-6 teachers (one for each program of study if possible).

5.0 Reports

5.1 Commissioner

Nothing there for Adult Vocational. We announce changes at the end of May. November 5th is when the elections will be held for directors for service centers. November 21st English school boards will be abolished. Instead of a commissioner, we will have a director and meetings will be a little different.

5.2 Director

We are not sure if students will be permitted back into the schools for labs and exams as of May 25th. We plan our schedules a few weeks at a time due to the unpredictability of Covid-19 related delays. As soon as they are allowed, students will be in on occasion, for labs and exams, but in smaller groups (5-6 in a lab/classroom).

We are thrilled about the idea of a gradual reentry. The students are excited to be starting online classes as well.

We launched Pro Sales full time online last Friday. Students are happy to be back. Everyone else starts on May 19th. The entire VACC team is working hard to prepare for the huge undertaking of launching all 25 cohorts online. We hosted workshops with EdTech to help teachers prepare to better deliver their courses of study online. 55 teachers, support staff and admin learned with the EdTEch Team: Google Classrooms, Google Meet, about other online teaching tips and strategies, how to use a white board in their Meets and how to keep track of attendance. Kara holds regular "Coffee Breaks", online meetings, to catch up with all staff, as well acting as a question and answer period.

Caretakers continue to work on disinfecting classrooms and labs. We have a very strict Covid-19-related health and safety protocol in place, for the return of employees and eventually, students at the Centre.

We are grateful to have been allocated some more space adjacent to our 3rd floor classrooms. Since numbers are increasing and we've run out of space, this is great news. We would like to have the renovations done before we start our many August cohorts. A few groups' start dates had to be pushed back to August due to the shutdown so August may be a busier one than usual.

We are revamping some of plumbing labs and related competencies. This is a really great program of study...teachers are excited to take it to the next level.

5.3 Teachers

All was well prior to shut down. Teachers are working diligently to prepare for online offerings. Director discussed most programs.

6.0 Correspondence

N/A

7.0 Public Question Period

N/A

8.0 Date and time of next meeting

June 17th, 2020 at 4:00pm

9.0 Good and welfare

Ben gets to see Ross soon since business is picking up in the Plumbing and Heating industry.

10.0 Adjournment

Ross motioned to adjourn the meeting and Benedetta seconded it. All were in favor. Motion was passed.