

VAPO, The Parent Organization of Valley Academy

December Meeting Minutes – Governing Council

12/9/2025 | Time: 8:15 AM | Meeting called to order by: A. Sessler (President)

Location: VAPO Room

Meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m.

In Attendance

A. Sessler (President)

V. Brooks (Principal)

E. Billings (Secretary)

C. Ushakov (Coyote Pride) – via Zoom

K. Morawa (Treasurer)

V. Eckles (Staff Appreciation)

M. Basak (Library) – via Zoom

T. Heglie (Special Events)

M. O'Day (8th Grade Promotion)

Guests

None

Administrator's Report

V. Brooks – Thanked everyone for accommodating the Turkey Trot to become a Reindeer Run. Winter Parties will be 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and the front office staff will open the “gate” at 11:00 a.m. Only other mention was just the wrapping up of 2nd quarter.

V. Brooks - Channel 12 news was planning to come to campus on 12/9/2025 to award Mrs. Keely the A+ Teacher Award, for which she was nominated.

New Business

A. Sessler – Review/approval of November Meeting Minutes – M. O'Day motioned the vote, T. Heglie seconded. All in favor, no opposition.

Treasurer

K. Morawa – Checks were written and deposits were made. Taxes were filed on time. She mentioned the need to print off a check or take a picture for deposit for the Fall Fundraiser funds per an email from 11/5/25. A. Sessler noted that she would follow up on this request.

Secretary

E. Billings – The December/January Newsletter was distributed and included top volunteers for the month of November. Gift cards for top volunteers would be distributed soon. It was discussed to add a blurb in the next newsletter to let readers know that the gym, front office area and classroom expansions were possible because of grant money obtained from volunteer hour reporting. Emphasizing the importance of volunteering and logging of volunteer hours, we will include a link of where to report volunteer hours online. A reminder about lost and found will also be included in the next newsletter.

Library

M. Basak – Dates were shifted for the Spring Scholastic Book Fair to be April 6th – 9th.

Coyote Pride

C. Ushakov – The next Spirit Day Ice Cream is on 1/9/2026. It was noted that T-shirts had been delayed but were delivered on the morning of Spirit Day. C. Ushakov mentioned she may get a cover for the outlet or power bar to protect the power cord for the ice cream freezer. The cost of lost ice cream from power loss was \$150. The freezer had been turned around to avoid any future loss of power. There is a means on the front of the freezer to turn power off which may be accidentally activated.

Staff Appreciation

V. Eckles – The next Staff Lunch is on 12/17/2025. The volunteer request went out on 12/8/2025 and most selections were already covered, except for the main dishes. If main dishes do not get covered, V. Eckles may buy food and skip the optional April lunch.

Office Fundraising (OPEN)

This committee is an open council position.

A. Sessler – The Fun Run Kick off is 12/15/2025. The Fun Run Assembly will be on 1/21/2026. V. Brooks noted that this is also the 100th day of school and teacher breakfast day. The Fun Run will be on 1/30/2026. The email regarding Fun Run is in for approval. A. Sessler is planning on having the top 3 classrooms win pizza parties. There will be a crazy sock day awarded to all classrooms with 100% registration participation. There will also be a gift card raffle for parents for registration.

V. Eckles – Mentioned that she will coordinate 12/18/2025 to be Valley Academy Night at Jingle at the JW Marriot. This is a fundraising opportunity from her employer.

Event Fundraising

A. Sessler – Will be having a meeting with PPI to discuss the bounce houses and other attractions for our Spring Festival event.

Athletics (OPEN)

This committee is an open council position.

A. Sessler – The Reindeer Run (rescheduled Turkey Trot) is on 12/18/2025. Reindeer medals were bought for the Reindeer Run theme. Next year there are already medals purchased for the Turkey Trot. Field Day associated with the Fun Run will be on 1/30/2026.

8th Grade Promotion

M. O'Day – The Stratosphere Fundraiser was a failure due to weather conditions. There were only 32 jumpers that attended. She is looking into candy bar fundraising in the spring instead of additional evening events. 8th graders could set up during lunch to sell. Painted Rock did candy bar fundraising and earned approximately \$6K.

M. O'Day – Palmcroft Church has accepted our request to use their venue for 8th grade promotion. M. O'Day has reached out to A. Bratlien regarding possible use of the venue for the Honor Roll Ceremony. It was noted that there is a 25% discount for 2 events in the same week. As of the meeting date, there has been no response from A. Bratlien.

M. O'Day – The 8th grade chosen theme this year is “Run with the Pack or Fear the Howl” with a Coyote. Color selections are dark blue and gold with an accent of gold color. It was noted that 2 different color shirt options have been typical. This is the only thing that students vote on. All submissions for design will be submitted on paper; the graphic design option has been removed.

M. O'Day – K. Libby and R. Roberts reached out about taking over for next year's committee.

Office Assistance

A. Bratlien –Not present at meeting.

A. Sessler – Mentioned that the venue utilized last year for the honor roll ceremony has cancelled use for this year.

A. Sessler – The Spelling Bee went well. The transition from Ms. Hilgendorf to Mr. Mitchell went smoothly.

Special Events

T. Heglie –The next Caught Being Good is on 12/11/2025. Nothing to report.

Office Communication

A. Sessler – Winter Parties are coming up on 12/19/2025.

Next Meeting

1/13/2026 | Time 8:15 a.m. | Location VAPO Room

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Erica Billings

Secretary

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