

VAPO, The Parent Organization of Valley Academy

January Meeting Minutes – Governing Council

1/13/2026 | Time: 8:15 AM | Meeting called to order by: A. Sessler (President)

Location: VAPO Room

Meeting was called to order at 8:16 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) – via Zoom

M. O'Day (8th Grade Promotion)

Guests

Paola Bibby – She is a parent of a new Pre-K student. She wants to know how she can help. She got information about VAPO from her tour of the school and found more information in school emails and on the school calendar.

Administrator's Report

V. Brooks – Mentioned that no parking is allowed in adjacent business area parking lots, and this will be added to Valley Academy newsletter. The Spring Concert will be on the evening of February 24, 2026. V. Brooks has ordered vests for Dads to wear at events. She also stated that Spirit Week raised enough funds to purchase (1) AED for the gym. The 2nd is being donated to the school. The school is still in need of sports team jerseys for future fundraising.

New Business

A. Sessler – Review/approval of December Meeting Minutes – V. Eckles motioned the vote, K. Morawa seconded. All in favor, no opposition.

Treasurer

K. Morawa – Checks were written and deposits were made. A. Sessler needs to provide documentation for the donation made to the 8th grade promotion committee.

Secretary

E. Billings – The January/February Newsletter needed to be finalized for review and approval at time of this meeting. Top volunteers are included for the month of December. Gift cards for top volunteers would be distributed soon.

Library

M. Basak – No updates. She is working with Mrs. Dever on book reviews.

Coyote Pride

C. Ushakov – The next Spirit Day Ice Cream is on 2/6/2026. It was noted that some ice cream flavors were sold out. Students were happy with the ice cream provided. Honor Roll ice cream will be purchased on 1/13/2026 for distribution on 1/14/2026.

Staff Appreciation

V. Eckles – The next Staff Breakfast was changed to 2/11/2026. It was noted that breakfasts are always a challenge due to the early drop off for food. December lunch went well. There was more than enough food.

Office Fundraising (OPEN)

This committee is an open council position.

A. Sessler – Fun Run Assembly will be on 1/21/2026. The Fun Run will be on 1/30/2026. The registration and dollar amount raised is looking good. The Sign-Up Genius went out on 1/12/2026. The prizes should be received on 1/14/2026. A. Sessler noted that teachers should be reminded that shirts will be the same as last year.

Event Fundraising

A. Sessler – The Spring Festival will be on 3/7/2026. Attractions are mostly booked with a cars theme. An email will go out on 1/13/2026 with a flyer to request donations for raffle baskets. A. Sessler will send V. Brooks the menus from planned food trucks. She will coordinate with M. O'Day for the booth for 8th grade beverage sales. V. Eckles plans to help with the Spring Festival planning and event.

Athletics (OPEN)

This committee is an open council position.

A. Sessler –Field Day associated with the Fun Run will be on 1/30/2026. She discussed with Coach Mims and has only one Sign-Up Genius for the Fun Run and Field Day volunteers.

8th Grade Promotion

M. O'Day – Looking into candy bar fundraising in the spring instead of additional evening events. She reached out to J. Smith, the Librarian at Painted Rock, who is the committee counterpart at that school. Painted Rock sold \$1 chocolate candy bars. 100 boxes sold could provide \$2300 profit. Candy can be sold during each lunch block for a week. Seller does not need to be present for entirety of each lunch block. K. Morawa is available to sell. Candy can also be sold outside of school. There would be no nut candies sold on campus. Incentives can be provided for top sellers. Other options of where to sell are at Spring Festival, Spring Concert, sports games, or parent workplaces. An option to donate money in lieu of buying candy can also be made available.

M. O'Day – Mentioned Painted Rock had an 8th Grade only night at Great Skate which raised \$1500. They are planning an all-school event in spring. Will get update on success after the event. A Greak Skate option may be considered. M. O'Day is not planning on a 2nd car wash in the spring.

M. O'Day – Mentioned that 8th graders used to do face paintings at the Spring Festival which could be an opportunity to raise funds. Cotton Candy or popcorn could be sold at Spring Festival to raise money. V. Eckles mentioned that cotton candy machines can be rented, and kits can be purchased with rental or bought from other low-cost places.

M. O'Day – Has a meeting scheduled with the caterer from last year. She is planning on two dishes, Indian dish and other (chicken or beef). There are no diet restrictions for 7th & 8th graders. Mrs. Dever needs a gluten-free dish. This can be ordered specially from somewhere else. B. Paucek has another caterer referral, if necessary.

M. O'Day – T-shirts are being quoted at \$16.50 each. She is looking at variations, including one shirt color, which could save money. It was noted that changes are at the discretion of M. O'Day. A. Bratlien previously took group photos for \$150. She has not been reached. V. Eckles has a photographer contact that she can share. The photographer typically takes 8 different pose photos to be used for various purposes.

Office Assistance

A. Bratlien –Not present at meeting. Nothing to report.

Special Events

T. Heglie –The January Caught Being Good happened early on 1/8/2026. The next Caught Being Good is on 2/12/2026. T. Heglie is working on the next Family Fun Night. This was changed to 4/9/2026 from 5-7 p.m., which V. Brooks needed to confirm. It was noted that Mrs. Watkins had no issues with the change.

Office Communication

A. Sessler – Valentine's Day Parties are coming up on 2/13/2026.

A. Sessler – Noted she was deciding whether to pay to fix the popcorn machine.

Next Meeting

2/10/2026 | Time 8:15 a.m. | Location VAPO Room

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Erica Billings

Secretary

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