

VAPO, The Parent Organization of Valley Academy

April Meeting Minutes – Governing Council

4/14/26 | 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)	T. Heglie (Special Events)
M. O'Day (8 th Grade Promotion) – via Zoom	

Guests

A. Hedgepeth

Administrator's Report

V. Brooks – Noted that Valley Academy is seeking a Kindergarten teacher. Tours are happening and the VAPO room should be kept tidy as it is part of the tours. She will also look into getting the 8th grade pictures hung up so they are not just sitting on the counter in the VAPO room.

V. Brooks – Noted that she needs to coordinate 8th grade promotion items with M. O'Day.

New Business

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

M. O'Day – Requested access to QuickBooks to take a closer look at the budget to better understand as she has a background in finance.

Treasurer

K. Morawa – Checks were written and deposits were made. Receipts are needed from A. Sessler

Secretary

E. Billings – The April/May Newsletter needed to be finalized for review and approval at time of this meeting. Top volunteers are included for the month of March. Gift cards for top volunteers would be distributed soon. Meeting minutes were not approved by administration at time of meeting. Will have both March and April meeting minutes for approval at next meeting.

A. Sessler – Will provide additional information regarding council positions to encourage volunteers for next year.

E. Billings – Discussed the request for a volunteer certificate for N. Arun. Will send data to V. Lowery so she can create a certificate.

Library

M. Basak – Noted that sales for the spring book fair were ~\$4K, compared to ~\$8K last year. Approximately 50% of sales were on Family Fun Night. It was noted that the spring book fair was earlier than usual and the Family Fun Night timeframe is earlier than in the past which may have affected sales.

M. Basak – Will be looking for volunteers to help Mrs. Dever reorganize the library. She is also looking for additional volunteers to assist with the recommended reading list.

Coyote Pride

C. Ushakov – The next Spirit Day ice cream is on 5/1/2026. Honor Roll ice cream flavors were not available that week, so Spirit Day type ice cream was purchased. V. Brooks made note to coordinate with her in the future as other options, such as postponing honor roll ice cream, may be considered to ensure that the honor roll students get the specialty ice cream flavors. A. Sessler noted that those flavors are also available at Smart & Final.

Staff Appreciation

V. Eckles – The next Staff Lunch is on 5/6/2026.

V. Eckles – The staff appreciation gifts this year will be gift cards. V. Eckles would like to go to each class to deliver the gifts in a red carpet, VIP, award style manner to make these gifts feel more individualized. She will coordinate with V. Lowery to coordinate a total quantity for staff vs. teachers.

V. Eckles – Plans to do something for the administrative professionals and nurse around Administrative Professionals Day.

Office Fundraising (OPEN)

This committee is an open council position. Nothing to report.

Event Fundraising

A. Sessler – Nothing to report.

Athletics (OPEN)

This committee is an open council position. Nothing to report.

8th Grade Promotion

M. O'Day – An 8th grade skate night will be on 4/17/2026. She is hoping for a good turnout as this is the last fundraising event. She will be utilizing sandwich boards, posters, and the wind puppet for advertising. There has only been 22% participation in 8th grade for the fundraising events.

M. O'Day – In process of coordinating final 8th grade promotion events. She needs to coordinate the final details with V. Brooks. Dinner invites are in for review. It was noted that the price per person seems low. A \$20 per person minimum was recommended. M. O'Day noted that rentals are cheaper than in previous years and she is saving money where she can which is being considered in the dinner price on the invites.

M. O'Day – It was noted that the 8th grade field trip is not fully paid by families and the cost is unknown. M. O'Day will follow up with V. Lowery for cost.

M. O'Day – Bulletin board outside of library, next to stairwell is available for 8th grade use. May include some decoration in the theme of this 8th grade class promotion. In the past the board included student information on high school they are attending and what they want to be when they grow up.

V. Brooks – Noted that a class gift should be considered in the budget. There was only one class in school history which did not provide a class gift. She also noted that it has been tradition to provide class pictures to the teachers.

Office Assistance

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

Special Events

T. Heglie – The next Caught Being Good is on 5/14/2026. At the Family Fun Night, the crowds did not show up until around 5:45 p.m. and the food trucks only sold for an hour and voiced their frustration. They have not provided donation as of time of meeting. It was discussed that it is not necessary to track this down. It is convenient for them to attend and anything that they want to donate is appreciated but not required.

Office Communication

A. Sessler – Has Valentine's party items and lined paper available for anyone's use. Next month will discuss the open council positions and who will step up as President. She intends to get an email out to everyone at Valley Academy regarding council positions to hopefully fill some of the open positions. This information is also intended to be provided in the VAPO newsletter.

Next Meeting

5/12/2026 | Time 8:15 a.m. | Location VAPO Room

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Erica Billings

Secretary

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