

VAPO, The Parent Organization of Valley Academy

November Meeting Minutes – Governing Council

11/12/2025 | 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 (8 th Grade Promotion)	

Guests

A. Hedgepeth

Administrator's Report

V. Brooks – Stated she was looking forward to Turkey Trot and the Thanksgiving break. Nothing else to report.

New Business

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

Treasurer

K. Morawa – Checks were written and deposits were made. She mentioned the need to follow up with the Fall Fundraiser contact per an email conversation.

Secretary

E. Billings – The November/December Newsletter was submitted for approval and included top volunteers for the month of October. Gift cards for top volunteers would be distributed soon.

Library

M. Basak – A change was booked for the Spring Scholastic Book Fair to be April 6th – 10th. She mentioned that profit for the Fall Book Fair was \$4,415.

Coyote Pride

C. Ushakov – The next Spirit Day Ice Cream is on 12/5/2025. It was noted that the freezer had been powered off and then turned back on and ice cream had melted. Mr. Holt cleaned out the freezer.

Staff Appreciation

V. Eckles – The next Staff Lunch is on 12/17/2025. The last Staff Dinner went well; the meals were great and there were leftovers. Parents volunteered to help with the setup. A “Thank You” to those volunteers was issued in the last VAPO Newsletter. The front door was closed early on the ½ day which made drop off for the food items at dismissal time difficult. It was discussed that maybe another arrangement could be worked out in the future in a similar situation.

Office Fundraising (OPEN)

This committee is an open council position.

A. Sessler – Meeting was scheduled for 11/14/2025 for pre-planning for the Fun Run at the end of January.

V. Eckles – For the Fall Fundraiser some items have still not been picked up. Hopefully online orders have been sent to homes. V. Eckles will be sending a box of prizes back as requested.

Event Fundraising

A. Sessler – For the Spring Festival, an Indian fry bread truck has been booked, along with a vendor named Mighty Moo.

V. Brooks – The Spring Festival will be on 3/7/2025 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Athletics (OPEN)

This committee is an open council position.

A. Sessler – Turkey Trot was planned for 11/21/2025. The rain date is a Reindeer Run on 12/18/2025.

8th Grade Promotion

M. O'Day – Palmcroft Church may be an option for the promotion venue. There is a teacher connection and status is currently a maybe. Seating requirements of 200-250 were discussed, to be confirmed by V. Brooks. M. O'Day is awaiting confirmation from a list of options.

M. O'Day – Sky Zone is no longer doing school fundraisers. The venue had been booked and they cancelled. Stratosphere was chosen upon Sky Zone cancellation. The windsock is planned to be used leading up to the event day. M. O'Day is looking into Bowlero as a potential fundraiser event option for the spring. This option requires more planning time and selling of tickets to know how many are attending. Great Skate has reached out, but it was reported that 8th graders do not have an interest and this venue will not be utilized this year.

Office Assistance

A. Bratlien –Not present at meeting, but in communication with A. Sessler. Nothing new to report.

A. Sessler – Mentioned that for the honor roll ceremony it may be possible to use the same church as last year and the 5th grade time could be moved for better balance.

Spelling Bee will be on 12/4/2025. DIBELS Testing will be from 12/8/2025 to 12/10/2025.

Special Events

T. Heglie –The next Caught Being Good is on 11/13/2025. T. Heglie will be out of town. C. Berlese and M. Basak will be covering for her. It was noted that no 6th graders have been receiving Caught Being Good tokens.

Office Communication

A. Sessler – The Homeroom Parent Breakfast will be on Wednesday 11/13/2025. Winter Parties are coming up on 12/19/2025. A. Sessler and V. Eckles planned to go to the bank on 11/13/2025 to change signatures on the account, adding V. Eckles as VP.

M. O'Day – Ideas for volunteering incentives was discussed, with mention of a dedicated parking spot. V. Brooks responded that teacher choice is an unofficial benefit to parents who are noted as meeting volunteer expectations.

Next Meeting

12/9/2025 | Time 8:15 a.m. | Location VAPO Room

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Erica Billings
Secretary
VAPO, The Parent Organization of Valley Academy