

VAPO, The Parent Organization of Valley Academy

August Meeting Minutes – Governing Council

8/11/26 | Time: 8:15 AM | Meeting called to order by: V. Eckles (President)

Location: VAPO Room

Meeting was called to order at 8:17 a.m.

In Attendance

V. Eckles (President)

V. Brooks (Principal)

K. Morawa (Treasurer)

C. Ushakov (Coyote Pride)

E. Billings (Secretary)

T. Heglie (Special Events)

M. Basak (Library)

Guests

A. Singh

B. Warner

A. Hedgepeth

Administrator's Report

V. Brooks – Stated that she was looking forward to a great year. Picture Day is coming up in the gym.

V. Brooks – Updated binders and calendars have been provided. Dates are all selected for a reason and a request was made to attempt to stick to the event dates provided. Different dates may be accommodated, as needed, upon request and approval.

V. Brooks – Noted the Valley Academy Parent Facebook page is unofficial and needs to be monitored by council for appropriate use and commentary.

V. Brooks – Pre-K parents are not permitted to serve on the council but can help the committees in any other capacity.

V. Brooks – The school décor/theme this year is Sunflowers to encourage staff and volunteers to lean in and support each other.

New Business

V. Eckles – Review/approval of March/April/May Meeting Minutes – C. Ushakov motioned the vote, K. Morawa seconded. All in favor, no opposition. July meeting minutes were not ready for council approval at the time of this meeting and will be reviewed and approved at the next meeting.

V. Eckles – The bank changeover to V. Eckles as President has occurred. She is waiting on getting a new VAPO credit card.

Treasurer

K. Morawa – Noted again that Quickbooks renewal is coming up in September. Any changes in subscription needs to be coordinated by the renewal date. K. Morawa recommends downgrading to a less costly plan with fewer users. Efficiency changes and user changes needs to be coordinated with former users prior to this subscription change.

Secretary

E. Billings – VAPO Newsletters will generally be planned to go out to the school mid-month. The August/September newsletter will be planned to go out later than this as school year has just started, but there is information that should not wait until mid-September.

Library

M. Basak – Fall Scholastic Book Fair will be delivered and setup on 9/11/2026. She is looking for a list of potential volunteers who are interested in helping with book reviews. She also has a formal request for library assistance volunteers which will include training. M. Basak had two series of reviewed books to give to V. Brooks for approval to add to the Recommended Reading List.

Coyote Pride

C. Ushakov – The next Spirit Day Ice Cream is on 9/04/2026. She was going to print ice cream flyers after the meeting. Some ice cream melted over the summer after the freezer was unplugged. The company which unplugged the freezer is reimbursing VAPO for the melted ice cream. C. Ushakov noted that volunteers can directly reach out to her if anyone expresses interest in helping with ice cream distribution.

C. Ushakov –T-shirt sales email went out. There is a new website.

C. Ushakov – Noted that she would be present in the VAPO Room on Kindergarten curriculum night for used uniform sales.

Staff Appreciation (OPEN)

V. Eckles -Took care of the staff breakfast before the start of school and also notified parents in classrooms of teachers with recent birthdays.

Office Fundraising (OPEN)

V. Eckles – Will share another option for a fundraising company and she encouraged others to share any other options they come across as well. A fundraising company to be used needs to be decided soon.

V. Brooks – Fundraising this year will be for additional laptop carts.

Event Fundraising (OPEN)

Nothing to report.

Athletics (OPEN)

Nothing to report.

8th Grade Promotion (OPEN)

V. Brooks – Noted that Mrs. Simon has a slide for the 7th and 8th grade curriculum night to address the need to fill this council position.

T. Heglie and C. Ushakov – offered to help support whoever fills this council position.

Office Assistance

A. Bratlien –Not present at meeting. V. Eckes will follow up with her regarding upcoming Picture Day coordination.

Special Events

T. Heglie – No Caught Being Good in August. The first Caught Being Good is on 9/10/2026. She is working on a playlist for the upcoming Family Fun Night. The new speaker will be utilized instead of a DJ. The money allotted for the DJ will be used for a 360-photo booth for the evening. Family Fun Night will include a Churro Truck and Indian Food Truck. The event will be from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. on 9/17/2026.

V. Brooks - For Lock-down Kits, teachers will solicit for requested items and VAPO will then be requested to provide what was not provided by parents.

Office Communication

V. Eckles – At Meet the Teacher Day she collected lists of potential volunteers for each committee. She plans to hold the Homeroom Parent Meeting before the end of September.

Next Meeting

09/08/2026 | Time 8:15 a.m. | Location VAPO Room

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Erica Billings

Secretary

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