

## 2025 -2026 Varsity Acres Council Meeting

**Date:** April 22, 2026

**Time:** 6:30pm – 8:30pm

**Location:** Varsity Acres School (in-person and Virtual)

**Attendees:** **Varsity Acres School:** Brooke Reilly (VAS Principal). Courtney Klein-Swormink (VAS Assistant Principal)

**VASC Committee Members:** Meg Bateman (chair), Amy Metcalfe (Vice Chair), Genevieve Swallow-Cheng (Volunteer Coordinator)

**VASPFS:** Anne Harding (President), Mike Morganton (treasurer), Harleen Vasselin (VASPFS)

**Regrets:** Leanne Baker (Communications), Amanjot Kaur (Volunteer Coordinator), Greg Hallihan (Vice Chair), Beatrice Chuma (member) Laura Karl (Secretary) Kristina Groves (Outdoor Learning Committee)

**Members at Large:** Chris Nowell, Diana Jones, Kerry Howard, Melissa McNeil, Michael Dorsey, Uchenna Udobata

Agenda Item		Speaker	Discussion
1. Welcome and Administration	1.1 Introductions	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round table introductions</li> </ul>
	1.2 Review and Adopt Agenda	Harleen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion to adopt by Harleen</li> <li>• Second by Genevieve</li> </ul>
	1.3 Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes	Harleen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion to adopt by Harleen</li> <li>• Second by Genevieve</li> </ul>
2. Invited Guest Speaker	2.1 Open Minds: 2School & Library School	Mme. Kelly & M. Kevin Grade 2 Students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ilaria</li> <li>• Owen</li> </ul>	<b>2School: An Urban Experience</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2School is a week-long learning program where students use downtown Calgary as their classroom. Through exploring the city, students learn about urban life, community connections, local history, and local art</li> </ul>

## 2025 -2026 Varsity Acres Council Meeting

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Robbie</li></ul>	<p><b>Library School</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Library School is an immersive program based at the Calgary Central Library that focuses on literacy, research, storytelling, and community learning. Students explore how libraries support learning and discover different perspectives through books, media, art, and local history.</li></ul> <p><b>Mme. Kelly, Ilaria, Owen &amp; Robbie's Highlights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• walking tours, CTrain rides, and classroom activities at the CBE learning space.</li><li>• Favorite locations include the Central Library, Devonian Gardens, Bow Tower, and City Hall.</li><li>• Students especially enjoyed learning about Calgary's history, exploring the downtown core, spending time around the plants and playground at Devonian Gardens, and watching the Finland vs. Canada Olympic hockey game in the theatre space.</li></ul> <p><b>M. Kevin Classes Highlights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grade 3 students participated in extensive journaling throughout the Open Minds experience and showed strong growth in their journaling skills.</li><li>• Students learned about Calgary's history, public art, and local landmarks, including Captain Brisebois and the founding of Fort Calgary.</li><li>• Students were especially interested in the fossil walls at the CBE learning space and the murals throughout downtown Calgary.</li><li>• The class continued researching Calgary murals back in the classroom, and students remained engaged by spotting and discussing murals even during the bus ride home.</li></ul>
--	--	--	---

## 2025 -2026 Varsity Acres Council Meeting

<p>3. Principal Updates and Reports</p>	<p>3.1 Principal Updates</p>	<p>Mme. Brooke</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An email reminder regarding school fees was sent out to all families today, regardless of whether fees are currently owing. School-based fees may include field trips and in-class activities. Feedback is welcome.</li> <li>• Spring RAM projections currently estimate approximately 537 students.</li> <li>• The school is planning for four classes per grade level, with additional space currently available in Grade 1.</li> <li>• Promotion of available Kindergarten and Grade 1 spaces through signage and social media outreach.</li> <li>• Plans to maintain five Grade 5 classes to help support lower class sizes.</li> <li>• Final class organization decisions have not yet been made and are still in progress.</li> <li>• The school will not receive complexity funding this year, as the school did not meet the required complexity threshold. This funding would have supported the addition of another teaching staff member.</li> </ul>
	<p>3.2 Staffing Update</p>	<p>Mme. Brooke</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mme. Forbes:</b> Currently on a leave of absence; music classes are being covered by Leonard Cohan.</li> <li>• <b>Violaine Mulryan</b> - Hired as a school assistant for 25 hours per week.</li> <li>• <b>Mme. Lisa:</b> Joined earlier this year to support Grades 4 and 5.</li> <li>• <b>Mme. Michelle Dickie:</b> supports the grade 1s (1 block per class per day)</li> <li>• <b>Educational Assistants:</b> The school currently has three EAs.</li> </ul>

## 2025 -2026 Varsity Acres Council Meeting

4. VASPFS Update and Report	4.1 Fundraising Initiatives 4.1.1 Movie Night	Anne Harding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Movie - Elemental</li> <li>• Tickets will be available tomorrow</li> <li>• Selling Pizza, popcorn, and drinks.</li> <li>• Venue capacity is 175 attendees.</li> <li>• Volunteers are needed for cleanup; sign-up is available.</li> </ul>
	4.1.2 Spring Dance	Anne Harding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 14th from 6:00–8:00 PM, Sara, Katrina, and Emma are organizing event.</li> <li>• Event will include games, pizza, snacks, drinks, and a DJ.</li> <li>• Large number of volunteers are needed to support the event.</li> </ul>
	4.1.3 Plant Fundraiser	Anne Harding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Growing Smiles website will be available shortly.</li> </ul>
	4.2 Financial Report	Mike Marganton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank you to Mike’s successor, Harleen.</li> <li>• Current Casino funds: \$10,600</li> <li>• Internal Account: \$38,500</li> <li>• \$9,400 transferred from Casino funds to the school.</li> <li>• 2026 Casino fundraiser results expected by the third week of May.</li> <li>• Movie night raised \$1,000; \$500 was used for annual licensing fees (good for a year).</li> <li>• 2025/2026 Total school spending to date: \$42,000.</li> <li>• Healthy Hunger is planned to continue next school year and will require volunteers.</li> </ul>
5. School Council Update	5.1 Playground Committee	Mme. Brooke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application is pending.</li> <li>• A parent and student engagement survey will be sent out to gather feedback on what the school community would like the playground to look like.</li> <li>• Requests for vendor quotes are being prepared and sent out.</li> <li>• A booth will be set up at the upcoming dance to support engagement and information sharing.</li> </ul>

## 2025 -2026 Varsity Acres Council Meeting

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school is seeking a grant writer, fundraiser, and additional volunteers; meetings are held on Fridays at pick up.</li> </ul>
	5.2 Outdoor Learning Update	Mme. Brooke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volunteers are needed for an upcoming tree planting event, which will include crafts and a seed exchange (Worker Bees)</li> <li>On June 4th, Grade 4 students will participate in learning activities and then share and teach their learning with other grades.</li> <li>In September, an additional 5–7 trees will be provided through the City of Calgary for planting.</li> <li>Need Volunteers for summer watering</li> </ul>
	5.3 Guest Speaker	Meg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guest speaker on – Anxious kids</li> <li>Date: TBD</li> <li>Hybrid vs. Virtual</li> </ul>
6. Other business and adjournment	6.1 Adjournment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm</li> <li>Proposed by Meg</li> <li>Seconded by Gen</li> </ul> <p><b>Next meeting – May 26, 2026, 6:30pm</b></p>

### Contact Information

Email: [varsityacres.sc@gmail.com](mailto:varsityacres.sc@gmail.com)

Mailing and Office Address: VASC c/o Varsity Acres School, 455 – 40<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Calgary, AB T3A 0H7

Varsity Acres School (VAS) Web Site: <https://varsityacres.cbe.ab.ca/>

Varsity Acres School Council (VASC) Web Site: <https://varsityacres.cbe.ab.ca/school-council>

Facebook link is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/vasc.exec/> (this is a closed group, accessible by request)

Twitter: @VarsityAcresSC