

**Alta Vista Public School  
Minutes • School Council Meeting  
Wednesday, November 20, 2019**

**1. Welcome and Introduction (Nancy Dean, Chair)**

Due to the temporary closure of Alta Vista Public School following a leak in a steam pipe, the School Council meeting was held in the library of Charles H. Hulse Public School.

Also as a result of the closure, special guests were Zone 6 Trustee Chris Ellis and Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) Superintendent Shawn Lehman.

**2. Special Report RE. School Closure (Guido Ronci)**

On Nov. 18 the chief custodian noticed steam/condensation in the girls and boys washrooms and nearby conference room as well as an unusually warm music room. The washrooms and conference room were closed. Mould and loose ceiling tiles were noted. Principal Ronci confirmed that AVPS staff were provided with two OCDSB forms – Occupational Health and Safety Concern Form and Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) Pre-Assessment Form – that morning after he noticed a musty smell in the school. Five completed forms were returned. An inspector confirmed these reports, and an engineer discovered a leak in a steam pipe in the floor of the music room.

Parents/guardians made it clear that when these OCDSB forms were provided to staff, the same access should have been provided to parents/guardians, so they could have communicated any health and safety concerns reported by AVPS students.

On Nov. 19 steam and condensation continued to develop and the musty smell increased. OCDSB personnel came into the school. The situation was reported to Occupational Health and Safety for the OCDSB.

The decision to close the school was made at the executive level on the afternoon of Nov. 20 due to extensive repairs and concerns about mould. A spore test was conducted Nov. 20. Superintendent Lehman added that they believe the source of the leak was found. Repairs were expected to be noisy, and workers will build a support structure. He apologized for the late notice regarding the closure of the school on Nov. 21 and 22.

While the school administration is hopeful that the necessary work will be completed by Nov. 24, they will advise no later than 7 pm on Nov. 24 if the school will reopen Nov. 25.

In the meantime, parents/guardians requested that the results of air-quality testing be released to the school community as soon as possible and that results be linked to the relevant public health authority's recommendations/standards.

Janice Chamberlain noted that staff and students have complained about a musty smell as early as the day of the power outage (Nov. 1). Principal Ronci was unaware of such complaints; no forms have been submitted regarding such issues.

Principal Ronci confirmed that an engineer had been in the building approximately 10 days prior to Nov. 19 due to higher heat and moisture, and the engineer said the problem was solved and signed off.

Superintendent Lehman and Principal Ronci committed to communicating the results of spore tests conducted Nov. 20 and beyond. Parents/ guardians asked that information be sent home as soon as a situation is known and does not need to be conclusive.

At a meeting scheduled for Nov. 27, parents/guardians have asked for information regarding environmental testing throughout the school and requested clarification regarding which tests have been carried out. Representatives from OCDSB Facilities Management and Joint Health and Safety Committee will attend the Nov. 27 meeting.

### **3. Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes (Nancy Dean)**

The agenda was approved with amendments. The minutes were approved.

### **4. Administrative Report (Guido Ronci)**

Principal Ronci took a moment to remember the loss of Grade 3 teacher Mikaela Desloges-Launspach. Vice-Principal Richie Dosanjh represented AVPS at the visitation and celebration of life. A Long-Term Occasional Teacher has been hired.

Cara Deline is on leave.

With respect to OCDSB labour relations, Phase 1 of the work-to-rule will focus on relations with administration/management and will not affect extracurricular activities.

A math coach will come into the school for a five-week period beginning Nov. 25 to work with educators to further implement the School Learning Plans.

Questions or concerns regarding the presence of lead in the school's drinking water should be forwarded to the OCDSB, and they will prepare answers. The fountain water is regularly flushed. Increased signage was requested about not drinking classroom water.

### **4. Teacher's Report (Chantel Smith)**

After staff were asked for ways School Council may better support them, a request for furniture, such as a horseshoe-shaped table, was brought forward; Principal Ronci asked for the information since School Council is not able to purchase furniture.

Other ideas included funds to purchase books that are more diverse. It was suggested that an option for teachers is to request items, such as sensory bins for classrooms, directly from parents rather than going through School Council.

Educators wanted support with requesting involvement from parents/guardians, such as volunteering for Wellness Days, to provide parents more time to schedule volunteering.

A family math night is being planned for February.

Tia Helm requested a closet for all teachers and divisions to access clothing for students.

With a view to increasing communication between teachers and parents/guardians, Nancy Dean encouraged parents/guardians to ask questions, and Janice Chamberlain asked Principal Ronci to ask teachers to communicate with parents/guardians.

For additional information regarding the Teacher's Report, please see Appendix 1.

## **5. Treasurer's Report (Kathleen Wrye)**

Jeff De Laat suggested School Council make a \$100 donation to the Ottawa Humane Society in memory of Mikaela Desloges-Launspach. Since this comes from the allocation for gifts, no vote was required but support was unanimous.

Ana Flaman, whom School Council thanked for coordinating Subway lunches, requested \$198 to subsidize four Subway lunches over an 11-week period. Carried.

Mindfulness sessions with Heather Cross during the winter would cost \$1,500. Carried.

Following a brief discussion about supporting neighbouring schools by covering the cost of bussing to tournaments, it was decided to table the discussion to another meeting.

Janice Chamberlain asked that funds raised from Gifts of Giving (Dec. 13) would be directed to community initiatives. Carried.

Thanks were offered to Mais Kiryakos for her work on the following successful fundraisers: Spirit Wear, Snow Out Blow Out and Book Fair.

## **6. Next Meeting**

The next School Council meeting will take place Wednesday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. in the school library (second floor). All school parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

Teachers' Report

Teacher Needs:

- Sensory items for classrooms
- Teacher tables for small group instruction
- Books on CD
- Professional Learning Materials
- Take Home readers

**Family Math Night** Planning set for February; evening workshops for parents/students

**Literacy Scope and Sequence**

Teachers have met to create a literacy Scope and Sequence for students K-8  
The first genre/text forms that will be taught explicitly are recount/biography  
An assessment rubric has been created and will be shared with staff soon

**Gr. 8 Mini-Enrichment- Ms. Spanglett** Students can attend a university course in subjects like: drama, literature, film, music, journalism, sociology, mathematics, computer science, law, politics, and world affairs

**Junior Nature Club Grs 4-6- Mrs. Ekbal and Amy Z.**

**Boys and Girls Bordenball- Mr. Van Every**

**School Play- Ms. Spanglett and Ms. Somerville**

**Int. Intramurals- Athletic Council Ms Connelly:** Volleyball has started

**Int. Boys and Int. Girls Vball Team - Ms. Connelly**

**Junior Bordenball- Ms. Rutland**

**Two Remembrance Day Assemblies K-Gr. 3 and Grs. 4-8** Strings and Band played

**Eco Warriors (Primary)- Mme. Anyès, and Ms. Hindle** are recruiting older students

**School Council- Ms. Harp**

**PALS- Mr. Warner** PALS engage students in the primary yard play games and activities

**Stand By Me- Ms. Harp and Ms. Seline**

**Writing Club- Ms. Gibson Gr. 6-8**

**Craft Club- Ms. Smith Grs. 3-6**

**Grade 8 Rugby Team** played in a tournament at Ridgemont

**Intermediates and Primaries had a Halloween Dance**

Congratulations to the Intermediate Boys' Football team on their Board Finals OCEAA Championship game. They earned the gold medal over Glashan Public School.