

DRAFT
Alta Vista Public School
Minutes • School Council Meeting
Wednesday, June 17, 2020

NB: Meeting took place via Zoom due to school shutdown during COVID-19 pandemic

1. Welcome and Introduction (Nancy Dean, Co-Chair)

2. Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes (Janice Chamberlain, Co-Chair)

The agenda was approved. The minutes were approved.

3. Treasurer's Update (Kathleen Wrye)

To date, School Council has raised \$12,328, and expenses totaled \$15,925. The projected funds available for 2020-2021 are \$37,248.

The following items were passed.

- \$120 to cover the cost of the Gr. 8 graduation banner.
- \$100 to reimburse Principal Paré for funds distributed to AVPS families.

4. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré)

Principal Paré reported that he and Vice-Principal Dosanjh have been reflecting on systemic racism and how they, as an administrative team, might move forward authentically while identifying inequities and racism in our school system. He confirmed their commitment to the work and willingness to listen to the AVPS community.

With teachers being thrust into online teaching due to the school shutdown following the arrival of COVID-19 in Ottawa, the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) has stepped up training.

Regarding COVID-19, Principal Paré is following Ottawa Public Health (OPH) guidelines.

Report cards will be distributed online. Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) meetings are taking place virtually and are going well.

The plan is to reopen schools in September 2020.

With respect to staffing, five vacancies remain to be filled. New hires to date include Elizabeth Mason Brown, Olivia O'Halloran, Alison Weber, Sarah Sullivan and Megan Connolly. Returning staff include Natalie Saunders, Bena Gwozdecky and Julie Leblanc (returning mid year). Both Principal Paré and Vice-Principal Dosanjh are staying at AVPS.

A number of educators are leaving: Ben Warner, Alex Hamilton, Eric Guilbeault, Allie Rust, Marianne Gagnon, Rose Ann Baker, Roseline Dompierre, Korosh Sharif, Rosemary Bell, Anyès Babillon (one-year leave), Melissa Pieterse-Legros and Dawn Groleau.

Principal Paré was expecting a report in June 2020 regarding the future of the school building, but that work was all frozen during the pandemic. He has, however, been told not to order more portable classrooms.

5. Chair's Report (Nancy Dean)

The Annual General Meeting will take place Wednesday, Sept. 23, at 7 pm.

A depositor is needed. This is a volunteer position that requires only a few hours each month. Please contact School Council, if interested.

Nancy Dean and Janice Chamberlain will be stepping down as Co-Chairs. They were thanked and celebrated for their service to School Council.

Refunds for the pizza and Subway lunch programs will be issued on credit cards in the coming weeks; two of three cash returns have been issued to date.

School librarian Karen Myrah said she is working with staff to improve the diversity of the collection in the school library. It was suggested that more money be made available in September to support this initiative. At the same time, Wendy Marie Luciani suggested that other resources be considered since it is unlikely the library will be open to students in September 2020 given the pandemic. Cheshmak Farhoumand-Sims shared the Facebook group Alta Vista for Social Justice and suggested she work with AVPS teacher Chantel Smith to improve diversity resources at AVPS.

6. Next Meeting

The next School Council meeting and Annual General Meeting will take place Wednesday, Sept. 23, at 7 p.m. via Zoom.