

**Alta Vista Public School  
Minutes • School Council  
Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2020**

**NB: The meeting took place via Google Meets due to OCDSB COVID-19 protocols**

**1. Welcome and Introductions (Janice Chamberlain, Vice-Chair)**

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

The agenda was approved. The minutes were approved.

**3. Scholastic Book Fair and Spirit Wear**

The Scholastic Book Fair will take place online from Nov. 23 to Dec. 7. Tia Helm will help distribute flyers. Tia Helm will ask Mais Kiryakos and Vice-Principal Karin Le Madec about accessing the Scholastic credits to purchase books.

Discussion regarding the sale of spirit wear will be tabled to the New Year. In the meantime, Tia Helm is accepting outgrown spirit wear to distribute to students.

If members of the AVPS community would like to make a donation to provide financial assistance to students and/or families, Principal Dennis Paré confirmed the school is able to issue tax receipts. Anyone interested in doing so should contact Principal Paré.

**4. Changes to the AVPS School Council Constitution**

The following changes to the AVPS School Council Constitution were approved.

Under the heading Members, Section 13 will now read:

“The council shall consist of the following voting members who shall have equal privileges and voting rights:

- a. a minimum of nine (9) and no more than twenty-one (21) parents/guardians of students at the home school and including Ottawa-Carleton Virtual parents/guardians.
- b. no more than three (3) community representative(s) who do(es) not have children attending the school; or residing in the school boundaries and attending an Ottawa-Carleton Virtual school.”

Under the heading Members, Section 19 will now read:

“The term for a School Council member, elected and/or appointed, shall be one year. The elected School Council member holds office from the date the School Council member is elected until the date of the next School Council elections. Elected and appointed members may seek additional terms of office.”

Under the heading Officers, Section 22 will now read:

“The officers shall be the Chair, Vice-Chair (under mutual agreement the Chair and Vice-Chair may operate equally as Co-Chairs), Treasurer and Secretary.”

Under the heading Meetings, Section 32 will now read:

“Members of School Council shall make reasonable efforts to attend all School Council meetings. For purposes of achieving a quorum and in order to ensure an effective council, any member is deemed to have resigned the position if absent for three consecutive council meetings but may be reinstated by a vote by council.”

Under the heading Voting, Section 38 now reads:

“Motions may not be passed in the absence of a quorum of School Council members.”

Also under the heading Voting, Section 39 now reads:

“When a meeting is not possible, voting will be determined by email upon receipt of notice to all voting members.”

A glossary of abbreviations will be added to the document.

Following the above changes, Leah Arends, Lori Brooks, Gordon Delano and Jonathan MacLeod were welcomed as voting members of School Council for 2020-2021.

## **5. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré, Principal)**

Principal Paré noted increased fatigue among staff.

The Remembrance Day presentation produced by the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) was inclusive and moving.

Progress reports will be issued Nov. 20 on the OCDSB’s Parent Portal.

Parent/Teacher interviews will take place Nov. 26.

One classroom will be renovated: new heating/cooling vent, switching to LED lights and redoing the floor. A decision to renovate further classrooms will be based on the results and costs of this renovation. Principal Paré said the work is imminent. With respect to renovations and asbestos, Principal Paré said all known or suspected materials have been mapped, and the OCDSB will follow Ministry of Labour guidelines.

The concrete walkway leading to the front doors has been redone and looks great.

## **6. Treasurer’s Report (Kathy Wrye, Treasurer)**

Mabel’s Labels brought in \$209 to date, with more to come.

A cheque to the school from June 2020 is outstanding; a new cheque will be issued.

School Council approved \$6,950 for the following teacher requests for Term 1 (Sept. 2020-Jan. 2021).

Sidewalk chalk	\$50
Shovels for outdoor Phys. Ed. (Grs. 1-8)	\$600
General Phys. Ed. equipment	\$300
Snow brick shapes (Grs. 1-8)	\$175
Five XL skating helmets	\$500
Books for MindMasters program (Grs. 1-4)	\$200
Shovels, buckets, brick shapes (Kinder)	\$595
Sleds (Kinder)	\$750
Binding machine	\$500
Board games (Kinder)	\$500
"I Am Number 4" novel x50 (Intermediates)	\$675
Indigenous elder presentations x5 (Intermediates)	\$500
Yoga mats (Gr. 1)	\$360
Science First friction rod kits (Grs. 1-6)	\$200
Science consumables (Intermediates)	\$1,000
Books on diversity x3 (library)	\$45

In addition, School Council approved \$2,400 for the following standing-item allocations.

Student subsidies	\$1,000
School leaving ceremony	\$300
Thank-you event for student volunteers	\$500
Bank charges	\$150
Gifts	\$200
Photocopying	\$100
Website	\$150

In addition, Tia Helm's request for \$300 was approved. The funds will be used to top up the breakfast bins and provide supplemental lunch food for students. A subcommittee consisting of Jonathan MacLeod and Shelly Firth will meet to facilitate donations.

Given the challenges of fundraising due to COVID-19 protocols, Alison Millard suggested forming a fundraising subcommittee; Lori Brooks and Janice Chamberlain expressed an interest in working with Alison on fundraising.

## **7. Teacher's Report (Beth Rutland)**

The entry for the Kindergarten program at the Randall Avenue fence is working well. The Kinder yard has been divided into four zones.

Students in the Primary program are exploring Diwali, and Science Talk is coming soon.

More Chromebooks are needed for students in the Junior program. It was noted that limitations on group work is proving a challenge for student engagement.

Intermediate students will benefit from learning from an Indigenous presenter and from the Get REAL program.

Equipping all students in Grs. 1-8 with skipping ropes was a huge success. The Phys. Ed. Department has received the go-ahead from Ottawa Public Health to use some sports equipment. For now, all Phys. Ed. classes are outdoors. Pool noodles will be used.

Teachers have started working on mental health programs.

## **8. New Business**

Christine Graves said she will consider being the AVPS representative at the Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils.

Christine Graves expressed her support for the AVPS garden. Gr. 3 teachers requested funding to purchase seeds. Discussion regarding the garden will be tabled till spring.

Shelly Firth and Janice Chamberlain requested MindMasters2 be brought to AVPS. MindMasters2 is a mental health promotion resource that helps children master emotional regulation through relaxation, positive thinking and mindfulness. It was developed CHEO and is now a program of Ottawa Public Health. It is designed for adults (both parents and professionals) to use with children ages four to nine years.

## **9. Next Meeting**

The next School Council meeting will take place via Google Meets on Wednesday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m. All parents/guardians of the AVPS community are welcome to attend.