

**Alta Vista Public School  
Minutes • School Council • Annual General Meeting  
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2020**

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

**1. Welcome and Introduction (Janice Chamberlain, Co-Chair)**

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

The agenda was approved. The minutes were approved.

It was noted that the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's (OCDSB) Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) is seeking more parent representatives and will meet Oct. 30. PIC organizes such events as the annual parent conference. Also, the OCDSB's Advisory Committee on the Arts (ACA) will meet Nov. 9. For more information about joining either of these committees, please contact outgoing AVPS School Council Co-Chair Nancy Dean, who is also Chair of the ACA.

Janice Chamberlain thanked the coordinators of the Subway and pizza lunch program – Ana Flaman and Caryn Taylor, respectively – particularly their efforts in submitting refunds to AVPS families following the school closure in March 2020.

Sincere and heartfelt thanks were offered to Nancy Dean, outgoing Co-Chair, for whom this is her last AVPS School Council meeting after 12 years of enthusiastic volunteerism.

**3. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré, Principal)**

Principal Paré reported a busy but successful start to the 2020-2021 school year, with thanks to the “incredible” AVPS team. He introduced Vice-Principal Karin Le Madec.

Principal Paré spoke with Councillor Jean Cloutier regarding road signs and painted street lines around the school. Cloutier said he wants to help any way he can, such as providing more water bottles for students. Tia Helm added her thanks to Shelly Firth for her work in securing 200+ water bottles for students.

The Terry Fox Run went really well, and Mme. Connelly was thanked for her work.

The school's Daily Occasional Teacher (DOT) is Chelsea Jodoin.

Technology is an issue for AVPS since some of the Chromebooks that were lent to students in March 2020 were not returned. Thirty-five new Chromebooks were received in September and more have been ordered and are expected to arrive in November.

The ventilation in all OCDSB schools was investigated in August. AVPS classrooms and isolation rooms have been equipped with HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) filters.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report (Kathy Wrye)**

School Council has a budget of \$36,800 for the 2020-2021 school year. It was noted that what we raise this year is only eligible to be spent during the 2021-2022 school year.

We started the 2019-2020 school year with a balance of \$46,200 and ended the year with \$40,500. The closure of the school diminished fundraising but also affected spending. In 2019-2020, School Council made a net \$12,400 and spent \$18,100.

As a result, we have a balance of slightly more than \$40,500, which includes \$2,000 set aside for the eventual revitalization of the school yard; \$800 for future Gr. 6 camping trips that was raised in 2018-2019; and \$850 from 2019-2020 Family Movie Night fundraisers that belongs to the Eco Warriors club and future band/orchestra trips. Netting out these amounts leaves School Council with a budget of about \$36,800.

#### **5. Nomination of Members-at-Large and Election of Executive Members for 2020-2021**

Due to the pandemic and the OCDSB's goal of maximizing parent/guardian participation at in-person and virtual schools, priority to self-nominate has been given to parents/guardians of in-person students for the AVPS School Council.

According to AVPS School Council's constitution, the maximum number of voting members is 15. However, more than 15 individuals self-nominated as voting members of AVPS School Council for 2020-2021.

A committee will consider amending the constitution to better meet School Council's current needs. This committee will meet by Nov. 4 in order to provide School Council with notice of such amendments two weeks prior to the next School Council meeting, which is Nov. 18. The aforementioned committee will include Lindsey Barr, Pranesh Chakraborty, Janice Chamberlain, Nancy Dean, Shelly Firth and Wendy Luciani.

The following 15 individuals are voting members of the AVPS School Council for 2020-2021: Reuben Altman, Pranesh Chakraborty, Janice Chamberlain, Nancy Cronkwright, Jeff de Laat, Melissa Extross, Shelly Firth, Tina Garbas-Tyrrell, Mais Kiryakos, Wendy Luciani, Laurie Mackenzie, Steve Ott, Lynne Scholten, Andrea Timlin and Kathy Wrye.

The amended constitution will allow for Leah Arends, Lori Brooks, Gordon Delano and Jonathan MacLeod to join School Council as voting members for 2020-2021.

The School Council executive for 2020-2021 is Shelly Firth (Chair), Janice Chamberlain (Vice-Chair), Kathy Wrye (Treasurer) and Laurie Mackenzie (Secretary).

## **6. New Business**

Given restrictions on fundraising due to OCDSB COVID-19 protocols, the spending target of School Council for 2020-2021 is roughly half of available funds: approx. \$18,400. Principal Paré and Kathleen Connelly were invited to bring spending requests from teachers to the Nov. 18 meeting.

Mais Kiryakos received the green light to plan a virtual Scholastic Book Fair. Four-hundred English titles and 150 French titles will be available to order. Shipping is free for orders of more than \$35; a \$6 shipping fee applies to orders under \$35. The school will be given a credit worth 20% of total sales. It will likely take place Nov. 18-Dec. 2, and Tia Helm volunteered to put up posters in the school. Making the book fair as equitable as possible will be discussed at the Nov. 18 meeting.

Mais Kiryakos will prepare a template for selling AVPS spirit wear.

## **7. Next Meeting**

The next School Council meeting will take place via Google Meets on Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m. All parents/guardians of the AVPS community are welcome to attend.