

**Alta Vista Public School
Minutes • School Council
Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020**

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

1. Welcome and Introductions (Shelly Firth, Chair)

2. Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes (Laurie Mackenzie, Secretary)

The agenda was approved. The minutes were approved.

3. Chair's Report (Shelly Firth)

The winter clothing drive for outerwear for students in Kindergarten to Gr. 8 will continue into January every Wednesday morning at drop-off near the Randall Avenue end of the parking lot. Parents/guardians have asked for reminders.

If a need is identified in the community, please advise School Council.

4. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré, Principal)

Two students and one staff member tested positive for COVID-19. In response, the school administration spent a lot of time on the telephone reaching out to anyone who may be a high-risk contact, thus limiting the spread within the school community.

Renovations on a classroom will begin soon.

Parking concerns on Beaver Avenue and Ridgecrest Place are frustrating for the school administration because parents/guardians have repeatedly been asked to refrain from parking on these streets during pick-up and drop-off times. The parking lot at St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church on Alta Vista Drive is available for parents/guardians. If the issue persists, the school administration will speak to police about enforcement and to Councillor Jean Cloutier about signage. It was suggested that McQuaig Street should be included in the list of streets where parents/guardians should refrain from parking at drop-off and pick-up times.

Students will be instructed to bring their belongings and workbooks home for the winter break, just in case in-school learning does not resume in the New Year.

5. Teacher's Report (Kathleen Connelly, Teacher's Representative)

New sleds for the Kindergarten program have arrived and are sturdy.

For the Primary program, Gr. 3 classes had the Ozbots out practising coding. Students wrote letters to the Canadian Forces who will not be coming home for the holidays and to children who will be spending their holidays at CHEO.

For the Junior program, students learned a dance this week to *Winter Wonderland* and will be presenting outdoors to the Kinders. Mme. Kresic's Gr. 5 classes did an egg drop for science class. Mr. Riff's class tested out paper airplanes for their flight unit.

For the Intermediate program, two Gr. 8 students created an instructional video for Gr.5 students. Xello workshops started; students complete assessments, which help students connect who they are with relevant career options. Presentations from Rideauwood Addictions and Family Services have started and will continue into Jan./Feb.

While no direction regarding the use of the skating rink at Alta Vista Park has been received from Ottawa Public Health or the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, the volunteers who run the rink confirmed the ice will be ready as soon as possible. The field house will be open for washroom-use only.

Phys. Ed. classes are primarily being held outside, and students need to come in snow pants and winter boots even if there is no snow. Gradual use of the gym has started on cold days for low-intensity activities only (eg. dance, team-building activities, etc).

Ottawa Public Health is allowing each class (cohort) to use equipment at recess. Each class chose two items they would like for their class (football, rubber four-square ball, Frisbee or soccer ball). Items from home are not allowed.

5. Treasurer's Report (Kathleen Wrye)

It looks like the almost \$7,000 in approved teacher requests at the November meeting is being spent; to date, \$2,000 has been reimbursed with another \$1,500 coming soon.

6. New Business

Melissa Extross will look into Papa John's popcorn and will share info with the fundraising committee.

If a class is sent home to quarantine, the class/teachers pivot to online learning for that class with 225 synchronous minutes and 75 asynchronous minutes per day. Teachers do their best to maintain the in-school schedule.

7. Next Meeting

The next School Council meeting will take place via Google Meets on Wednesday, Jan. 20, at 7 pm. All parents/guardians of the AVPS community are welcome to attend.