

**Alta Vista Public School
Minutes • School Council
Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2021**

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 (Shelly Firth, Chair)

The agenda was amended to remove topic #10, and then the agenda was approved as amended. The minutes were approved.

3. Chair's Report (Shelly Firth)

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

In place of School Councils applying for Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants, the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) is hosting virtual sessions with specific speakers, and School Councils are welcome to apply to attend one of the virtual sessions. The list of options includes diversity, addiction counseling, online safety, etc. Members were asked to reflect on what topic would be of interest to their family.

4. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré, Principal)

Report cards will be available through the OCDSB's Report Card Portal on Feb. 18.

The ongoing renovation of a classroom is temporarily on hold as the cost of what has been done and what is yet to complete is determined. In addition, the boiler is old and leaky, and the OCDSB is considering options.

Traffic and parking issues persist on Ralston Street, Beaver Avenue and Ridgecrest Place. The preferred option is to parents/guardians to park at St. Timothy's Church.

Grateful for Kathleen Connelly's persistence, Principal Paré said the skating rink at Alta Vista Park is amazing. The Gr. 7 and 8 students are enjoying the opportunity to skate.

AVPS lost a number of students to home schooling, but it is anticipated that fewer will opt for Ottawa-Carleton Virtual (OCV) in September 2021. Rather, OCV will be available to accommodate families whose needs cannot be met in person. Beyond that, it is difficult to anticipate this far in advance what the return to school will be like.

When symptomatic children arrive at AVPS, it is up to the school administration to diagnose and communicate with parents/guardians. The best option is for the children in question to go home for 24 hours. Keeping symptomatic children out of the school is the strategy for keeping schools open.

The Kindergarten Program information night was successful.

The school staff is actively engaged in understanding systemic anti-Black racism. The OCDSB has been providing principals with support.

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

Many thanks were offered to the Rink Ratz, the group of volunteers who maintain the skating rink at Alta Vista Park, and to School Council for the sleds, shovels and moulds being enjoyed by the Kinders.

Gr. 8 students had an introductory workshop on what course selection will look like using the Xello program, and high school guidance counsellors will assist with the course selection process in the next two weeks

Rideauwood Addiction and Family Services will present to the Intermediates March 9.

Students remain primarily outdoors for Phys. Ed., and masks outdoors have been going well, although the masks do get wet. Please send students with extra masks.

Indoor curling equipment has been rented for March 8 for students in Grs. 1 to 8.

Both gyms are now emptied and classes will begin using them for distanced activities (ie. dance, low intensity fitness, distanced games, etc.).

AVPS Librarian Karen Myrah has been meeting virtually with the Indigenous Team to assess changes necessary to make the collection more appropriate and inclusive for all our students and staff.

AV staff have collaborated on a list of diverse and inclusive books we believe would make the collection more inclusive for our students.

Christol Barrett-Kilongozi's Black History Month Daily Missions are in full swing. The students who have been participating (a few classes and some individual students) are learning a lot as evidenced in their submissions. It was suggested that the Daily Missions also be sent to parents/guardians, which Principal Paré affirmed was a good idea for next year.

6. Treasurer's Report (Kathleen Wrye)

Since January, repayments have been processed for Breakfast Club and sports equipment. We received the annual \$500 grant from the OCDSB. Our current balance is \$38,162. Our total spending is \$3,200.

The following teacher requests were approved.

Lego Mindstorms for Robotics Club (post-COVID)	\$1,300
Shovels and buckets	\$ 100
Sand toys	\$ 56
Books (diversity)	\$ 450
Books (replace inappropriate Indigenous resources)	\$ 450
KAPLA blocks	\$ 300

While we do have credits with Scholastic, the books listed above fall outside Scholastic's offerings. Mais Kiryakos to get an update re. our credit with Scholastic.

After discussion, School Council approved the allocation of funds from Gifts of Giving, which were earmarked community initiatives in November 2019. Following requests from Arch Street Public School and Charles H. Hulse Public School, both of which do not have a school council with fundraising capacity, the following funds were granted.

Arch Street (white boards and gardening tools)	\$ 179
Charles H. Hulse (Saidat Show)	\$ 452

In addition, and thanks to the vision of Mais Kiryakos and generosity of Luv 2 Groove owner Julia Gutsik, an additional \$1,300 was allocated for joint virtual Luv 2 Groove workshops for both schools. Since the amount exceeded the balance of Gifts of Giving, \$762 was allocated from the general budget.

7. Community/Event Report

The proposal from Dr. David Palframan for an arboretum at AVPS is to be considered and discussed at a later time.

OCV students interviewed astronauts on the International Space Station; this is available to watch on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ery1JYmk72o>

Mais Kiryakos will organize details for a Spring Book Fair. Thank you, Mais!

8. Next Meeting

The next School Council meeting will take place via Google Meets on Wednesday, March 24, at 7 pm. All parents/guardians of AVPS community are welcome to attend.