

**Alta Vista Public School
Minutes • School Council
Wednesday, March 24, 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 approved. The minutes were approved.

3. Chair's Report (Shelly Firth)

We were approved for the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant for up to \$650 to host a Virtual Speaker Night of our choosing. Three options are being considered. 1) Host STEAM-themed evenings facilitated by members of the community. 2) Offer math workshops for parents. 3) Offer the My Life Online workshop, which costs more than \$650. Janice will pursue option 3 and request a lower workshop fee.

Shelly sent a letter to the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) Director Camille Williams-Taylor; Superintendent Dorothy Baker; Human Rights and Equity Advisor Carolyn Tanner; Trustee Chris Ellis; and MPP John Fraser regarding the curt March deadline for parents to confirm in-person or virtual learning for their child(ren) in 2021-2022 and citing the stress caused by the curt deadline as well as Middle French Immersion and Special Education options being pulled from virtual learning. The letter was acknowledged, and a response is forthcoming.

A virtual workshop entitled "One Year into Pandemic Parenting: Tools for stress management and emotion regulation" is available for viewing. This workshop is intended for parents of children of all ages: <https://youtu.be/GKYTnqOhWEg>

4. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré, Principal)

School staff is fatigued but doing their best. Last week should have been March Break, so the school administration is holding a spirit week for staff.

Replacement-staff shortages are a concern. Thanks were offered to Vice-Principal Karin Le Madec for managing the situation with aplomb.

Construction is ongoing on one classroom, and Principal Paré has requested an update.

The response to the two-week deadline for parents to decide about in-person or virtual learning for their child(ren) for 2021-2022 has been mixed. The OCDSB needs to know what to expect for September, and the school needs to know to plan teacher allocations. In response to a question, Principal Paré said children who live in the community are guaranteed a place in the school. At the moment, he is expecting to have 635 students next year, and 45 of those students have opted for virtual learning.

While there is no warm water in the classroom sinks, there is hand sanitizer everywhere in the building.

The proposed elementary calendar for 2021-2022 is circulating. The proposed start day for school is Sept. 7, 2021, and the proposed last day is June 30, 2022.

The school did not receive a visual arts grant this year. Chelsea Jodoin is the Daily Occasional Teacher, who happens to love visual arts and is successfully sharing that enthusiasm with her students.

The Gr. 8 leaving ceremony will be virtual and will include Ottawa-Carleton Virtual (OCV) students. Grad photos will take place April 28 before the start of the regular school day.

5. Teacher's Report (Beth Rutland, Teacher's Representative)

Two Kindergarten classes have been virtual for four weeks (two blocks of two weeks) due to COVID cases. The transition was smooth, and parents were supportive.

The Kinder yard is slippery and dangerous at times, and the Kinder team would like that to be addressed at some point by the OCDSB because it never gets cleared like the rest of the school yard.

Gr. 5 students in Mr. Ellis's class have been designing a race track and programming their robot (Lego Mindstorms EV3 and ozobots) to prepare for their Robotic Race.

The rental of Rocks n' Rings curling equipment was a huge success! Every class in Grs. 1-6 were able to get at least one curling period. Thank you, School Council!

Jump Rope for Heart is April 9 and will be preceded by a virtual assembly.

The MADD Canada virtual presentation for Grs. 4-6 was engaging.

Christol Barrett-Kilongozi shared her thanks for the financial support toward the Black History Month Missions, which were "a noteworthy, meaningful, and enjoyable school-wide learning experience."

6. Treasurer's Report (Kathleen Wrye)

The current balance is just over \$35,000. To date, we have allocated \$14,000 and spent \$6,200.

The following teacher requests were approved: Canvasses for \$205.

Requests for Phys. Ed. equipment will be reallocated from previous requests and thus do not require approval of School Council.

7. Community/Event Report

The second virtual Scholastic Book Fair will take place May 13-17 and will include Usborne titles. While Scholastic partnered with Shopify, which manages delivery, Usborne purchases will be delivered to the school. Tia Helm will help with distribution.

A fundraising letter/email was approved to be circulated to the school community via Principal Paré. Online donations will be managed by Sagoto Solutions.

Ideas for passive fundraising, such as pizza/movie nights, FlipGive, Papa Jack's and Fundscrip, were shared.

8. Next Meeting

The next School Council meeting will take place via Google Meets on Wednesday, April 21, at 7 pm. All parents/guardians of AVPS community are welcome to attend.