

**Alta Vista Public School
Minutes • School Council
Wednesday, May 19, 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 (Janice Chamberlain, Vice-Chair)

The Zentangle workshop on May 18 had a good turnout with a wide age range. An evaluation form was sent to participants.

The deadline for the Police Involvement in Schools survey by the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) was May 16. School Council will share any developments.

4. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré, Principal)

The OCDSB has decided to remove the steam radiators from each classroom and equip each classroom with an electrical stand-alone ventilation system, which will heat classrooms more safely as well as exchange air. This decision is based on one classroom renovation, which cost approximately \$400,000. The classroom renovation involved new walls, windows and ceiling, and included having the asbestos abated in the ceiling tiles. The cost of doing that for every classroom is prohibitive. It is expected to be a four- to five-year project beginning in September 2021 and will include the use of six portables in September 2021 and as many as 12 portables thereafter. The main office will receive a roof ventilation unit, which will be installed over the summer.

In response to this news, concerns were raised regarding the use of portables and their lack of water and washrooms, particularly in winter months. Concerns were also raised regarding the lack of accessibility in the school building.

Staff are working on a Gr. 8 leaving ceremony that is inclusive of students attending AVPS in person as well as those attending Ottawa-Carleton Virtual (OCV). One of the challenges is the presentation of awards, which includes student names, and security. School Council offered support, if needed.

There has been no news regarding the return to in-person school during or after the provincial stay-at-home order that was put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The June 4 PD Day is going ahead. June 18 is likely the cut-off day for preparing report cards, which will be distributed by email and not via the OCDSB Report Card Portal.

With respect to staffing, a teacher has been hired for the Primary division.

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

Some Kinder, Primary and Junior classes are preparing virtual talent shows.

An anti-racism workshop will take place May 20 for Intermediate students.

Students in Grs. 6, 7 and 8 will learn from motivational speaker Jeff Martin on May 27.

Virtual field trips planned for Intermediate students include Outdoor Education Centre, 2021 Virtual Skills Ontario Competition and Career Exploration Showcase. Gr. 7 students will participate in Dollars with Sense workshops from Junior Achievement Canada.

Karen Myrah, Library Technician at AVPS, thanked School Council for funds to update the library collection to reflect our student population. Melissa Exross requested a list of the newly purchased books; Beth Rutland will forward that list.

6. Treasurer's Report (Kathleen Wrye)

The current balance is just over \$32,000. From the funds that were allocated at previous meetings, \$9,500 has been spent; there is \$6,400 left that was approved but not spent.

7. Community/Event Report

The virtual Spring Book Fair had sales of \$1,800 (just under \$400 in Scholastic credits).

Plantables.ca fundraiser has received 17 orders to date, earning \$85.

Janice is waiting to advertise the Papa Jack's movie night fundraiser because there are many emails coming from School Council these days, many of which involve fundraising.

The virtual fundraising campaign will run from June 6-19.

8. New Items

Dennis Paré and Karin Le Madec will return as Principal and Vice-Principal respectively for the 2021-2022 school year. Chief Custodian Denis Séguin will return, too.

A number of questions were raised regarding the planned renovation of classrooms: is there a master plan for AVPS within the OCDSB's long-range plans; and is there a projection for the number of students expected to attend the school?

Questions were also raised regarding the accessibility of AVPS; at the moment the school has one stair climber (used for one week before the current school closure due to COVID-19), which completely blocks the staircase when in use. Accessibility affects students, staff and parents/guardians.

It was suggested that a committee be formed to address the planned renovations and accessibility issues. Pranesh Chakraborty offered to help, and Janice will put out a broader call for volunteers once Dennis Paré has informed the school community of the renovation plans. She will also contact members of School Council's safety subcommittee, which was formed following the steam-pipe leak in 2019.

A first step is to contact other OCDSB schools that have undergone either extensive renovations (Devonshire PS, Mutchmor PS and Elmdale PS, for example) or had a new school built (Broadview PS, for example).

Dennis Paré confirmed that he will ask a representative from the Facilities department to attend the June 16 School Council meeting.

AVPS, as part of the OCDSB, will recognize Pride Month (June) by flying the Pride Progress Flag, which includes the rainbow and black and brown stripes to represent people of colour, and baby blue, pink and white to include the trans flag in its design.

9. Next Meeting

The next and final School Council meeting of the 2020-2021 school year will take place via Google Meets on Wednesday, June 16, at 7 pm. All parents/guardians of AVPS community are welcome to attend.