

**Alta Vista Public School (AVPS)
Minutes • School Council
Wednesday, June 16, 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. Update re. June 10 renovation meeting (Dennis Paré, Principal)

A meeting regarding the planned renovations for AVPS was held June 10 via Zoom. Trustee Chris Ellis, Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) Manager of Facilities Dan Bradley, and OCDSB Superintendent Dorothy Baker attended the meeting along with parents/guardians of the AVPS community. The immediate plan is to replace the boiler, which has reached the end of its life cycle, with a new heating system and to replace the steam radiators in the classrooms with new heating/cooling systems.

The Grade 2 wing (not including the office) will be renovated from July – December 2021, and the upper and main floors and east wing will be renovated from January – August 2022. The gyms will be done in the summer. The full project has been divided into five phases. The expected completion date is September 2023. To accommodate classrooms, six portables will be ready for September 2021 with an additional six portables by January 2022.

Since there are older buildings within the district, AVPS is not currently in the queue for a complete rebuild. Trustee Chris Ellis explained that Ontario school boards submit a list of capital projects to the Ministry of Education. This list is eventually brought to Trustees for approval, but Trustee Chris Ellis noted that the real deciding body is the Ministry of Education and “it is quite an opaque process.”

Advocating for a rebuild is encouraged, and the principal and superintendent should support such advocacy. It was noted that consistency is preferable when organizing an advocacy committee because the process may take years – a school in Stittsville was recently approved after being on the Capital Build List for 10 years. Advocacy may include gathering support from community associations within the school’s catchment and parents/guardians from feeder schools as well as the Member of Provincial Parliament, city councillor and trustee for the area.

4. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré, Principal)

Lots of Chromebooks are waiting to be returned. June 24 and 25 will be used to process those returns and greet students as they collect their personal items from AVPS.

The Gr. 8 leaving ceremony will take place the morning of June 24. Help is needed to decorate. Shirts and certificates are being made for students. The ceremony will take place along the kiss 'n' run lane and front steps. Each student is allowed to bring two family members.

Door H will offer access to the rest of the school community. Students are allotted 15 minutes each. Some teachers will be present to greet students.

The OCDSB has paused the work of the School Resource Officers (SRO). The cost of the SRO program is \$90,000 and these funds are being diverted to mental health resources.

Funds from the Ministry of Education will support a Student Transition Program to identify and support students who need help transitioning back to in-person learning.

Dennis Paré and Vice-Principal Karin Le Madec are working on staffing for next year.

5. Chair's Report (Janice Chamberlain, Vice-Chair)

A small group of parents/guardians have organized to advocate regarding the planned renovations. Feedback from the June 10 meeting was positive, and the OCDSB staff did a great job of explaining the process. A recording of the meeting will be posted on School Council's website.

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

Gr. 3 students are preparing memory books and marking the summer solstice. Students in the Junior division are preparing a goodbye send-off for Mme. Kresic as well as a project on Indigenous culture. The Intermediate students attended a MADD presentation and prepared summer solstice presentations. The Phys. Ed. department is hosting mini daily Olympic challenges.

Christol Barrett-Kilongozi was pleased to share that there was engagement from all grade levels in the Asian and Pacific Islander History Month.

7. Treasurer's Report (Kathy Wrye, Treasurer)

The current balance is unchanged at just over \$32,000. The virtual fundraising campaign, from June 9 to 19, is off to a good start with \$4,250 raised to date.

8. New Items

Sincere thanks to Steve Ott on his 11 years with School Council. School Council is grateful for his service in supporting AVPS students.

Shelly Firth and Janice Chamberlain announced they will not put their names forward at the September 22, 2021, Annual General Meeting to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for the 2021-2022 school year.

9. Next Meeting

The first School Council meeting and Annual General Meeting of the 2021-2022 school year is scheduled to take place Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7 pm. All parents/guardians of AVPS community are welcome to attend.