

**Alta Vista Public School (AVPS)
Minutes • School Council
Wednesday, Sept. 22, 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, Chair)

Gratitude and thanks were expressed to the volunteers and coordinators from the 2020-2021 school year. Their time and energy are genuinely appreciated.

A volunteer is needed to serve as our representative at the Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC). Knowing what's being discussed at OCASC is a valuable asset to our School Council.

Please review our school's [Principal Profile](#). Questions regarding the profile are welcome.

The new superintendent for AVPS is Reg Lavigne (613-596-8211 x8886).

4. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré, Principal)

Current renovations at AVPS go back to November 2019, when there was a leak in a steam pipe. Some work to renovate classrooms has been completed, but needed HVAC units will not be available till March 2022. While Phase II was scheduled to begin in January 2022, the delay in the delivery of the HVAC systems will likely alter the schedule. Six classrooms have been moved from the main building to the portables, of which there are 12 on site.

Two of the 12 portables are scheduled for HVAC renewal. Unfortunately, one of the two portables is occupied by Mrs. Kurita's Gr. 4 class, which will need to move in October.

The global COVID-19 pandemic continues, and most AVPS students are not eligible to be vaccinated. Classes are cohorted, and there are no clubs and music or athletic programs. Parents/guardians are asked to complete a daily health assessment.

There will be fewer PD days this school year.

Many thanks to the custodial staff, lead by Denis Séguin, who repainted the entire school over the summer.

The Voluntary Student Fee (VSF) is a way for the school to fundraise for extras and a channel for parents/guardians to make a donation to the school. Funds from the VSF may only be spent on students. Last school year, for example, funds from the VSF were used to purchase skipping ropes. The VSF was not requested last year, but Principal Paré will request this voluntary donation of \$20 per family this year.

The replacement staff market for teachers is depleted. Nonetheless, a new teacher has been hired for a Gr. 1/2 class.

The Daily Occasional Teacher (DOT) program is back at AVPS. Alex Pitman will help fill last-minute vacancies.

Accessibility improvements at AVPS should include accessible stalls in washrooms, accessible access at all exit doors, adjustments to stair railings and adjustments to classroom sinks.

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

Kathleen Connelly, Stephanie Hindle and Christol Barrett-Kilongozi will share the role of Teacher's Representative.

Primary students will soon receive new skipping ropes and have had fun producing Nature Selfies.

Get Real presentations have been booked for Gr. 6,7 and 8.

Once all the pink field-trip permission forms have been returned, students will have access to Alta Vista Park.

Phys. Ed. classes are primarily outside. Masks are not mandatory but encouraged.

From Oct. 6-8, Phys. Ed. classes will participate in a virtual cross-country race, and times will be ranked with other schools.

Terry Fox Week is Sept. 27-Oct. 1, and each class will participate in a virtual presentation with Fred Fox, Terry's brother.

Christol Barrett-Kilongozi expressed her thanks for School Council's financial support for Asian and Pacific Islander History Month

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

Our year-end was Aug. 31, 2021. In the 2020-2021 school year, we raised \$8,600 (primarily from the virtual fundraising campaign – thank you AVPS community!) and spent \$10,700. The bank balance is \$38,500.

7. Nomination of Members-at-Large and Election of Executive Members for 2021-2022

The following 16 individuals are voting members of the AVPS School Council for 2021-2022: Reuben Altman, Regand Braund, Lori Brooks, Katie Calp, Pranesh Chakraborty, Jeff de Laat, Melissa Extross, Shelly Firth, Caitlin Hughes, Mais Kiryakos, Laurie Mackenzie, Francis Prescott, Lynne Scholten, Caryn Taylor, Andrea Timlin and Kathy Wrye.

The School Council executive for 2021-2022 is Melissa Extross (Chair), Kathy Wrye (Treasurer) and Laurie Mackenzie (Secretary). A Vice-Chair or Co-Chair is needed, and a by-election may be called when someone steps forward to fill this vacancy.

8. New Items

Mais Kiryakos will look into dates for the virtual Scholastic Book Fair. Other fundraising ideas include Plantables.ca and the Merry Dairy, although distribution needs to be well organized for the latter.

9. Next Meeting

The next School Council meeting will take place virtually Wednesday, Oct. 20, at 7 pm. All parents/guardians of AVPS community are welcome to attend.