

Alta Vista Public School (AVPS)
Minutes • School Council
Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021

NB: The meeting took place via Google Meets due to OCDSB COVID-19 protocols

1. Welcome and Introductions (Melissa Extross, Chair)

2. Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes (Melissa Extross, Chair)

The agenda was approved. The minutes were approved.

3. Chair's Report (Melissa Extross, Chair)

A representative is needed for the Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC), which is an umbrella organization for school councils and parents in the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB). They meet monthly on the third Thursday. School Councils are encouraged to elect or appoint one of their members as their OCASC delegate (or two who alternate) to attend meetings.

A Vice-Chair is needed for our School Council.

There are not enough Chromebooks at AVPS to provide a class of quarantined students should a class need to quarantine. Options to consider include hosting a laptop drive or purchasing Chromebooks.

School Council pays a third party to host our website (<http://altavistacouncil.com/>). We have the option for the OCDSB to host our website through the school's website. Lynne Scholten will speak to this item at the Nov. 17 meeting.

4. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré, Principal)

Photo Day is coming but the date is to be determined.

The pending approval of the COVID-19 vaccine for children ages five to 11 is expected to open up activities, etc.

With the shortage of bus drivers, buses were cancelled on two days so far this school year. Bus cancellation means students unable to get to school will be learning asynchronously via the Google classroom.

With respect to Chromebooks, the OCDSB will lend Chromebooks to AVPS students, if the entire school goes virtual due to COVID-19 protocols.

If a student shows any symptom of COVID-19, the Principal or Vice-Principal meets with the student and reviews the Ottawa Public Health (OPH) screening tool (<https://secureforms.ottawapublichealth.ca/School-Health-Sante-scolaire/COVID-19-Screening-Tool-for-Students>) with the student.

COVID-19 testing kits are available at the school. Parents/guardians may bring a testing kit to the Brewer Arena or conduct the test at school and OPH will pick it up from AVPS.

Please use the OPH screening tool: <https://secureforms.ottawapublichealth.ca/School-Health-Sante-scolaire/COVID-19-Screening-Tool-for-Students>

Crowding along the sidewalk on Randall Avenue is an issue. Please follow the tagline, “Keep the flow; drop and go.”

Ottawa bylaw enforcement has been dealing with drivers who drop students off on Randall Avenue or make U-turns on Randall. Similarly, the city is restricting street parking on the west side of Beaver Avenue. The school administration is grateful for the open communication with Ottawa City Councillor Jean Cloutier’s office.

Classroom renovations are stalled while contractors await the HVAC systems.

Voluntary school fees have been received – one family donated \$1,000! – and will be used to purchase items for students to use at recess or when outside.

Pizza Fridays will not return presently because the OCDSB is not comfortable with the level of risk required, such as volunteers entering the school.

It is unclear if Spring fair, School Council’s main fundraiser, will be allowed. Lori Brooks suggested developing plans for a COVID-friendly version of Spring Fair.

Sincere thanks were given to the school’s custodial team.

5. Teacher’s Report (Christol Barrett-Kilongozi, Teacher’s Representative)

Kinders are learning about social distancing and wearing masks, and they are working hard to establish routines.

Grs. 1-3 French Core students read The Giving Tree, and students painted their own Giving Trees. Gr. 3 French Immersion students composed poems about kindness and some used the colour from the inclusion flag. Junior students learned about the residential school system ahead of the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Intermediate students are looking forward to a Get Real presentation about 2SLGBTQ+. History workshops for students in Grs. 6-8 will take place Oct. 26 and will include Gr. 6 students from the Grs. 5/6 and the Grs. 4/5/6 split classes.

Terry Fox Week was a success and included a live meet with Fred Fox, Terry's brother.

Junior and Intermediate virtual cross-country running results were shared with other schools in the region and ribbons will be awarded to top finishers.

Skipping ropes will be given to students in Grs. 1-3.

Students are accessing the online catalogue of the library, and bins of library books are supplied to classrooms. Donations of books for the school library are welcome.

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

The current balance is \$39,241.

School Council approved \$5,850 for the following teacher requests.

Kinder in-room toys (five classrooms)	\$1,500
Junior Scientists in School program (Grs. 4-6)	\$2,100
Indigenous presentations (Intermediates)	\$ 500
Headphones for Mme. Saunders' Gr. 4 class	\$ 100
Pavement marker (school will replenish paint)	\$ 150
Indoor/outdoor speaker (Phys.Ed)	\$ 300
Black History Month acknowledgments	\$ 500
Gr. 8 science consumables	\$ 700

Acknowledgments for other heritage months will be deferred to later in the school year.

Scholastic credits need to be used by the end of this academic year; perhaps the library can purchase some books through Scholastic. As a result, the following item was deferred to the November meeting.

Library books (Indigenous, diversity and French)	\$1,500
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School Council approved absorbing \$865 into the operating budget. These funds had been raised during Family Movie Nights in 2019 and set aside for use by school clubs. School Council approved \$2,100 for the following standing-item allocations.

Student subsidies	\$1,000
Gr. 8 school leaving ceremony	\$ 300
Thank-you event for student volunteers	\$ 200
Bank charges	\$ 150
Gifts	\$ 200
Photocopying	\$ 100
Website	\$ 150

Funds for yard revitalization (\$2,000) and Gr. 6 camping trip (\$778) have been set aside.

7. New Items

The virtual Scholastic Book Fair will take place Nov. 8-22 via Shopify. Thank you, Mais!

Following discussion, Mais Kiryakos will organize the sale of spirit wear. It was requested that buyers be given the option of donating a new item of spirit wear on the purchase form. Vice-Principal Karin Le Madec offered to help Mais with distribution.

9. Next Meeting

The next School Council meeting will take place virtually Wednesday, Nov. 17, at 7 pm. All parents/guardians of AVPS community are welcome to attend.