

Alta Vista Public School (AVPS)
Minutes • School Council
Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2021

NB: The meeting took place via Google Meets due to 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. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré, Principal)

Holiday hampers were delivered to 10 families thanks to donations from AVPS staff and the school community. Tia Helm organized the hampers and donations.

Picture day is scheduled for Feb. 3, 2022.

All students received a five-pack of rapid antigen tests to take home. The Ministry of Education did not supply such tests to staff and teachers, who have access to PCR tests.

Rumours circulated that a recent case in the school was Omicron, the current COVID variant of concern. The advice from Ottawa Public Health (OPH) was to not disclose that information to the school community. Students with high-risk contacts will be coming to the school before the winter break to take a PCR test, which will be picked up by a courier. The students will not enter the school.

Students will be told to take belongings home for the winter break just in case in-school learning does not resume Jan. 3. Staff are taking computers and grade books home, too.

A Gr. 8 student wrote an email to the Principal, Vice-Principal and School Council requesting menstrual-hygiene products in school washrooms. Dennis Paré and Karin Le Madec met with the student the next day. A basket of menstrual-hygiene products will be available in the gender-neutral washroom on the second floor. The school has three gender-neutral washrooms.

A walk-in vaccination clinic organized by OPH took place at AVPS Dec. 10.

Construction is on pause due to the prolonged wait for HVAC units, but the portable renewal will be completed soon.

Free parking is available at St. Timothy's off of Ridgcrest Place for parents/guardians at drop-off and pick-up times. Nonetheless, some parents/guardians continue to park on side streets around the school. The concern is the danger to students walking on streets with no sidewalks, particularly in the winter months. The school parking lot is off-limits due to COVID protocols by the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB). The school administration would rather students be late for class than have parents/guardians parking on side streets. This year there is more signage.

Jodi Edwards expressed her concern regarding street parking around the school and noted the former School Travel Planning Committee, which was supported by the EnviroCentre through a three-year pilot project. She proposed reconvening the committee and exploring a renewed partnership with the EnviroCentre. In addition, she proposed using pylons in no-parking zones, re-opening the school parking lot, negotiating additional parking with St. Thomas on Alta Vista Drive and exploring long-term solutions with the City of Ottawa.

The school administration responded with support but would not be able to devote any staff to the initiatives because they are already "tapped out" due to COVID protocols.

Nicole Gibeau, Regan Braund, Jeff de Laat and Francis Prescott expressed an interest in supporting Jodi Edwards and reconvening the School Travel Planning Committee.

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

Kinder students are occupied with studies of celebrations around the world, including Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Christmas. Kinder educators are grateful for the financial support of School Council and are in the ordering process for learning supports.

Junior/Intermediate LD-SIP classes went on a virtual field trip with the Outdoor Education Centre. The focus was animals in our local ecosystem.

Classes 4A and 4B participated in virtual field trips recently: the Royal Ontario Museum and a virtual music workshop, during which they created their own song (to be available on Spotify) linked to in-class learning with the help of Rachel Raditz.

Presentations by Ridgemont, Hillcrest, Canterbury high schools took place Dec. 13. The Gr. 8 Pathways presentation from Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) and Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) took place Dec. 15. Students learned about their program pathway; students can select from a variety of types of courses to meet the needs of their individual pathways.

A school-wide scavenger hunt is taking place this week, and a school-wide food drive is taking place this month.

The OCDSB is allowing schools to make independent decisions to run intramural sports for Grs. 7 and 8; AVPS staff will discuss this in January.

Library Technician Karen Myrah took an inventory of books and found hundreds of “ghost” records on the database with no corresponding books on the shelves. In addition, she is including more bins of books on the shelves on particular subjects for ease of access. Discussions will be starting soon regarding when and how to open the library to students.

5. Treasurer’s Report (Kathy Wrye, Treasurer)

School Council approved two spending items.

- Rocks and Rings curling workshop for Grs. 1 to 8 for \$350
- Increasing the funding for a pavement marker to \$272

6. Next Meeting

The next School Council meeting will take place virtually Wednesday, Jan. 19, at 7 pm. All parents/guardians of AVPS community are welcome to attend.