

**Alta Vista Public School (AVPS)  
Minutes • School Council  
Wednesday, April 20, 2022**

**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 from the last meeting were approved.

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

April 28 is retake day for school photos; submit requests by noon April 27.

**4. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré, Principal)**

Construction in the five classrooms in the wing toward Exit I is almost complete. Construction in all the classrooms on the upper level should begin in July 2022.

The school has had four class closures to date. Vice-Principal Karin Le Madec does her best to cover all classes, and an effort is made to only close older classes. The staff shortage is due to an inadequate number of replacement staff as well as teachers being in quarantine due to COVID. As well, many substitute teachers are retired teachers, who may not feel comfortable being in a classroom amid the presence of COVID.

Principal Dennis Paré and Vice-Principal Le Madec are in the midst of staffing for 2022-2023. The projected enrolment for AVPS is 655 students; currently 615 students. School enrolment prior to COVID was 639 students. Mr. Van Every is retiring.

The current daily absenteeism is between 65 and 110 students.

Ottawa-Carleton Virtual school is an option for 2022-2023.

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) voted to return to mandatory masking in schools even though the province dropped the mask mandate. Nine exemption requests have been received to date at AVPS.

**5. Teacher's Report (Stephanie Hindle, Teacher's Representative)**

Phys. Ed. is hosting track and field for Junior and Intermediate students June 16 and 17.

Jump Rope for Heart is May 27.

Kindergarten students are learning about plant growth.

Primary students are learning about pysanka, the decorated Ukrainian Easter egg.

Junior students are using Lego Mindstorms EV3 robots (Gr. 5) and benefitting from Scientists in School workshops and new pulley/gear kits (Gr. 4).

Intermediate students started seeds to help Gr. 3 students with their planting. EF8 has also built mousetrap cars.

The library reopened for student use March 1; 2,000 have already been checked out.

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

Current expenses are \$7,015. Current allocations are \$13,822. Current net revenues are \$1,839. School Council has \$22,196 available for spending.

The following requests were approved.

Soil for gardens (Gr. 3)	\$ 140
Treated wood to rebuilt garden beds, etc. (Gr. 8)	\$ 420
Luv 2 Groove workshops (Grs. 3-6)	\$2,500
Museum of Nature presentation (Gr. 4)	\$ 365

A request to purchase one or two microscopes per year for Gr. 8 science was tabled until a specific dollar amount may be included with the request.

## **7. New Business**

Spring Fair is on hold but tentatively planned for May 28.

Traditional Storytelling with Jacqui du Toit will take place April 21 from 7-8 pm thanks to the OCDSB's PRO Grant.

Plantables.ca has raised \$136. Mabel's Labels has raised \$60. The fresh fruit fundraiser has raised \$695; delivery is April 21 in the morning and distribution is from 4-6 pm.

Orders for spring Spirit Wear are arriving slowly.

## **8. Next Meeting**

The next School Council meeting will take place virtually Wednesday, May 18, at 7 pm. All parents/guardians of AVPS community are welcome to attend.