

**Alta Vista Public School (AVPS)  
Minutes • School Council  
Wednesday, March 23, 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)**

The list of speakers for the PRO (Parents Reaching Out) Grant for Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) School Councils will be released March 25. We can select from the list or pitch our own event to receive up to \$650. It was decided that the focus should be on fun. An outdoor workshop with Luv 2 Groove is a possibility. Melissa, Shelly Firth and Laurie Mackenzie will apply on behalf of School Council.

The bell time for the 2022-2023 school year will be 9:10 am and 3:40 pm.

A date is yet to be determined for an outdoor Spring Fair. Julie Hazelton volunteered to manage the plant sale. More volunteers are needed for the fundraising event.

The Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) Right to Read Inquiry Report (<https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/right-to-read-inquiry-report>) was released Feb. 28. The report only addresses English reading levels and previously diagnosed reading challenges. The hope is that earlier intervention will help students who need it.

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

Regarding the OHRC Right to Read report, students at AVPS are doing well but could do better. Supports are provided to reluctant or late readers; Empower Reading is led by Christol Barrett-Kilongozi. Lexia Learning is software for struggling readers.

Staffing is an ongoing challenge, and Vice-Principal Karin Le Madec tries to make the absence of educators as seamless as possible for the students.

The administration hosted a Spirit Week for AVPS staff March 7-11.

There are multiple cases of COVID in the school. If a child is asymptomatic, that child may go to school, even if the child is a close contact.

COVID-related mandates have changed: masking is no longer mandatory; and staff are no longer required to be vaccinated. Mixed cohorting will be introduced outdoors. Extracurricular activities, field trips and putting desks together are permitted as well as food programs, such as pizza.

The Kinder program is looking at changing the Kinder drop-off and pick-up location.

The Gr. 8 school-leaving ceremony is being planned and will hopefully be outdoors.

Twenty ventilation systems were received over March Break and are ready to be installed, depending on the contractor's availability.

At the moment, AVPS has 614 students; 650 are expected for Fall 2022.

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

A winter carnival for Grs. 1-6 was held the week before March Break and went well.

Rocks and Rings returned for Grs. 1-6. Each class will have one or two days of curling.

This spring, the Phys. Ed. department is hoping for a track and field day for Grs. 1-8.

EF4A and EF4B booked Scientists in School and students will work on pulley systems.

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

Invoices have been received. \$22,000 is available for spending.

#### **7. New Business**

Caryn Taylor reported that the fresh fruit fundraiser produced \$670 for the school. Volunteers will be needed for help with delivery of the fruit.

Mais Kiryakos will look at promoting Plantables.ca as well as Spring Spirit Wear. Mais raised the Alta Vista Community Association's garage sale day (June 11) to ask if we want to rent out space in the school parking lot as a School Council fundraiser.

Lynne Scholten will promote Mabel's Labels now and at the end of June.

#### **8. Next Meeting**

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