

**Alta Vista Public School (AVPS)
Minutes • School Council
Wednesday, Jan. 19, 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 were approved.

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

On Jan. 6, the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) circulated a survey via email to invite members of the AVPS community to provide feedback on a proposed bell time change to start school at 9:10 am and end at 3:40 pm. In response, Melissa Extross sent an email to Vicky Kiryakos, General Manager of OSTA, asking for an explanation for the bell time change, an extension to Jan. 22, and that the survey also be available in Arabic and Somali. All requests were denied.

If anyone feels strongly about the proposed bell time change, they are encouraged to contact the OSTA Board of Directors and Trustee Chris Ellis.

4. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré, Principal)

With the snow day Jan. 17, in-person school started Jan. 18 following two weeks of online learning.

Staff are engaging COVID safety protocols, such as eye protection and N95 masks.

Picture day will be rescheduled.

With thanks to Vice-Principal Karin Le Madec, AVPS has been managing staffing every day. Should there not be enough staff, a class may be cancelled and parents/guardians will be contacted by email, so they should check email at the end and beginning of each school day.

PCR tests may be distributed as needed, but when the schools runs out, the school won't be receiving more. Courier pick-up of PCR tests are not arranged by the school.

Each student is to receive two Rapid Antigen Tests to take home. The goal is to help parents/guardians rule out COVID in the case of illness.

Each student should complete the Ontario government's daily COVID-19 school and child-care screening: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

Students are continuing to be cohorted during the day, including nutrition breaks.

Normally in the fall, AVPS can expect to have 50 students and five staff members absent per day, and that is the school's baseline for absenteeism. Ottawa Public Health is interested in being informed when absenteeism reaches 30% above that baseline.

Approximately 45 students have opted for online learning. The administration asks that parents/guardians let the school know if their student will be learning from home. Similarly, if a student is isolating, please inform both the school office and the student's teacher(s), so the latter know to prepare and post asynchronous content.

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

Kindergarten students transitioned well to online learning and to the return the school.

R123 students are participating in the Roots of Empathy program.

Snow toys, snowshoes and crazy carpets purchased by School Council are being enjoyed and used as part of the Phys. Ed. program.

Skating will return for students in Grs. 5-8 at Alta Vista Park. Thanks were offered to the volunteers who maintain the rink. Donations of adult-size skates are needed.

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

The current bank balance is \$43,000. Invoices have been paid for the outdoor speaker for AVPS and the Luv 2 Groove workshops for Charles H. Hulse Public School.

School Council approved \$700 for 10 large skating helmets.

7. New Business

Toonie Tuesday is Feb. 22, 2022. The annual fundraiser is for the Education Foundation of Ottawa, which supports students in the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board. At AVPS, Toonie Tuesday will be online event. School Council will promote Toonie Tuesday. To donate: <https://www.educationfoundationottawa.ca/in-your-school/toonie-tuesday/>

8. Next Meeting

The next School Council meeting will take place virtually Wednesday, Feb. 16, at 7 pm. All parents/guardians of AVPS community are welcome to attend.