

**DRAFT**  
**Alta Vista Public School (AVPS)**  
**Minutes • School Council**  
**Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022**

**1. Welcome and Introductions (Shelly Firth, sitting in for Melissa Extross, Chair)**

**2. Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes (Shelly Firth)**

The agenda was approved. The minutes were approved.

**3. Chair's Report (Shelly Firth)**

Future School Council meetings will be virtual, except December 2022 and June 2023.

Gratitude and thanks were expressed to the volunteers and coordinators from the 2021-2022 school year. Their time and energy are genuinely appreciated.

Pleasant Park Public School is hosting a School Board Trustee meet-the-candidates event Oct. 6 from 7-8 pm. The event will be in-person in the school's gym as well as virtual. For more info: <https://altavistacouncil.com/?p=3418> The municipal election is Oct. 24.

A volunteer is needed to serve as our representative at the Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC). Regan Braund expressed an interest in serving in this role.

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

Welcome Tia Helm, the non-teacher representative for School Council, and Kathleen Connelly, the teacher representative. The latter will be shared among three teachers, including Stephanie Hindle and Seline Herz-Fischler.

The Kiss 'n' Ride is not open to parents/guardians. As well, the playground is only open to Kindergarten parents/guardians.

The school-leaving ceremony June 28 was a wonderful and successful event. Thanks to the Gr. 7 parents, who decorated the front of the school for the event.

The school administration conducted interviews in May and June for new hires this school year.

Current renovations at AVPS go back to November 2019, when there was a leak in a steam pipe. The current system needs updating, which is why new HVAC systems are going into classrooms. The first floor wing near the main office was completed. Denis Séguin, Chief Custodian, has put in a service call because of the loud noise coming from

one of the HVAC systems; an ETA on its repair is to come. Renovations to the second floor should have started in July but have yet to begin. In the meantime, the second floor, including the library, is closed to students, with the exception of one classroom. All the portables are in use.

Since the library is closed, it was suggested the school consider partnering with the Bookmobile of the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) or securing institutional library cards from the OPL or going on walking field trips to the Alta Vista branch of the OPL.

The Voluntary Student Fee (VSF) is a way for the school to fundraise for extras and a channel for parents/guardians to make a donation to the school. Funds from the VSF may only be spent on students. This voluntary donation of \$20 per family will be requested this year, and the preferred method of donating is School Cash Online.

School bus transportation is in crisis due to a lack of drivers. The school has students who are entitled to receive bus transportation, but there is one group of students who haven't had a ride home. Parents/guardians should check the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) for cancellations: <http://www.ottawaschoolbus.ca/>

Photo Day is Sept. 29 (grad photos will take place in March or April) as is the school's Open House from 4-5 pm followed by School Council's Welcome Back BBQ in the Primary play yard.

The administration is not pushing teachers to host extracurricular activities. They are indeed supportive of extracurricular activities, but there is less pressure given the exhaustion of teachers over the last few years.

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

Kindergarten students are working to learn classroom rules and routines. Primary students are working on a collaborative art project. Intermediate students started a WEB (Where We All Belong) Team and will be organizing activities in the school.

The Terry Fox Run, organized by the student Athletic Council, is Sept. 23 for all grades.

Lunch monitors have returned and provides leadership opportunities for older students.

Extracurricular activities are back, including Student Council for Grs. 7-8, run by Ms. Harp; Athletic Council for Grs. 4-8 to organize sports at recess; cross-country running, ultimate Frisbee, soccer, and boys and girls football. Mr. Yates is teaching stringed instruments; the school band will take time to get started.

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) informed schools that there is no money for external/interscholastic tournaments. They are working on a renewed model

for athletics given the reality of the lack of occasional teachers (to replace the three to four teachers needed to accompany students to tourneys) and bus drivers (to transport students to tourneys). Parents/guardians may be called on for transportation.

#### **6. Treasurer's Report (Shelly Firth, sitting in for Kathleen Wrye, Treasurer)**

In the 2021-2022 school year, we raised \$15,665.16 and spent \$21,158.60. The bank balance on Aug. 31, 2022, was \$32,962.59.

School Council will be taking teacher requests under consideration at the Oct. 19 meeting. Principal Paré will review teacher requests before submitting it to School Council executive Oct. 14. A budget of \$12,000 for fall term requests is suggested.

We are moving to School Cash Online for pizza and Subway orders. Office Administrator Sonia McLay has offered to set it up for School Council, and Melissa Extross was going to send her the contact information for Caryn Taylor (pizza) and Ana Flaman (Subway).

#### **7. Nomination of Members-at-Large and Election of Executive Members for 2022-2023**

The following are voting members of School Council for 2022-2023: Reuben Altman, Dean Blachford, Alison Bowie, Regan Braund, Pranesh Chakraborty, Jeff de Laat, Melissa Extross, Shelly Firth, Ana Flaman, Robin Gallagher, Mais Kiryakos, Mila Kyrlyenko, Francis Prescott, Lynne Scholten, Jillian Sudayan, Caryn Taylor, and Kathleen Wrye.

The School Council executive for 2022-2023 is Melissa Extross (Chair), Kathleen Wrye (Treasurer) and Jillian Sudayan (Secretary). A Vice-Chair or Co-Chair is needed, and a by-election may be called when someone steps forward to fill this vacancy.

#### **8. New Items**

Pranesh Chakraborty and Jillian Sudayan volunteered to co-lead the Welcome Back BBQ on Sept. 29 following the Open House. Tia Helm will help to recruit student volunteers. Mais Kiryakos will have Spirit Wear available to purchase at the event.

Dean Blachford will lead Family Movie Nights. Reuben Altman offered his assistance.

Caryn Taylor is leading pizza lunches on Mondays and Ana Flaman is leading Subway lunches on Fridays. It was decided that extra pizzas should be ordered to have individual slices for sale. Details, such as accessing the school yard, where to organize the pizzas/Subs (kitchen or science room) and School Cash Online, need to be clarified with the school administration. Parent volunteers will need to be recruited.

Mais Kiryakos is leading SnowOut/BlowOut on Oct. 1, with drop-offs taking place during the Welcome Back BBQ on Sept. 29. Volunteers will be needed to accept merchandise, which may be stored in the girls' locker room or the stage.

Mais Kiryakos is leading the Scholastic Book Fair. Delivery and set-up will be Nov. 22 in the main gymnasium. Students will have access to the Book Fair on Nov. 23 from 9 am-3:40 pm. On Nov. 24, the sale will be open to students from 9 am, and then to parents and students during Parent/Teacher Interviews until 8 pm. A bake sale may take place during the evening portion of Nov. 24. On Nov. 25, as Parent/Teacher Interviews continue, the sale will be open from 9 am to noon, followed by cleanup. Scholastic will pick up unsold books/merchandise Nov. 28. Volunteers will be needed for this event.

### **9. Next Meeting**

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