

FINAL DRAFT
Alta Vista Public School (AVPS)
Minutes - School Council
Wednesday, October 19, 2022 7-9 pm

1. Welcome and Introduction (Melissa Extross, Chair)

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Approval of last meeting minutes

The minutes were approved.

4. Chair's Report (Melissa Extross)

OCASC update from Reagan

Attended the September 29 meeting. Important notes are that the Parent Conferences will be taking place in person on November 5, location Ridgemont High School. Main focus will be "Reconnection and Renewal". A virtual session will happen in December. Tess Porter is the new community engagement coordinator.

We hosted an event with Pleasant Park. A community member Nicole Gibeau reached out to us in regards to supporting this event. Pleasant Park hosted and facilitated the event. We provided refreshments. All three candidates were invited for the School Trustee who are currently seeking an election. All candidates attended and were well received but with a bit of drama from the community who were unhappy with Dr. Nili. Other than that, it was a great evening.

5. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré, Principal)

- Construction Updates

Dennis met with the contractor, which we didn't have at the last meeting. The contractor was cognizant of the fact that they want the kids to be safe and away from the construction as much as possible. They understand that we are a school and operating with children everywhere. The scope of the work is large, they are doing the entire upstairs portion of the school, with the exception of one classroom. HVAC units will be inserted in each classroom through an open window. This will happen at the end of December or early January, exact timeline unknown as the HVAC industry is booming.

- Staffing Updates

Generally calm fall. Teaching staff has been stable this term, which means things remain calm and consistent for the kids. It's a change from the past couple of years. Only difference would be

the office, with Jeannine Bradley's retirement last spring. Sonia McLay applied and was successful as the office administrator. We were able to hire Reem Al-Hussain as office assistant, and are thrilled that she speaks Arabic since a large number of our population are Arabic speaking and we can better communicate with those families as well.

6. Teacher's Report (Stephanie Hindle, Teacher's Representative)

Thank you for the support from the council as this is the first active fundraising year.

- Kindergarten:

The Kindergarten Team is getting more familiar with the new literacy resources that target alphabetical knowledge and phonological awareness. The last PD day was spent learning these new resources, with a focus on "Teaching Sounds, Teaching Letters" and the goal of the Kindergarten Team is by the end of the 2 year program, students will be able to blend and segment phonics orally for 2-3 words according to sound chunks, building oral-literacy skills as foundation for the literacy skills. So they have a strong foundation for literacy upon entering Grade 1.

- Primary:

First field trip, went to Carleton University and visited the Butterfly Exhibition. Science volunteers guided them through activities, saw the butterflies in the greenhouse, learned about the butterfly life cycle and made a craft. Both 2A and 2B in the French Immersion program working on Me Collages, which is a spin off from a book they are reading in class called "Judy Moody Was In A Mood," by Meghan McDonald.

- French Immersion 3A and 3B:

Construction paper model showing 6 layers of soil and starting a Worm Farm in their classroom until spring and they will use the compost to help with the gardens, connecting back to their science program.

- Intermediates:

Field Trips for Grade 7s went to a Construction Symposium on October 6 with Miss McRae our Student Success Teacher. Fifty Grade 7 students attended. A new group started this year, W.E.B. (Where Everyone Belongs) and the group planned and carried out an "Intermediate Fun Day" on October 7. Homeroom teachers separated classes into six teams that were mixed where they learned about students from other classes and connected. As you know, in Grade 7, we receive students from other neighboring schools that only go up until Grade 6. This was a great opportunity to build community with students of Alta Vista and the students who are new. The W.E.B. is planning for more events like this but shifting from sports to STEM activities. They also have an activity for all Grades 6, 7, and 8 for Get-To-Know-You and Team Building activities.

- Grade 8:

Certain High Schools have an early application process, so presentation for IB programs in Canterbury is late October/ early November. Contact Christine McRae, Student Success teacher and she will make sure that students and families are informed of the dates.

November 15, 2022, all Intermediates will go to a 67s game at Scotia Bank Place. Tickets are \$20 per student, including transportation. They secured funding to subsidize them down to \$5 per student.

- Extra-Curricular activities:

Nice to see pre-covid culture coming back. Student Council is up and running. They are a group of dedicated students organizing whole school Spirit Days and Dances for the Intermediates. Miss Harp is their teacher facilitator. Alta Vista Intramurals and Athletic Council - Grade 7 and 8 students selected through application process. These members continue to organize sports during the first recess for students from Grades 4-8. They are supporting primary students, some play in the yard in order to get games going for the primary students.

Orchestra Practices during recess with Michael Yates.

Sports are not back to pre-covid standards in our school board. The board has reduced the number of sports being offered, lacking available buses and supply teachers

Junior and Intermediate Track and Field, Junior Soccer, dates booked for the spring 2023, all other sports are TBD

Funds provided by the board for teacher coaches have been withdrawn and must come from school budgets if Principals approve participation

Phys. Ed. team will continue to offer all sports as intramurals during the school day and hoping to organize friendly team matches with neighboring schools. The board is asking them to be organized by teachers and run after school or on weekends. This will be a challenge.

Sports being offered:

- JR cross country: Meet on October 25, with about 60 students or more on the team. This will be the first time at their age (they were in primary during covid). Coaches are Mme. Rutland and Mme Saunders
- Soccer: postponed until May 2023 by the school board
- Borden ball: High participation sport for Grades 4, 5, and 6. Coaches are Mme. Rutland and Mme Saunders
- Track and Field: in Spring 2023
- Basketball and Volleyball: no scheduled tournaments at this time
- Ultimate Frisbee: Grades 6, 7, and 8. Coaches are Mme Connelly and AV parent Allison Flynn. Tournament was a huge success. Thank you to M. Paré for supporting outside the school board

- Girls and Boys Football teams with Coach Mr. Walker. Rescheduling upcoming tournaments in November
- Intermediate Cross Country: training was in class to promote participation, 46 students went to meet today (Oct 19). Coach Mme Connelly, very successful.
- Cross Country boards, cancelled
- Basketball TBD
- Volleyball TBD
- Badminton: No tournaments scheduled yet
- Track and Field: booked in the spring

7. Treasurer's Update (Kathleen Wrye, Treasurer)

- Financial update

There is currently a little over \$37,000 in the Council bank account. Balance in the Council records is slightly lower at \$35,000, taking into account unpaid BBQ expenses and revenues to be deposited (over the last month for fundraising, such as Mabel's Labels, Plantables, Spirit Wear and Snow Out Blow Out).

2022-23 Proposed Spending Plan

Funds available for spending in 2022-23:

Opening Bank Balance: September 1st, **\$33,000**.

Less:

\$2,000 set aside for Yard Work

\$800 raised during Grade 6 Camping Trip (continue to fund future Grade 6 trips).

Balance Available for 2022-23: **\$30,185**

Standing Items (Approved by Council): \$2,600

School Leaving Ceremony: \$300

Photocopying: \$100

Bank Charges: \$150

Council Website Maintenance: \$150

Student Volunteers: \$200

Gifts Fund: \$200

Student Subsidies and Family Support Fund: \$1,500

Remaining Balance for 2022-23: \$27,585 Council approved a spending target of \$10,000 in teacher request approvals per term.

This will provide flexibility to go beyond the \$10,000 in Spring term.

Council Approved Teacher Requests

- Starr gymnastics for the primaries: \$250
- Cross Country for Intermediates: \$326 (for event on October 19)
- Ultimate frisbee tournament registration: \$200

- Luv2groove workshops for the primaries: \$1850
- Phys. Ed Equipment: \$2,500
- Science Consumables for juniors and intermediates: \$1,500

Council deferred decisions on requests for funding for the Saidat show, Wild Bird Sanctuary trip for Grade 2s, and paint and stencils for the kinders, pending additional information.

8. Committee/Event reports and updates

• Welcome BBQ update (Jillian)

Jillian and Pranesh both co-leading the event. With one week before the event, we were able to prepare based on plans from previous years, binder from Nancy Dean with templates and surveymonkey. Jillian prepared the poster and the surveys on Google Forms for Food preferences and Volunteer shifts. Pranesh was coordinating with Hometown.

On the day of the event, we ended up not having enough food. Hometown mentioned that for the future, they would like the numbers for the amount of food a week in advance since they need to prepare large amounts of food. Pranesh purchased juice boxes from Costco (need to get receipts in order to be reimbursed) and created food tickets for the meal items.

We reached out to volunteers for the Welcome BBQ as well as the Snow Out Blow Out item collection in the gym. Miss Tia helped with volunteer reach out on google forms. There were many volunteers helping to move tables and set up stations. The cash box was handled by an adult and student volunteer. A suggestion for the next time, make prices even numbers so totals are easily calculated. The food station had long line ups, Dennis and Anna helped distribute the food along with the student volunteers. Clean up went well, many hands to help. Overall it was a great event!

• Friday Movie Night update (Dean)

First movie night October 28. Dean connected with VIPs, Caroline Fyfe and Miss Tia.

The poster done by student squad of Grade 9 students - Yousef, Ana and Rowan.

Several volunteers came forward to help out for the movie night.

Movie chosen for October 28 is Hotel Transylvania 4. Some ways to help:

Concession, baked goods, advertise, Volunteer (same day, set up)

Athletics Clubs will be hosting the October 28 Movie Night. Money raised from the event will go to purchasing gym equipment, as approved by Council.

Promote the November event on the October Event

Dean is open to movie ideas

• Pizza day update (Caryn)

501 slices distributed every week.

Lots of little mistakes the first week. For students who didn't get their slice in their classroom, they should go to the kitchen for extra pieces of pizza.

Currently the pizzas are cut into 10 slices and this brings us to \$8,600 for profit margin for just this term until February.

If slices were still too small, they could cut pizzas into 8 instead of 10 slices.

If the pizzas were cut into 8 slices instead of 10, the profit would be \$6,400.

Council decided more feedback was needing before making a decision on whether to change the size of slices.. Was decided to send a survey monkey to parents about what the students like or don't like at the end of the first term (i.e., before february). Will do the same with subs and ask about topping options.

- Sub day update (Melissa on behalf of Ana)

Received a total of 130 orders (127 + 3 donations) .

Two people (who got in touch with me) thought they had ordered subs for their children but the transaction didn't finalize, so I didn't have their children on my list the first day and they didn't get subs. These families are bringing money for the current session to the office this week, and I am adding their kids to the list. So these two orders are for 12 weekly subs instead of 13.

Three parents donated a sub/week. Miss Tia has designated two subs to individuals and the third will be rotated to different students.

On the first sub day, approximately 6 students who had ordered subs were absent so their sandwiches were brought to the office. I'm not sure what ended up happening with them. It would be good if parents knew their kids would be absent on a sub day and could let the office know to donate them.

Subway is charging \$4.45 + tax per sub. With 13% tax, each sub is \$5.03. We are charging \$6/sub. So we get approximately \$1 per sub, plus whatever tax rebate we get.

There was a late request after the order form went out for gluten-free bread. Subway can accommodate this for an increased cost. This parent paid the extra for their student to have gluten-free bread. This option wasn't advertised on the flyer or in the email parents received. Moving forward, this option could be added.

- Snow Out/Blow Out, Spirit Wear, Little Caesar's and Scholastic Book Fair update (Mais)

- During the BBQ: Spirit Wear, everyone was excited. \$1,352 was made from selling products that were left over from last year; many were trying on sizes and ordered online.
- Snow Out Blow Out Sale - Made a profit of \$222. Was a bit slow moving for people coming in. Unsold items were donated to the school closet (with help from Miss Tia)
- Little Caesars: only 6 orders so far, can be extended, still have 2 weeks for orders.
- Scholastic Book Fair: Will be held over November 23-25. **parent teacher interviews are Nov 24 & 25.** Think about doing a Bake Sale, or Chili night for PA and parent-teacher interviews day.
Donate items, crock pots of chili

9. Discussion items and New business

- **Reminder:**

o School Picture Retake Day is October 25, 2022

10. Next meeting: November 16, 2022 (will be held virtually)