

**FINAL DRAFT**  
**Alta Vista School Council (AVPS)**  
**Minutes • School Council**  
**Wednesday, November 16, 2022**

**1. Welcome and Introduction (Melissa Extross, Chair)**

**2. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved. The minutes were approved.

**3. Approval of last meeting minutes**

**4. Chair's Report (Melissa Extross)**

The last time the Principal Profile was updated was in October 2018. There were two items changed.

Engagement and Relationship Building Skills:

"Many of the staff's first language is French, while most parents are English speaking,"

Which was changed to, "Many of the staff are bilingual, while most parents are English speaking."

Planning and Management Skills:

An addition was made, "Maintains a healthy, safe and attractive school in which students, parents and staff feel secure and identify as a positive school environment, *while following public health guidelines to ensure ongoing operations of the school;*" in order to keep up with what has been going on in the last few years with COVID-19.

December's meeting will be held virtually. In 2023, meetings will be held virtually except for the last meeting in June 2023 which will be in person (tentatively).

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

Contractors began working on the 2nd floor of the building. They are preparing the spaces for construction. We are opening room 217 and it will be used on November 25 (PA date) to load all the HVAC units for upstairs room 151. All HVAC units stored will be moved from room 152 up to room 217. From room 217 they will be distributed to the rooms, and this will free up room 152, the last classroom on the main floor. Staff will be able to move back down to the main floor in early December. Students don't notice too many changes, but the staff do. Construction company estimated they will finish upstairs by the end of February 2023.

Since Mr. Paré first arrived in January 2020 and Ms. Le Medec in September 2020, it was the first time the Remembrance Day ceremony was in person, prior to this everything was done virtually. The

ceremony was held outdoors. Maestro Mike Yates performed “The Last Post and Reveille” on his cello, a gorgeous performance. Staff and students really came together. There were other classes who performed as well and they were heard. Beautiful ceremony and nice milestone for Karin and Dennis as administrators.

#### **6. Dr. Nili Kaplan-Myrth, OCDSB Zone 9 Trustee**

Dr. Nili Kaplan-Myrth was supposed to attend this month, but was not able to attend. Will be present at the December meeting. If there are any questions, reach out to Melissa Extross and we will make sure it will be addressed.

#### **7. Teacher’s Report (Selina Herz-Fischler)**

Kindergarten:

Kindergarten classes are learning how to read and respond to the emotions of others, as well as how to recognize and address their own feelings. Students are exploring the use of WITS to respond to social problems (Walk away, Ignore it, Talk it out, Seek help) and are recognizing where their emotions fall in the Zones of Regulation.

Many kinder classes are exploring exciting themes in dramatic play such as space exploration, musical instruments, construction zone, a pizza parlour and ice cream shop. These have all been created in collaboration with students and respond to their inquiries and interests in learning. The dramatic play area is fundamental in establishing creative thought, social interaction and positive communication among peers.

Primary:

Grade 1: Starr gymnastics coming in on Friday for the students. Gratitude towards the School Council.

Grade 2A and B (like in Selina’s classroom), had Let’s Talk Science come. Students of the University of Ottawa talked with our students about water and pollution. They did some cool science experiments, where they put feathers in oil, seeing how oil affected them, and then cleaned them. It was hands-on and fun.

Junior:

Grade 4 and 5 students wrote ‘Haunted House for Sale’ from the standpoint of a realtor and created a media display to showcase their Haunted House.

EF6A started to prepare props and scenery for their upcoming drama presentation.

Grade 4’s made stacking dioramas to show the different layers of a habitat

The 4th graders have been learning how to code micro bits and setting up a plant watering system.

Intermediate:

Grade 8's are invited to Act 1 of a Musical "Little Shop of Horrors" on Wednesday November 23rd.

Grade 7 and 8's had presentations from Rideauwood last week. Grade 7s learned about Technology and Responsibility: Finding the Balance, and Grade 8s learned about Emotional Connections to Substance Use.

Extra-Curricular Activities:

Intermediate Cross-Country Team had several top 20 finishes and won the banner for the Grade 7 and Grade 8 Boys Team event.

The Boys and Girls Football Teams successfully competed in both their tournaments.

The Intermediate Girls (Coach Ms. McRae) and Intermediate Boys (Coach Connelly) Volleyball teams are up and running. There are two tournaments this year. One on December 7th/8th at Ridgemont (friendly tourney) and the other in January (Regional tourney).

All Junior Sports Teams have been postponed until April 2023 by the OCDSB due to staffing shortages.

#### **8. Treasurer's Update (Kathleen Wrye, Treasurer)**

Our current account balance is about \$35,500, taking into account fundraisers that have already been started as well as some expenses. A very successful First Movie Night in October. Bake Sale and Concession stands raised about \$500 for PE equipment.. Mabel's Labels raised about \$340 to date, Snow Out Blow Out raised just over \$200, Plantables raised about \$200 and we received about \$200 for the Little Caesars fundraiser as well.

No requests for reimbursements from the School as of yet.

In terms of voting for fund requests, a late request was made for materials to build shelving in the Alta Vista park skating rink shack, which will be voted on in December, since it is used quite often during winter months.

Further discussion on a possible visit to the Bird Sanctuary or Patty to visit the Grade 2 classes. If it is a field trip, it may be covered by the Outdoor Education fund according to Mr. Paré. Deferred to the December meeting.

Funding of the Saidat Show will also be deferred to the December Meeting.

#### **9. Committee/Event reports and updates**

Spirit Wear, Little Caesars and Scholastic Book Fair update (Mais):

Spirit Wear should be in next week (week of November 20), but not pom poms. Mais will package them all and drop them off at the school to have them delivered to the classes.

Little Caesars fundraiser made \$282 but there was a \$50 delivery fee for Mais to be delivered, so it came to \$232.

For the Book Fair, preparations are going well, Osborne Books will not be joining us this year. Many volunteers signed up. Mais will be there for all three days. Mais will send out a morning announcement and print out reminders (thank you Mr. Paré) will go home with the students. Call out for baked goods will be made to sell during the Book Fair. An ingredients list is welcome for baked goods as many students have dietary restrictions.

#### Family Movie Night (Dean):

The movie night was well attended. Miss Tia said it was the largest one that she had ever seen. About 152 hot dogs were sold. Ms. Connelly and her team sold baked goods, did very well. Students did well under supervision of Kathleen and Tia. Dennis helped with the dry run, Caroline was helpful with passing on knowledge (of previous movie nights). Tia helped on the day of and overall guidance. Custodian team was fantastic. Grade 9 came in from the high school up the street, they logged in Volunteer hours and were very helpful. Parent volunteers came through; Reuben ran the cafeteria making hot dogs, Erica jumped in to help with the cash and Jillian helped with cleaning up. Receipts of expenses were made out and distributed the day after the event.

For future movie night events, students will not be turned down if they want to volunteer. Students signed up but some were turned down, but we actually needed more volunteers. A Clean Up Crew would be needed at the end of the event. Dean would like to know more about garbage and recycling and possibly encourage families to bring their own plastic plates instead of creating more garbage. For upcoming movie night expenses, Dean will focus on purchasing hot dogs, juice boxes, popcorn, and samosas for the event. Although Caroline bought cookies for the Bake Sale, future movie nights will not supplement the purchase of baked goods. Instead, Dean will keep pushing for families to donate more baked goods as a way to encourage community building and involvement. The popcorn machine will need to be tested beforehand to make sure it is in working order. During its last run, it got jammed because it was used so much that night.

Tentatively, the next movie is Abominable, an animated film. A winter's eve type movie that is inclusive. Dean is open to movie suggestions. Tag for Movie nights <https://altavistacouncil.com/?tag=movienight>

The date of the event will be moved from November 25 to Dec 2 to accommodate the PA date.

The next movie night fundraiser will go towards raising funds for the Grade 8 Leaving Ceremony.. Movie Night events will be added to the school Calendar.

Public Health will make the decisions about mask mandates.

Gifts of giving (Melissa):

The event is scheduled for December 15-16. It is an opportunity for kids to inexpensively buy gifts for loved ones. We take donations from the community, and items are arranged around the big gym. Everything costs \$2, they choose one thing, and it gets wrapped, and then they can give them as a gift.

We are currently looking for someone to volunteer to lead the Gifts Of Giving event. Lynne will put out a call out on Facebook for an event lead.

## **10. New Business and Questions**

Question from Council: Does the school track student absences for illness? It is concerning with rates of absences with the three respiratory viruses. With COVID last year, if we reached the threshold, we needed to report it, but with RSV, flu and COVID going around, is there anywhere, as parents, we can go to see what the absentee rate is at our school or our grade level, to be better informed about sending our children to class? It is all over social media and kids have been absent.

Response from Dennis Paré: there is no plan. Not currently meeting thresholds with Ontario Public Health. 120 students away out of 655, which is 19-20% of the school population. That's higher than normal but it's not meeting any thresholds with Ontario Public health. And these thresholds were school wide, not for a particular class. It is something we do monitor. If there's a class with more than half the students absent, we may look into it in terms of extra cleaning. But we are not issuing any notices or reporting in a formal way on a daily basis.

But if there are no thresholds, then they'll never be able to meet the thresholds. If there is no requirement to report, then there is no need to report it, leaving parents without any information.

Unless you ask [Dennis] on a daily basis, then there will not be any information since it is not being reported. We are not reporting in a formal way. We do thresholds if we are concerned with a class then we would definitely reach out to our public health nurse and get some advice but we are not concerned about a specific class just yet.

The school board looks after masking messaging. They provided us with posters that are posted in the front door encouraging mask wearing. But we are not mandating mask wearing, we are encouraging mask wearing. It is a personal choice at this point and an emotional piece. Message to the staff is that we are mask friendly, and non-mask friendly.

A motion was submitted November 15 for a board meeting to reinstate mask mandating, to occur within the next few weeks.

**11. Next meeting: December 21, 2022 (virtual)**