

DRAFT
Alta Vista Public School (AVPS)
Minutes - School Council
Wednesday, January 18, 2023 7-9 pm

1. Welcome and Introduction (Melissa Extross, Chair)

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda was approved.

3. Approval of last meeting minutes

Last meeting's minutes were approved.

4. Chair's Report (Melissa Extross)

Crossing Guard Updates

<https://www.ottawasafetycouncil.ca/crossing-guard-service-updates/>

During last month's meeting with Dr. Kaplan-Myrth last month about communications from the Ottawa Safety Council around intersections that wouldn't be staffed with crossing guards. Dr. Kaplan Myrth. provided this link for Crossing Guard Service Updates (available in the agenda and above). They should be posting about intersections, of that morning, that don't have a Crossing Guard. They do attempt to staff those intersections throughout the day, so if there is no crossing guard in the morning, then they would attempt to find a replacement for the afternoon. The link is supposed to be updated daily.

OCDSB Strategic Plan Sessions

- January 19th: 6-8 pm at Bell High School
- February 2nd: 6-8 pm via Zoom

Dr. Kaplan-Myrth said that the OCDSB as a whole is doing a review of their Strategic Plan and will solicit public feedback through Strategic Planning Sessions. There is a virtual session on February 2nd 6-8pm via Zoom.

Sub Days

To accommodate for the Friday lost on December 23rd, 2022 when the school board closed all schools during the snowstorm, it will be extended to February 24th (last day was supposed to end on February 10th, and February 17th is a PD so no students will be in school).

5. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré, Principal)

Lost and Found day

The school invited families on Wednesday January 11 for Lost and Found day. A number of families came through, so it was a worthwhile endeavour.

Karin, our Vice-Principal, made sure that items were laid out on tables and visible for families to see and retrieve their lost items. If a parent calls and says they will come by to look for lost items, the school will never say no.

Scholastic

Dennis communicated with Scholastic and set up an account. They explained the process for how to redeem the credits. The school has credits that expire in June and the staff are excited to use the credits.

Friday January 20 is a PD day. The PD day is designed to support teachers and give them time to collect all their assessments to evaluate student achievement, and put them into report cards.

Dennis and Karin will be doing Anti-semitism training on Friday, this is a new push from the board. The board meeting last night (January 17), Dr. Kaplan-Myrth put a motion to hire a Jewish Equity Coach, and it was approved unanimously from the board. Training like these are encouraged in order to be more welcoming and inclusive for our students.

School Evacuation (January 18)

School electricity was not functioning in parts of the school. The on-site electrician gave information about the electricity feed and that it lost a phase (2 of the 3 phases were functional). First decision of the day was, what do we do with our students? We didn't have heat, phone, internet, and we needed to let our parents know. We wanted them to have the opportunity to pick up their children. Power came back about 20-30 minutes into the school day. Then there was a strange smell and they discovered smoke in a hallway on the second floor, just a note that the second floor is currently unoccupied due to ongoing construction. Due to a significant amount of smoke, it was automatic to signal alarm, however it was also problematic because it's winter. They started with pulling the fire alarm and emptying the school. Students and staff exited the building, the school board was notified and Dennis worked with the chief custodian and the fire department. Due to the length of time the students were expected to be outside and the fact that it was winter, it was decided to enact the school evacuation plan.

Part of the evacuation plan was to send students and staff to St. Timothy's Presbyterian church but it was closed. Due to this closure, it was decided to take the kids to Ridgemont High School instead, which is an 11 minute walk from AVPS and includes crossing a major intersection of Heron Road and Alta Vista Drive. Students were about to leave the school property onto Randall, when the principal got clearance to return to the building, so they aborted the motion to go to Ridgemont High School. Some of the older students took their jackets, shared their

warmth, and warmed up the younger students. The staff took care of each other. At the end of the day, they did well to keep the kids safe. Some lessons were learned from the day's events. They learned that St. Timothy's may not be an ideal place for evacuation. It might also be a good idea to have emergency blankets in the portables just in case.

Options could be St. Thomas or Ridgemont High School, which could be a good option because it is an OCDSB site. It was good to work in a community that takes care of each other.

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

Kindergarten:

Some of the kinder classes are beginning to explore data collection through surveys, using tally marks, and graphing results as part of their math exploration. Kinder students are able to create their own questions, such as "which do you prefer, hot chocolate or chocolate milk?" and then walk around the room to ask their peers, while checking off the responses. They have also gotten used to the routine of answering a question of the day, which is then tallied and results are discussed to find out which answer had more votes (ex: 10 friends prefer hot chocolate, and 8 friends prefer chocolate milk. More friends prefer hot chocolate because 10 is bigger than 8). Students are also analyzing simple pictures and bar graphs to help determine results of past questions posed.

Primary:

Grade 2 A and B are reading up a storm with their Bookopoly readathon! They're learning to enjoy reading and sharing books with one another.

Grade 2s in ef2a and b celebrated the new year with a champagne toast.(well, ginger ale!) Primaries are having a blast with the shovels provided by the parent council! (Thank you!)

We are working on Kelso's Choice for solving issues in the school yard. Mme McKenzie and Ms. Reham (2nd year student teachers from the University of Ottawa) will be doing a short assembly tomorrow to teach these skills to our primary students.

Junior: No updates at this time.

Intermediate:

Student vs. Staff Volleyball game! The girls and boys Intermediate Volleyball teams took on the staff this past Friday in a fun friendly (but also competitive ;) match. All Intermediates came to the gym to watch and cheer!

We received and built our 12 robots to go with the MicroBits! Thanks, School Council!

Physical Education:

Rocks n' Rings Curling program was a huge success this week. All Gr.2-4 classes had curling instruction and several other grades also had the opportunity to give it a go. We also used the equipment to run recess time intramurals for juniors who wanted to play more.

Skating- the weather has been challenging, but we are hoping to start getting classes to the rink next week. Thank you to the rink crew who work so hard to make this a possibility for us!

Extra-Curriculars:

Lunch hour intramurals continue to run every day in both gyms for all students in Gr.4-8. Thank you to our wonderful Athletic Council members!

Gr. 7&8 students will have the opportunity to apply to our term 2 Athletic Council team. We hope to give as many students as we can access to this leadership opportunity.

AV Sports Teams:

*Intermediate Boys and Girls will be attending a regional volleyball tournament on January 25th & 26th.

*Intermediate Basketball Team Try-outs will start mid/end of January

*Junior Basketball Teams are canceled by the OCDSB due to staffing shortages

There are no extra-curricular activities for Grade 1 students. Maybe Chess club, but Stephanie will ask the Grade 1 teachers.

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

Financial update

The bank balance is about even, we have spent as much as we have raised. There is about \$32,000 in our account. We have raised just under \$5000, net (does not include Pizza and Sub Days fundraisers).

Current Pizza balance is \$11,826 and for Subs \$4021.

Movie nights are doing well. We have reimbursed a little over \$5000 in expenses.

We have approved \$10,000 in allocations. At the beginning of the year we had about \$27,000 to spend. We have \$17,000 left to spend. We have about \$10,000 left for the rest of the year if we approve all the voting items for January.

Council decided to keep 10 slices to a pizza instead of 8 (Karin will be notified).

Vote on funding requests:

MASC 3-2-1 Speak, \$531.10 - approved

Grade 2 Science Ottawa Wild Bird Sanctuary, \$337.50 - approved
MASC Dance - The Evolution of B-Boying, \$1850 - approved
MASC Dance and Music - Spirit of Dance, \$1500 + HST - approved
Scientists in the School, \$2350 but we will vote on \$2150 to cover the difference of the request of \$500 in December 2022) - approved

Total \$6600

8. Committee/Event reports and updates

Deals on Wheels - scheduled for March 31-April 1 (Mais)

The dates of Friday March 31 and Saturday April 1 are confirmed, as well as the gym availability for those dates.

On Friday March 31, people can drop off their items from 6:30pm-8:00pm, then the sale on Saturday April 1 would be 1:30pm-3:00pm.

Families can bring out their spring items such as bikes and all other summer items.

Shadowing Mais:

If anyone is interested in shadowing Mais and taking a more active role in fundraising events, please reach out to the School Council.

Flavours of the World potluck dinner - event lead needed - scheduled for April 27

This event is a potluck dinner with long tables set up and food set up in the gym. People bring their dishes.

It is a great event where you can try delicious food, there's a presentation on stage, with entertainment and music.

It would be great to have the new MLO (Multicultural Liaison Officer) involved and to bring the school community back with this event so everyone can share a bit about themselves. Lynne will put out a call on social media

For future planning with Black History month - start looking for speakers in October - November.

We will need to start putting together a committee for Spring Fair, and have it on the agenda for February.

9. Discussion items and New business

- Reminders:

- o PD Day on January 20
- o Family Movie Night scheduled for January 27
- o Kindergarten Information Night on February 2
- o Spirit Day (Pink and Red Day) on February 14

10. Next meeting: February 15, 2023 (virtually)