

DRAFT
Alta Vista Public School (AVPS)
Minutes - School Council
Wednesday, February 15, 2023 7-9 pm

1. Welcome and Introduction (Melissa Extross, Chair)

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda has been approved.

3. Approval of last meeting minutes

Last meeting's minutes have been approved.

4. Chair's Report (Melissa Extross)

• **Kinder Info Night**

February 2nd, Melissa and Jillian represented AVPS School Council during the Kindegarten Information Night. It was a lovely evening, there were a few parents who came by and spoke with us who wanted to get involved. One couple had been former students at Alta Vista and were bringing in their own children. One of the grandfathers of a soon-to-be student was a former chair of school council.

• **Crossing Guard nomination for Ottawa's Favourite Crossing Guard & The Marie Armstrong Crossing Guard Award**

○ <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WMS3L22>

Radka, crossing guard on Randall over Ridgcrest. She has been there every day since September, morning and afternoon, no matter the weather. She is so invested in our children's and community's safety. We encourage anyone who feels similarly to consider nominating Radka for this award.

5. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré, Principal)

• **Evacuation plan update**

Last month, there was smoke in the building and the children and staff needed to evacuate the building. The time spent outside was not great for the children. We initiated the evacuation to St. Timothy's but it wasn't open, nor could we get in touch with anyone who could open the building. We later regained access to the school building shortly after so we canceled the evacuation plan. We decided to reroute our evacuation to Ridgmont High School. Dennis visited St. Timothy's and learned that it's actually not big enough for evacuation. It only holds 400 when we have 700 students and staff. We have altered the evacuation plan and chose to go with

Ridgemont. The high school is a 14 minute walk away and we are crossing Heron Road which is a major intersection. Dennis reached out to Safe Schools staff and Ottawa police to escort the students. The Ottawa police responded saying they will if they can they will but they may not be able to commit their resources to help us cross Heron Road. The evacuation plan will still say Ridgemont High School, and the police will be contacted when we are evacuating and request assistance. The amendment has been made to the Evacuation Plan and submitted to the superintendent.

- **Voluntary School Fees**

Purchases from teachers for February. In the fall, we raised just over \$1000 for Intermediate students, \$1893 for Junior students. For Kinders, we raised \$931 and Primary students \$1649. The voluntary school fees are used as enhancements for the students, but also towards paying for field trips for students who can't afford to pay for their field trip, they are also used for extras in the classroom. We don't use it necessarily for things that the School Operating Budget should pay for.

During the staff meeting yesterday, they discussed what a suitable request for school council and operating budget is.

There have been purchases made, but they are not reflected in the amounts mentioned earlier. Voluntary School Fees are used to supplement what is happening in the classroom and pay for things that the operating budget wouldn't normally pay for.

- **Construction Update**

Construction continues. For Councillor Carr. The steam caused some issues and signaled the end of the reign of the steam boiler heating the building. There has been a lot of work done to replace the heating systems. The HVAC constructions are ongoing and work is on schedule and the contractor is pleased with the work. The contractor invited Dennis to go up but still needs a hard hat in order to look at the work, but from the outside the glass is moved into place in the windows and the units will move into place shortly. The contractor requested to close down the Kindergarten yard for 2 days and our staff found alternative areas in the yard for the children to play. Construction is limited to the 2nd Floor. This is good for next year when we can regain access to the area, specifically the Library.

- **Health and Safety Award**

Our chief custodian, Mr. Séguin, is a special guy. He makes sure, no matter what time of year it is, that the entrance is clear so our boots can touch the asphalt. He shovels the snow pretty impressively. We are pleased with the work he has done for us, especially throughout the pandemic in helping the staff feel very safe and are very grateful to him. Mr. Séguin has been nominated for the Health and Safety Award that goes through the joint occupational health and safety committee. That committee has awarded Mr. Séguin with the Health and Safety Award and it will be presented to him during a staff get together during the day. He is very deserving of this award and we are excited to recognize him for the hard work he does for our school.

New Item:

- **Book Fair Scholastic Rewards**

In the past few days, teachers were telling Dennis about what to spend on with the Book Fair rewards (the school yielded over \$8000 in rewards).

Today, Dennis submitted a \$4691 order through Scholastic, which specifically targeted exactly what the teachers wanted. The school council has done an amazing job of organizing the Book Fair and making sure we have access to that money. Special thanks to Mais for pointing Dennis in the right direction to be able to access those rewards. Thank you on behalf of the staff, thank you to School Council and to the community for organizing the Book Fair.

6. Marty Carr, Ward 18 Alta Vista City Councillor

- **Councillor Carr to introduces themselves and advise re: their plan for their term**

Councillor Carr used to be Chair of AVPS School Council for many years, and that was how she got involved with the community. It was nice to see familiar faces in the meeting and still involved. She will always be grateful to AVPS because without the experiences with the staff and working with everyone, she doesn't think her passion for community would be what it is today.

In 2016, Council Carr ran for School Board Trustee but wasn't successful. Then the Alta Vista Community asked her to be President. Issues around Youth Programming are still very important for her. For the next term, the issues that Councillor Carr will be focusing on have a lot to do with youth. As the community association president she was very involved with the Herongate file when it happened. Affordable housing is very important to her, community building. She is happy to know that the Spring Fair is coming back (end of May) and the Alta Vista Market will happen after that.

Since the start of the pandemic, the DMC community center (OCH Communities of Russell Heights) has been used as a physically distancing shelter because of the problems with affordable housing. So many people were in the shelter system. As president, they asked if they could use Gym Divelirino(?) and she agreed because it was vacant. She was told this week that they would be moved to the Heron Road Community Centre which is concerning because there will be two centers with no programming for youth in high needs areas.

Traffic concerns have been a long standing issue at Alta Vista Public School. In previous years, they worked hard on the Randall and Alta Vista Dr intersection because there were some students, including staff, who were hit in that intersection (students would now be in their first year of university). Traffic has always been an issue and Councillor Carr will get back to us on this.

Snow clearing - we do have a very responsive snow clearing manager. He's usually happy to do a site visit.

One thing that has come to her attention when she was Chair of the School Council, there was a lot of interest from the people in the community about a multicultural mural that was taken

down in 2015. It was a gift to the school council a few years earlier and some parents and staffers asked if it could be reinstated. If anyone is interested in contacting Councillor Carr about this mural, she left a list of names to Alta Vista School Council. The petition created by Councillor Carr's husband is still available on the internet.

- **Dennis and Melissa to advise re: items of importance to AVPS**

- **City maintenance around the exterior of school property (snow clearing at the crosswalk from Ridgecrest across Randall, etc.)**

Is it possible to have more signage on Beaver and Ridgecrest where there could be No Parking on the road during specific times? What is being done to increase the actual regulation of the No Parking zone?

Councillor Carr will contact Riley Carter in traffic to do a walk around, and can be done in the spring.

During large snowfalls, Radka (Crossguard) would have to call 311 in order to have the crosswalk cleared. The sidewalk was usually cleared, but not the crosswalk, leaving students to climb over a large snow bank.

Councillor Carr will follow up about the maintenance of the crosswalk.

- Traffic around the school

Is there any option you have to support traffic control in the case of an evacuation where the police are able to help?

- Options for traffic control should evacuation plan need to be enacted (police might not be able to support with helping to navigate crossing Heron/Alta Vista)

Councillor Carr is not sure about other options for support with the police because they are quite strapped. She learned that at any time, 20% of the police officers are off on leave, typical of the nature of work. She will follow up about this.

She also suggested possibly looking at Rideau Park Church for the Evacuation Plan, it is a very large church and we don't have to deal with Heron Road. Dennis will look into this.

- **Questions from Council and members at large**

The City of Ottawa Buses, is it possible to look into deploying city buses for evacuation alternatives?

Councillor Carr can look into this as an option.

7. Teacher's Report (Teacher's Representative Seline Herz-Fischler)

All School: Thank you Parent Council. The BBoyizm Dance Company was AMAZING. Teachers were so happy to have a live show. For some of our little ones, this was the first assembly ever

We were so grateful to have this opportunity. One teacher said she had tears in her eyes seeing the students so excited. It was a hit for K-8!

So thank you on behalf of all of the teachers.

KINDER

Classes are discussing what love and kindness looks, sounds, and feels like this month. We are also learning about families and how they can differ one from the next (ex: families with two moms or two dads, families with many siblings or none, single parent households etc. Many kinder classes are also looking at communities and community helpers and how we are all part of a community of learners here at school.

PRIMARY

Our primary students are amazing! We're learning about all sorts of traditions and celebrations. Grade 3s have gone on two field trips, to the Science and Tech museums and the Nature Museum. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered to make it a success! Grade 3s are also writing poetry.

Grade 2s are learning about the properties of air and water! Lots of science experiments are coming up. We've created windmills, air spinners, mini helicopter spinners.

All primaries are going skating. Thank you parent volunteers!

JUNIOR

N/A

INTERMEDIATE

-Grade 8s are learning about and selecting High School courses in a program called Xello. Ridgemont, Hillcrest, Canterbury and Brookfield came to AV for an informational presentation. Ridgemont will return this Friday to help students select courses. The last day to submit courses will be February 27th.

-Feb 7: Rideauwood presentation - 11:45-3:40 Grade 7

-Feb 8: Rideauwood presentation - 10:10-3:40 Grade 8

-Feb 10: VIRTUAL - Get Real workshop for Rainbow Club (Genders & Sexualities Alliance (GSA) Workshop) - open to any student interested grades 6-12

Phys. Ed.

Students in grades 2-6 were thrilled to experience the sport of curling last month. Many students who may not find more traditional school sports as engaging were introduced to this strategic game.

Skating! Many classes have made good use of the rink so far this year with several classes skating weekly. The new gear closet in the skating shack built by the AV Rink community is a

huge success! Thank you Keith Sherlock! This has helped us enormously in giving more kids access to skating. We have had over 10 intermediate students learn to skate for the first time. How incredible :)

EXTRA- CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Junior and Intermediate Intramural sports continue daily
Junior Quiet Club continues this month, along with grade 6, 7, 8 chess club, Junior Art Club, Grade 6, 7, 8 Rainbow Club, Jr. Games Club and Intermediate Athletic council. Primary colouring and math club is running weekly as well.
(Photos: 6, 7, 8 Chess Club, Jr. Quiet Club)

AV SPORTS TEAM

-Int. Girls Basketball Try-outs are on (Mme Mullins/Mme Connelly)
-Int. Boys Basketball is starting soon (Mr. Walker)
*Both tournaments will be at the end of March
* Jr. Basketball, Jr. Triple ball (Volleyball) & Int. Badminton is canceled by OCDSB due to staff shortages

Toonie Tuesdays:

We've been fundraising for Toonie Tuesday for the Education Foundation for the OCDSB. This allows principals to distribute money to families in need. So far we have raised \$700 and counting, which is a huge amount. Thank you to the community and staff for making those contributions.

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

• Financial update

Our current council balance is just over \$33,000. Including everything from the January meeting to date, we have allocated just over \$18,000 and reimbursed \$5100. No big reimbursements. The main outstanding items, similar to last month, are the PE equipment and funding requests in December 2022 and January 2023 that are in motion or haven't seen the invoice yet.

Funding Requests:

Skate Shelving - \$500, total was \$801.42. So \$301.42 left to pay
Winter Carnival - supplies for Juniors and Intermediates - \$100
Charles Hulse - lump sum to go towards funding requests as they see fit - \$850

Charles Hulse Funding Requests:

Taking 4 classes for a Reggae Roots Performance (tickets and buses) - \$1110
MASC Illustrators conference - Registration for 9 students - \$585
Buses for skating at Canterbury Rink - \$680
Kinder classes Food and Agriculture - for 3 classes - \$700

Deferred to March Meeting:

Wellness Days - Rotation of Wellness days for the Primaries

Ottawa U-Maker Space

Braiding Sweetgrass for young people

Gifts of Giving fundraiser raised just under \$1700 intended to support other community schools (Charles H. Hulse and Arch Street)

Arch Street School hasn't been contacted yet about funding requests

We can agree to give Charles Hulse a lump sum to cover what is needed.

Voting Items:

1. Skate Shelving - \$500, total was \$801.42. So \$301.42 left to pay - approved
2. Winter Carnival - supplies for Juniors and Intermediates - \$100 - approved
3. Charles Hulse - lump sum to go towards funding requests as they see fit - \$850 - approved

Total: \$1251.42

9. Committee/Event reports and updates**• Spring Fair - scheduled for May 27 - team needed**

Francis Prescott and Kathy in committee, but not leading

• Flavours of the World potluck dinner - event lead needed - scheduled for April 27 (if we cannot find an event lead by our March meeting, we will need to cancel the event)

Jillian volunteered to lead.

Reach out to Nancy Dean. Dennis will put Jillian in contact with MLO.

Family Movie Night (Dean)

The movie was Turning Red. It went well, the evening was quiet. There were many volunteers; many Grade 9, 10 and 11 volunteers. Grade 8 volunteers are showing up because they did the bake sale and they know how to do it. Most of the baked goods came from them. Hoping to have a teacher there to guide them. Dean is managing too many volunteers. Next one is on February 24, Oddballs.

Dean is finding ways to manage waste and recycling better.

10. Discussion items and New business**• PRO Grant application**

- **Deadline for application is February 20 Event must take place between February 28, 2023 nd June 16, 2023**

Jillian will help with the grant application.

11. Reminders:

o PA Day on February 17 (school closed on February 20 for Family Day)

Deadline for pizza and sub session 2 orders is February 17

oToonie Tuesday on February 21

oPink Shirt Day on February 22

oFamily Movie Night scheduled for February 24

oMarch Break is scheduled for March 13-17

12. Next meeting: March 22nd, 2023 (will be held virtually)