

FINAL DRAFT
Alta Vista Public School (AVPS)
Minutes - School Council
Wednesday, March 22nd, 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)

Flavours of the World Potluck:

The Flavours of the World Potluck will be canceled for April 27. Due to changes to planning and personal workload, Jillian was unable to devote the desired time to organizing the event. The plans from 2020 are still available and we hope to organize the event better for next year, putting the support in place and creating the relationships to host the event next year.

Updates with Councillor Marty Carr:

From the previous meeting with Councillor Carr, with regards to options with Emergency Evacuations. We asked whether OC Transpo could be used for shuttling the students from Alta Vista Public School to Ridgemont High School. One of the concerns as a School Council and administration is crossing the Alta Vista Drive and Heron Road intersection. We are hoping to mitigate crossing 700 students across the intersection. Unfortunately, Councillor Carr reached out about how that cannot be an option. The request needs to come from EMS (City of Ottawa's Emergency Operation Centre) and those resources are only activated in the case of a city emergency and a school incident would not qualify. If there is an evacuation, we will attempt to cross Heron Road as safely as possible.

Councillor Carr is still looking into the request for bylaw and enforcement of signage in and around the school area. Signage would have to be assessed in the spring.

PRO grant application:

We submitted the application before the deadline and it was approved! We are waiting for further information regarding how the transfer of funds will take place, so we can finalize the event, book the presenter and get the information out to the school community.

5. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré, Principal)

• Updates

Chief Custodian Change:

Our custodian, Denis Séguin will be moving to another school. Thursday March 30 will be his last day. We are happy for him since it is a good career move for him. We will honour him and thank him during two assemblies with the K-3 and then grades 4-8.

Denis and Dennis worked together in 2020 and inherited a building that was in trouble with the steam boiler having many issues. They've been working together with the construction project and he was fantastic to work with. We look forward to welcoming our new custodian, Oliver Credo on Thursday March 30th as well.

We nominated Denis for the OCDSB Health and Safety Award and he was approved for that award. He will receive it at the assembly on March 30. We really appreciate him and wish him well at his new school.

Ramadan Mubarak:

Ramadan is starting today and tomorrow for some students. The school has made preparations to prepare students to participate as they need to. For the school leadership, the experience with practicing Islam is non-existent, so they are relying on their Multicultural Liaison Officer (MLO), students and staff who are Muslim for help. They are working very hard to help them feel like this is a natural part of the day, so they can pray and fast as easily as possible. It is part of their work to make sure that students see themselves in their building and in their school. The Science Lab will be made available; mats are there so students can wash before they pray. We checked when prayer times can be in such a way that it won't interfere with learning times. Hopefully students will feel comfortable, they will be monitoring that and making sure that they practice Ramadan safely and beautifully. As for physical activity, students who are fasting will have less energy throughout the day so this will be taken into consideration during physical activities. We wish our students a Blessed Ramadan!

• Staffing Updates

This is one of the most important decisions for the principal because it affects the whole upcoming year. The sequence of events has already been initiated. Kindergarten parents were polled about being in the English or French Immersion program. Teachers were polled about their teaching preferences for next year. Administrators will receive their allocations on April 12 and will share this with teachers to seek input about what class organization can look like next year. This will then be submitted to the school board. Once this is done, they will assign teachers to the different positions, which will be done by late April to early May. In May, there will be Vacancy Lists so teachers will have the opportunity to compete for other assignments should they receive an assignment they do not like, or if there are assignments at another school they prefer. This process consumes the months of April, May and June. After March Break, it gets busy until June. They do try to follow the teacher's preferences because they recognize that this is their job and they want them to have rewards from the work they're doing that best harnesses

their skills and talents. Once teachers have their assignments, then they work on the timetables. Dennis will be sending survey requests to parents about preferences with teachers, not which teachers they want for their child.

6. Teacher's Report (Teacher's Representative, Kathleen Connelly)

Kindergarten:

All Kindergarten classes were able to participate in a Starr Gymnastics workshop, due to the generous funding provided by the Parent Council. This interactive fitness and movement-based course included age appropriate gymnastics skills mixed with balances, jumps, landings ("motorcycle" and "star" pose), and age-appropriate fitness challenges.

In addition, Kindergarten students celebrated the 100th day of school, which was filled with fun games and challenges, such as staking 100 paper cups, bringing in a small collection of 100 items (ex: buttons, cheerios, erasers, paper clips etc), completing a number chart to 100 and more! Some students dressed in vibrant colours to show that they are 100 days brighter! Others decided to celebrate by wearing their favorite costumes or fancy clothes.

Kinder students also continue to learn and state affirmations, such as "I am kind", "I am important", "I am unique", "I am intelligent", "I am loved" which has been a nice follow-up to Pink Shirt day, and our constant discussions regarding kindness and recognition of our own self-worth.

Primary:

The primary classes continue to make use of the neighbouring rink. Thank you so much to the volunteers who take the time to tie skates and skate alongside our students and a major thank you to the community members who keep the rink running. An article was written about the Rink Rats thanking them for maintaining the skating rink. It made it possible for our students to enjoy skating this season! Thank you for the support from School Council and the community.

The grade 3 classes celebrated Black History Month by discussing important black Canadians and the contributions that they made to Canadian history. Students researched a chosen person and through student led research activities they created summaries and short biographies about their chosen historical figure.

Je m'exprime à la façon d'Alma Thomas. (I express myself while inspired by the work of arts of Alma Thomas) EF1-B

A huge thank you to the Parent Council for the grade 2 Ottawa Valley Wild Bird rescue presentations. The students were amazed! We learned about bird adaptations, bird protection, and we met Indigo, an injured Kestrel that found his forever home with OVWBCC.

Junior:

Junior Students in 6A led a Have a Heart Day assembly, where students shared meaningful information with their peers regarding this important day.

Students in 4B and 4/5A have been learning about angles through play!

4B and 4/5 A have been meeting weekly to discuss their Literature Circles novel.

Intermediate:

This week the Grade 7 and 8 students will participate in a Maker Mobile workshop from the University of Ottawa - Faculty of Engineering. The workshops will include Coding with Microbits, Create your own VR world with Co-spaces, Introduction to 3D printing.

On Monday, Feb 27th, grade 6, 7, 8 students attended a presentation by Skills Ontario to explore the skilled trades and technologies. It helps to educate students on the hundreds of career opportunities available in the construction, motive power, service, industrial and technology sectors.

Phys. Ed:

N/A

Extra-Curriculars Activities:

Crochet and Knitting Club for grades 6, 7, 8 is very popular! We would like to request any donations of heavier yarn and crochet hooks (7, 8, 9mm), as the thin yarn is very hard to work with for learners! Donations could be sent with a student to room 123 for Ms. Kurita.

Junior Winter Carnival was a hit! Thanks to Mme Connelly and Mme Rutland for planning and coordinating this fun event!

Students got to show off their musicality to their peers and families at the recent concert. A big thank-you to our amazing music teacher M Yates for teaching our young musicians and leading them through such an exciting event.

Games Club is ever popular - Students in grades 4, 5, 6 are welcome Friday afternoons and are engaged, learning, and laughing together!

Intramurals continue to be run by Athletic Council every first recess for all Gr.4-8 students

AV Sports Teams:

Junior students have some upcoming opportunities to try out for our school sports teams this spring! Before the March break, grade 4, 5, and 6 students have been playing Bordenball during intramurals, and have come out for several try outs before the March break. Grade 4s also

participated in an exciting mini-tournament this week at school to help us finalize the teams moving on to play in our regional tournaments running from April 4th to April 18th.

Our regional sports representative is optimistic about the opportunity to secure field bookings when they open next month in order to run a girls and boys soccer tournament in May.

And finally in June, our school will hold a junior track and field competition as we await more information on a regional competition that month as well.

Intermediate Boys and Girls Basketball teams will be competing in their regional tournaments next week (Mr. Walker, Mme Connelly). The girls team hasn't been able to find any parent drivers for Tuesday March 28th and is looking for help from the community.

It is nice to see the school in full swing!

7. Treasurer's Update (Melissa Extross in Kathleen Wrye's absence)

• Financial update

We have funded \$20,370 to date. The remaining amount of \$9,815 is left to be spent for the rest of the year.

This month's requests total \$8,075, leaving \$1,740 for the rest of the year (if all of this month's requests are approved).

If we choose to fund all the requests in March, we may have to say no to requests in April so some requests will be deferred to next year or a later date.

• Vote on funding requests

1. The Painted Lady Classroom Kit from "Butterflies and Roses" for Kindergarten: b\$222.44
Approved
2. MASC Presentation: Giants of Junk (Junkyard Symphony): \$1,124.35 (\$995+hst)
Approved
3. Momentum Moves Dance Workshops for Intermediates: \$2,000 **Approved**
4. Ottawa U Maker Mobile Workshop: Introduction to 3D printing using Tinker for Juniors \$650+HST (\$735) **Approved**
5. Louis Mercier MASC: A rousing presentation of traditional French-Canadian music, dance and stories for Primary and Juniors \$650 for 2 performances **Approved**

6. The Box of Life: Classroom vermicomposting workshop: \$100 for 1 hour presentation
Approved

7. Learning for a Sustainable Future grant top up: \$61.36 to cover taxes **Approved**

Total approved items: \$4,893.15

Deferred items

1. Sparx Skate Sharpener: \$999+tax, \$80+tx for sharpening stone - Deferred to October 2023 (for next year's skating season)
2. Growing Up Organic Garden programme: \$1500 - Deferred to April 2023
3. Greely Sand and Gravel Soil for garden beds, 4 cubic yards: \$270.07 with tax - Deferred to April 2023
4. 5 gallon food safe buckets and seeds: \$175.99 - Deferred to April 2023

8. Committee/Event reports and updates

• Deals on Wheels (Mais)

They have volunteers, and the event is good to go.

• Plantables Fundraiser (Mais)

Mais will send Dennis an email to send out to the school community so people can start ordering their plants.

• Spring Fair (Melissa)

The event will take place on May 27, from 10am-2pm. The Spring Fair Committee is still looking for coordinators for food and other activities. Those who would like to volunteer as a coordinator, please reach out to Melissa directly or to the School Council email (sc-altavistaps@ocdsb.ca).

Tia: idea for Food, at Algonquin College, cooking programs are wrapping up and students still need their 40 hours for volunteer hours, working for food. Would the Spring Fair be able to reach out to these colleges for those food programs to run the kitchen for their hours?

Last Spring Fair, food was catered in. We were going to get hot dog machines to cook their own food. It did not come into fruition last year.

They are looking to have the event catered or have food trucks on site where they give a percentage of sales.

• Family Movie Night (Dean Blachford)

The event can reclaim Friday April 28 for Family Movie Night since Flavours of the World Potluck (previously scheduled for Thursday April 27) is canceled, to avoid hosting a movie night on Eid the week before.

This is the 4th Family Movie Night since the start of the year, much of the work is teenage volunteer coordination.

They will try to encourage people to bring their own plates and water bottles to reduce waste from juice boxes and compostable plates. He wants to reduce the amount of recycling bags he is bringing home to recycle.

Next movie: Sing 2

A suggestion was made to reach out to the Athletic club as funds raised can go to purchasing the Skate Sharpener.

9. Discussion items and New business

- School is closed on **April 7** and **April 10**.

- **Ski Club:**

Pre-pandemic, there used to be a Ski Club. Dennis says that the school's tolerance for risk goes down every year. This Council can't fund ski club without insurance. There needs to be distance between the School and Ski Club, and Parent Council and Ski Club.

The issue of equity is that it's an expensive sport. If a teacher is interested in organizing overnight Ski Trips, Dennis can support. However there is a certain amount of risk. A suggestion was made that if a parent were to volunteer to liaise with a company like the Snow Hawks, the school site could be used as a meeting place for pick up and drop off. A post will be made on Facebook searching for a parent volunteer.

- **Camping Field Trips:**

These need to be approved by the superintendent as well. The school needs staff to lead the field trip. If staff decide to do it, there's a procedure. For an overnight trip in the Spring, there needs to be planning happening right now (in March). If staff are willing to take that on, we can plan for next year. Having day trips. Entirely dependent on staff to plan it and take on the support. A teacher needs to be willing to take this on. Dennis is in support of it but cannot do it without staff.

- **Water Related. Activities:**

Is the school approving water related activities or field trips?

There needs to be a swim test done in advance where students can show that they have some capacity to manage in the water in case of an emergency. Safety guidelines must be followed.

Qualified lifeguards need to be in place and there needs to be an educational opportunity for students.

10. Next meeting: Wednesday April 19, 7-9pm (will be virtual)