

DRAFT
Alta Vista Public School (AVPS)
Minutes - School Council
Wednesday, April 19, 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)

- **Ski Club:**

One person potentially reached out about interest in the Ski Club. This isn't a school or council funded event. This is a community parent who will connect with Ski Hawks who will run the event. The club will pick up and drop off participants from the school parking lot but the school and the council are not associated with the running of the club itself.

- **School Flower Beds:**

Melissa met with a retired couple last week, Don and Maggie, who volunteer their time and take care of the garden beds at the side of the school. They won the number one garden in all of Ottawa via the Ottawa Horticultural Society a few years ago. They talked about their plans for the year and what they want to do for the gardening season. They spoke to Dennis about how to support them and he will speak to the OCDSB groundskeeper about putting mulch and top up soil in the beds (which are from their own garden or donated from other community gardeners). They will see if the board has access to soil and mulch that they are looking for. If not, we may see a request for mulch and soil. When they found out about the Spring Fair, they wanted to volunteer and help out Julie with the Plant Sale and are giving Julie any excess seedlings. They are reaching out to other community gardeners who have excess seedlings to donate to the Plant Sale at the Spring Fair.

5. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré, Principal)

- **Construction Updates**

The construction work continues. A lot of the exterior work is done. All the units are in place and they are waiting for some parts that are holding up the project but they expect to regain possession of the upstairs of the school in September 2023. This is important because they will be moving students upstairs. Starting in September, they will be closing another wing of the school, the Grade 1 and Music Room section, as well as classes along the north side of the first floor, the Science lab and three other classrooms. They will need to be closed for the entirety of the school year, so there will still be 12 portables outside.

- **Staffing Updates**

Karin and Dennis received the projected staffing for next year in September. They are now speaking with staff who may have a change in their teaching assignment for next year and decide whether they will have surplus or vacancies. This year, the school is fortunate enough to have another year without having to surplus any teachers. They will likely have to surplus an ECE (Early Childhood Educator), because they are dropping one kindergarten class next year. They are gaining an English class which is good news, they like to see English classes have more staff so they can avoid having larger classes that are more challenging to manage, especially with combined classes. There will still be combined grade classes in the English program but they're hoping they will be on the smaller side so they can accommodate their students with more precision with what they need.

Huge Congratulations to Karin who made it on the Principals list. She went through the selection process this year as a Vice Principal and was very successful in that process and was selected to be a Principal next year. So they are expecting Karin to take on her own school next year which is good news for Karin but sad news for the AVPS school community.

They will be starting IPRC (Identification, Placement and Review Committee) meetings in May, which is a busy time for the team. They are also looking to apply for specialized classes for some of the students. They are looking to make sure that everybody is entitled to help from a psychologist or social worker before the end of the year. With the pandemic being a challenge for a lot of our families, they're looking to make sure that those resources get placed and well used for the families that need it.

- **Flower Beds:**

Dennis has a meeting tomorrow with the groundskeeper. Before the school council goes to purchase soil, he wants to make sure that if the school board has the budget for it he explores that first. He doesn't like seeing fundraised funds going towards something that is already budgeted.

6. Teacher's Report (Teacher's Representative)

- **Kindergarten:**

Kinder students have been exploring the changes in seasons, as we have recently moved from winter to spring and have been discussing what that looks, sounds, and smells like. We have also been discussing living versus nonliving things, as we notice that plants and flowers are starting to grow, and animals are coming out of their winter homes. Students are curious about life cycles and will soon have the opportunity to plant seeds and watch them grow. We are also excited for our caterpillars to arrive the first week of May, so that we can discuss their progression to butterflies and release them out into nature.

Another theme that several classes are looking at is story sequencing (first, second, third, last) and structures (beginning, middle, end, plot, climax, problem, solution, conclusion). Some classes have been using puppet theaters to re-enact and retell familiar stories and fairytales and have been very creative while doing so! This also lends itself well to learning to contribute to a group and practice social skills with peers.

- **Primary:**

Primary students (and Juniors) enjoyed a peek into Voyageur life with a guest speaker named Louis Mercier. He delighted us with his tales of times gone by and his catchy songs. Thank you, School Council!

The grade 2s have been exploring the world in many ways. They have sent their version of Flat Stanley around the world, compared traditions and celebrations with a multi-faith field trip to a Hindu Temple, a Synagogue, a Greek Orthodox Church and a Mosque and have been learning about homes and families on each continent.

- **Junior:**

Grades 4-6 also enjoyed learning about French folklore traditions from Louis Mercier.

Grade 4s had their Scientists in the Schools workshop on pulleys and gears. Thank you to the school council for funding this fun experience!

Junior Robotics Club is up and running at AV! Lots of grade 4, 5 and 6 students have been engaged in learning how to use and program Lego Mindstorms EV3 robots every Monday!

Students in EF5A and EF56A have been using Lego Mindstorms EV3 robots for a robotic race track/maze project in class.

- **Intermediate:**

The Intermediate Robotics Club is up and running at AV! Lots of grade 7 and 8 students have been engaged in learning how to use and program Lego Mindstorms EV3 robots every Wednesday!

EF8A and EF8B have been doing Buddies with R12 and R345. We do Math buddies as well as outdoor buddies.

- **Physical Education:**

Thanks to the school council's annual budget, we've purchased a new round of playground balls for all Gr.1-8 classes to use at recess.

- **Extracurricular Activities:**

The Rhythmic Gymnastics team will be performing for the school on May 15th and taking a field trip to Charles Hulse on May 19th to perform for their grade 4, 5, 6 students.

- **AV Sports Teams**

- **Intermediate:**

- Congrats to the Girls & Boys Bball teams who competed in their regions tournaments in March. Boys finished with a silver medal
- The Badminton Competitive Club is up and running. OCDSB has canceled the regional tournament due to staffing shortages. Thank you to Carolyn Fyffe for her help coaching. Soccer Teams will begin soon, followed by Track & Field in June

- **Junior:**

- Junior Bordenball: Over 100 students participated in 5 different borden ball tournaments over the past couple of weeks. Our girls "Green Team" competed in the regional tournament on Tuesday and placed 2nd! The junior boys "Green Team" competed and placed 3rd!

- Junior soccer team sign-ups begin this week and tryouts to follow in the coming weeks. Any parent volunteer interested in assisting in running girls or boys practices at recess, please email: beth.rutland@ocdsb.ca. There will be one girls team and one boys team who will go to the tournament in May.
- Our school-wide track and field meet is scheduled for June, as well as the regional competition to be held at the Terry Fox Athletic Facility. Stay tuned for dates.

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

- Financial update

- **Teacher requests:**

- Cost of the buses for the Kinders' year-end class trip to Valley View Farm, \$1,050
- Support the 'Design a Donut Contest' in collaboration with Maverick's Donuts, \$200
- Replace a broken cello for the Music Program, \$1000

- **Vote on funding requests**

Due to the council not reaching quorum, a motion was moved and seconded to reach out to voting members for an Online vote on the following funding requests:

1. Approve \$1,050 for the cost of the buses for the Kinders' year-end class trip to Valley View Farm
2. Approve \$200 to support the 'Design a Donut Contest' in collaboration with Maverick's Donuts.
3. Approve \$1,000 to the music program to replace a broken cello

Results of the Online Vote:

The school council voting membership voted with 13 members saying YES, and 3 members abstaining. Due to the majority of votes, all funding requests have been approved.

8. Committee/Event reports and updates

- **Spring Fair**

The Spring Fair Planning Committee has been meeting. We are still looking for an Indoor Games Coordinator. The indoor games include the fishing game and other games for the younger children taking place inside the school. The indoor games would probably be in the small gymnasium and a couple of classrooms. There is a fishing game, bowling, and they win little toys as prizes. It involves setting up the night before and monitoring the games during the fair. Some parent members will meet with Nancy Dean (coordinator of Spring Fair in previous years) on Friday April 21 to see what games are available in storage at the school. Next meeting is Monday April 24 and will continue weekly starting in May until the Spring Fair. Francis may be interested in a co-coordinator role.

For the Silent Auction, we are looking for more businesses in the neighborhood to reach out to. Kathy can send the official donation letter signed by Dennis and Kathy for legitimacy of the request. We have \$2,500 worth of donations currently, every little bit helps.

- **PRO (Parents Reaching Out) Grant**

Melissa and Jillian are working to book the speaker for the event funded by the school council grant from the OCDSB. There should be an email sent out once the details of the event are finalized.

- **Family Movie Night (Dean)**

This will be the final movie night of the school year. It will take place on Friday April 28 at 5:30pm. The movie is Sing 2. Dean is encouraging people to bring their own plates and water bottles to reduce waste. If you bring your own plate or bottle, you can get free popcorn.

- **Plantables**

The fundraiser is now live.

- **Mabel's Labels**

The fundraiser is ongoing, convenient for all summer camp labeling needs.

9. Discussion items and New business

- **Items Needed by Students**

The school is in need of the items below and can be dropped off at the school. Let them know at the office that they are for Kathleen Connelly or Beth Rutland.

- Running shoes in good use condition for students in Grades 4-8. Adult sizes are welcome
- Tennis rackets in good used condition
- Soccer shin pads and cleats for students in Grades 7 and 8

- **Grade 8 Leaving Ceremony**

Kathy will send out something with the Grade 7 students to their parents asking for volunteers.

10. Next meeting: Wednesday May 10, 2023 (will be held virtually)