

DRAFT
Alta Vista Public School (AVPS)
Minutes - School Council
Wednesday, May 10, 2023 7-9 pm

1. Welcome and Introduction (Kathy Wrye for 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 (Kathy Wrye for Melissa Extross)

No specific items to raise. Items will be addressed towards the end of the meeting.

5. Committee/Event reports and updates

• Debrief on the 2022-2023 Family Movie Night run (Dean)

Last Family Movie Night took place last month, in April. They took place from October 2022-April 2023 (March was off for Spring Break). Some highlights - back from COVID, the event was massive. We had great parent volunteers. For the second movie night, there weren't enough parent volunteers and Dean didn't run the popcorn machine. He told them at the event that it was because there weren't enough parent volunteers, which prompted some 4-5 new parent volunteers to come forward and help out. There were many high school volunteers, many from Grades 7-8. The Bake Sale was run by a teacher. The last Bake Sale in April, it was held in the front lobby, removed from the rest of the movie night, and it was outsourced to the teachers, which was great. It made the cafeteria area much calmer and empowered the Grades 7-8 to get the food coming in.

Improvements for next year (Dean will run it for one more year):

- Frequency: it makes sense to have 4 instead of 5. We lose momentum after March and it interferes with the other Spring activities. It might be better just as a Fall-Winter activity.
- Garbage and compost: ambitions to stop selling juice boxes and using paper plates, by incentivizing people to bring their own plates (which was done in April with getting more popcorn) or to charge them extra for paper plates in the interim, and then stopping.
- The Bake Sale: it runs drastically smoother when a teacher takes care of it. When a teacher wasn't present, the Bake Sale sold out within 20 minutes. When the teacher is involved, it is a huge help.
- Waste management: Better systems with clean up. The mats on the front of the stage are expensive and need to be cleaned so they aren't sticky from spilled food.

If we don't tell parents how to stack the chairs, they end up stacking them in front of the storage door and that makes it difficult to move around.

-High School Volunteers: they ran into issues around 6:30-7:30pm trying to find work with them. Tia had an idea of bringing the students on the stage and having the Grade 7s and 8s ask questions to the Grade 9s and 10s who are in high school. This was done once and was successful so it might be implemented again next year.

Grades 7 and 8 who volunteer, they are helpful. But some of them come but do not volunteer and just want to hang out and get in the way. Dean had to kick some of them out. These students don't come with a parent, and they latch onto one parent that they know. That parent says that they are watching over the student(s) but don't actually do, and this interferes with the volunteers who are actually there to help.

A total of \$2800 was raised for all the Movie Nights during the course of the school year.

- **Spring Fair update (Kathy and Jillian)**

- **Next planning meeting scheduled for May 15th at 5:30pm**

Planning is progressing. We are doing weekly meetings as we approach the day on May 27th. Food is figured out, silent auction is going well, orders are made and now it is the logistic side of where things are going to go that needs to be figured out. Sign ups links went out yesterday (May 9) for Volunteers and Donations. People are signing up for shifts and for donations. Posters for the students have been printed and will be sent out in their back packs by Friday May 12. While speaking with teachers, there is a lot of excitement among the teachers and students. Teachers may be asked to participate in the sponge throwing activity. MAKE sure someone is taking pictures of the event to be able to post on the website.

- **PRO Grant (Jillian)**

Melissa and Jillian applied for the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant, which is an initiative from the school board to reach out to parents in the community. There were criteria that the event had to meet, with a focus on Anti-Black Racism, Anti-Indigenous Racism, Anti-Asian Racism and Community Gardening. The focus of our event was on Anti-Indigenous Racism. We invited David Finkle to lead the workshop on Turtle Island Music Throughout the Ages on Thursday May 11 from 5:30-6:30pm. He was invited in the past by the OCDSB to lead a workshop, and is part of the MASC education organization. Refreshments have been purchased, as well as follow up surveys made and the event should be ready to go.

It has been brought up in the past about discussing adding a Land Acknowledgment at the start of our council meetings. This can be brought up for the June meeting, and can be discussed further with the executive members during the summer and a proposal made for the following school year in September 2023.

- **Grade 8 Leaving Ceremony (Kathy)**

Grade 7 parents have been asked to help with the leaving ceremony which is during the last week of school, on Tuesday June 27 at 9am. Traditionally in the past it was the Grade 7 parents who organized the social aspects of it. Before COVID, that involved drinks, a cake from Costco that was shared amongst people, as well as photo opportunities. During COVID, we leaned more towards the photo opportunities so the council had a red carpet, flowers and families could take photos. An email will be sent out to parents to generate interest. To people who are

interested, they can email the council and the council executive can facilitate the first meeting of the group and then give them some help.

6. Administrative Report (Karin Le Madec for Dennis Paré, Principal)

• Construction Updates

Construction in the Primary Yard. They are working on the Library windows. The workers are often waiting on parts and this has really been an issue since COVID across the country/world. So that is an unexpected delay, but they keep moving forward.

• Staffing update

The board has put together the administrative teams for the school. Dennis will remain Principal, and Karin has been promoted to Principal at Castlefrank, which is a K-3 school. She is sad to leave but it was a pleasure working at AVPS. The Vice-Principal replacing Karin is likely an acting Vice-Principal. Hopefully by the next school council meeting, we will know who the replacement will be.

Hiring process has started, the first list has gone out. They had 3 positions to fill. They lost 1 ECE (Early Childhood Educator). They hired a new Kindergarten teacher, behind an LTO teacher (Long Term Occasional) on extended leave. Seniority transfer placement process, we may have a teacher from another school wanting to move that will choose us. If there is nobody, they'll move on and we will post another list. Staffing is a busy time and Dennis and Karin are working diligently with interviews. Reem, our secretary, will be going on maternity leave and will be replaced by Dawn Johnson. She will be starting on Monday.

• Kindergarten Information Night (Wednesday, May 31)

The school hosted an Information Night, which is also an Open House. In the Gymnasium, Dennis and Karin welcome the parents. Kindergarten teachers are released early and go to the classrooms. Day Care as well as the School Council can represent at the Information Night as is normally done.

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

Kindergarten:

Kinder is excited to have caterpillars in the classrooms this week, which we will be able to watch transform into butterflies. All classes have been discussing the parts of a butterfly and the life cycle of the butterfly (as well as other creatures). We are eager to watch their metamorphosis and release them as butterflies in a few weeks.

We are also busy preparing for our June field trip to Valley View farm (thank you for helping with buses!!). Students are learning the names for some of the farm animals that we will see in French, and are excited to learn about the role of a farmer.

Our outdoor learning and play time has also been much improved, since the phys edt order came through with more equipment for students to play with (new soccer balls, skipping ropes,

hula hoops, catch and release ball games etc). We will also be installing some large flower shaped chalkboards on our kinder fence for students to use as well!

Primary:

Thank you to the School Council for funding an exciting presentation by Junkyard Symphony. We enjoyed many laughs while learning about reusing materials. They have also been making use of the outdoor materials purchased last month by Council. Below you will see a picture of students learning a Chinese Jump Rope routine so that they can teach it at recess.

The Spring Fair was a wild success in the eyes of our Primaries. Thank you to all the volunteers who made it happen!

Heather took us on a trip to Bali through yoga moves and a funny story. Thank you, Heather!

Junior:

N/A

Intermediate:

Grade 8s attended the Volleyball National League play at TD Place. They got to see some high level volleyball skills.

Extracurricular Activities:

Our popular May Marathon event is running each morning throughout the month of May. Students keep track of their laps, and attempt to finish the equivalent of a marathon by the end of the month.

Rhythmic Gymnastics Team performed for the school on May 15th and then took it on the road to perform for one of our feeder schools, Charles Hulse.

AV SPORTS TEAMS

Junior girls and boys soccer teams are up and running and will compete in a regional tournament on May 16th and 17th.

Alta Vista's school track and field competitions will be held on May 26th for Juniors, and June 1st for Intermediates. Students placing first or second in their event will continue on to the regional meet in June.

Int. Girls and Boys soccer teams are practicing now. Tournaments are May 24th and 25th.

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

● **Financial update**

We currently have a bank balance of \$26 500. Our adjusted balance while receipts are coming in is about \$1000 less. Our official balance is \$25 480.

For both teacher requests and council initiatives, we have allocated \$27 520. Of that amount, for what we have receipts for, we have refunded \$15 500. We have \$2 665 left to allocate for today's meeting. May funding requests we will consider are \$1243.70, leaving about \$1400 for the rest of the year.

- **Voting items**

Trip to the Bill Mason Centre for Grade 4s
\$320.50 - Approved

Two Buses for Junior and Intermediate Track Meets
\$370 - Approved

Outdoor Creativity and Movement Supplies for the Primaries
\$360 - Approved

Money for Freezies during Trip to Brewer Park
\$150 - Approved

Momentum Moves, amount of tax that was not paid for -
\$43.20 - Approved

Total of \$1243.70

9. Discussion items and New business

- **Location for June meeting**

Hometown, Overflow or the school are all possible locations. Meeting at the school is fine, the social as well however it must be non-alcoholic. Final location will be communicated by council email.

- **Reminders:**

- o **Turtle Island: Indigenous Music Through the Ages - May 11 (RSVP)**
- o **Spring Fair! Saturday, May 27th**

10. Next meeting: June 21, 2023 (in person)