

Draft Minutes
Alta Vista School Council Meeting
Wednesday, June 28, 2023, 7-9 pm

1. Welcome and Introduction (Melissa Extross, Chair)

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved

3. Approval of last meeting's minutes

Last meeting's minutes have been approved.

4. Chair's Report (Melissa Extross)

- Staff Appreciation Potluck: Thanks to the volunteers who donated the food; there was lots to offer and the event was well-attended by teachers.
- Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast: School staff prepared a breakfast for parent volunteers that was much appreciated by the volunteers.
- Reservations for School Council events in 2023-2024 will be made by the Council Chair by July 7, 2023.
- Lead volunteers for Movie Night, Subway Days and Pizza Days (i.e., Dean, Ana and Caryn) have all agreed to return to their roles. Supporting volunteers for these events are invited to reach out to Council to signal their interest.
- Council is seeking volunteers to shadow Mais in 2023-2024 to learn how to run Book Fair, Spirit Wear, Deals on Wheels, and Plantables.
- Francis agreed to take on Mais' role for cheque writing.
- Jillian has agreed to co-coordinate the Welcome Back BBQ for next year. Council is hopeful that the co-coordinator from the 2022-23 event can support again in 2023-24; if not, a co-coordinator will need to be identified.
- The Council binder will be put into the Council cupboard, arrangements may need to be made for access during the next phase of constructions.

5. Committee/Event reports and updates

- Spring Fair update (Melissa)
 - There was a lot of positive feedback; the organizing committee has taken stock of some lessons learned to make improvements in future years.
- Grade 8 leaving Ceremony (Kathy)
 - As per tradition, the families of 2022-23's grade 7 students coordinated this event. The amount of food contributed was good, and there was just enough cake for participants.

6. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré, Principal)

- The junior track and field event was rescheduled due to smoke and weather conditions.
- Construction update: The renovations upstairs are finished, except for the library, which is expected to be complete by the start of the 2023-24 school year.
 - For this next phase, the office is relocating so that the roof can be reinforced, and a rooftop ventilator can be added; if all goes according to plan, the office and staff room will be reopened by August 31. Asbestos abatement is expected to be done over the summer.
 - During the 2023-24 school year, the grade 1 rooms and music room will be closed, as well as the rooms that lead to portables (i.e., rooms 121-125). The number of portables will remain unchanged.
- Staffing update
 - Gloria O'Rourke, the new Acting Vice-Principal, was introduced.
 - Thanks were offered to Karin for her work over the last few years.
 - A number of teachers are moving to other schools in the 2023-24 school year, which is to be expected, some teachers are also taking planned leaves.
 - Teachers will join the staff team to make up the balance.
- Kinder night wasn't very well attended, the organizing process will be revamped for next year. This could include advertising at the January parent night registration event to raise awareness, promoting through local day cares by email, renting a sign for may event were discussed.
- School Cash Online will be incorporated into the Principal's September emails. The use of School Cash Online worked well for the pizza and sub fundraisers.
- Most of the feedback received through the School Climate Survey was positive, the principal welcomes ongoing feedback to support improvements to communication and school climate overall.
- On June 26, inclement weather disrupted dismissal and pickup. In the future, the students will be held until the weather clears, the process is under review.
- School fees will be charged again in 2023-24. In 2022-23, the fee was \$20/student or \$30/family and were invested in the grades that represent students (each grade receives about \$1000-2000). Every dollar of this investment has been spent over the course of the school year.
- A voluntary donate button is new on school website; donations over \$20 will receive a tax receipt over \$20.
- At Spring Fair, a Grade 1 student won the chance to be Principal for the Day. The student had a great experience, as did the principal, and this is a prize that Council plans to offer again in 2024.

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

- Highlights include:

- May Marathon month was a success! 50-100 students came out daily to participate, and a few completed a marathon.
- Track and field:
 - There were two Alta Vista track meets (1 junior and 1 intermediate) that all students had the opportunity to participate in.
 - 55 students on the Intermediate Track Team, and the grade 8 boys won the banner.
 - 60+ students on the Junior Track Team, and the grade 6 girls won the banner.
- Kindergarten students went on their first field trip to Valley View Farm with Council's support for buses.
- A dance was held for students in Grade 1-3.
- The annual Brewer Park trip had to be cancelled due to inclement weather and air quality concerns.
- Grade 5 students went to the Science Museum.
- Grade 6 students went to Montréal for the day; popcorn sales led by students covered the cost for everyone to participate.
- Grade 7 students went to the Mayfair Theatre and Lansdowne Park.
- A dance for Grade 7 & 8 students was organized by Student Council.
- Grade 8s took a walking trip to see an international volleyball match at Lansdowne.
- There was some discussion about the equity of opportunity for field trips. Unfortunately, some grades missed out on the 'traditional' annual field trips, such as the grade 6 trip, because of limitations imposed by the pandemic. Field trips require a teacher's leadership, and parents can offer to help. Arranging for transportation by bus continues to be a challenge.

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

- Financial update
 - Council raised \$40000 in the 2022-23 school year. This includes:
 - \$9300 at Spring Fair
 - \$4000 through Subway days
 - \$18,000 through pizza days
 - \$3000 during Movie Nights
 - \$1700 raised through Gifts of Giving, and given to Charles Hulse as part of the fundraising plan
 - A few thousand raised through passive fundraisers, such as Plantables and Mabel's Labels
 - In the 2022-23 school year, Council spent about \$23,000, including support for teacher requests
 - Council will donate \$100 to the school to support the wish of the family of Paul St-Laurent, husband of Grade 3 Teacher Jill St-Laurent, for

donations to the school's healthy snacks and reading programs after he passed away suddenly on May 30

- The 2023-24 school year will begin a balance of approximately \$49,000
- Voting item:
 - The buses for the makeup junior track and field event cost \$370.02 more than initially provided. Since attendees were short of quorum by one, a member provided an electronic vote for this item to approve the expense in real time.

10. Discussion items and New business

- The decision to have meetings in-person or virtual for the balance of 2023-24 will be left to the 2023-24 Council.
- Council members are encouraged to explore the possibility of passive fundraising activities for years to come.

10. Next meeting: September 20, 2023 (in person)