

DRAFT
Meeting Minutes
Alta Vista School Council (AVSC)
Wednesday, September 20, 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)

• In search of event leads for Gifts of Giving and Flavours of the World Potluck

School Council is in search of people to lead events for Flavours of the World Potluck and Gifts of Giving. Here is an explanation of these events for new parents/guardians:

Gifts of Giving: This is an event that runs in December. During weeks leading to the event, families donate items such as toys and little trinkets, as well as gift wrapping and gift bags. Everything is sold for \$2 each and students go shopping for Holiday gifts for their family. The event is set up in the gym with volunteers. The funds raised from this event are used to support schools in the surrounding areas who do not have an active school council. Support is available for whomever is running this event.

Flavours of the World Potluck: Our school has a very diverse community and this is an event where we invite members of our community to share food from their background. In previous years, there have been artists invited for entertainment. This event is set up in the Gymnasiums. Flavours of the World hasn't run since before COVID. Support is available for whomever is running this event.

• Transfer of Book Fair from AVSC management to the school

One of our active members, Mais, has run the Book Fair for many years. Karen the librarian has taken interest in running this event since we have a couple of years left with Mais. We plan to move the Book Fair from a council organized event to a school organized event. Council will support this event through aiding with soliciting and organizing volunteers and organizing an accompanying bake sale.

- **Creation of a volunteer database for AVSC events**

We will be putting together a database of volunteers since we are always looking to get volunteers for our events. We are trying to get volunteers and their friends involved to help with events, it is a great opportunity for high school volunteers to get community hours.

5. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré, Principal)

- **Start of new school year**

We had a successful start of the New School Year. Students are smiling, learning, and making memories. Teachers seem happy and educators are in place. Behind the scenes, we have 665 students in the school that we are getting on time with the right adult in front of them and on schedule. We have some labour shortages- vacancies with kindergarten teachers, and some EAs have moved on and while we are happy for them, their move has been difficult for us.

- **Construction**

This is an old building. Steam boilers heating the building, their infrastructure is beyond their span of life. Every classroom now needs an electrical upgrade so that the building doesn't rely on the steam boiler heating the building. Upstairs construction (generally) is completed and air conditioned. Some of the building does not have air conditioning, so the first week of school was warm for some classes.

The contractor understands that kids come first and they attempt to accommodate to the school's needs as much as possible.

The library was supposed to be opened and accessible this year but due to issues with the delivery of parts, the library is currently still a construction zone. Our librarian does have access to the space and is able to provide resources to the school from there but students still do not have access to the library at this time. The contractor is working as hard as they can to source the correct parts to finish the library construction.

- **Staffing**

Administrators are still working on vacancies. They started staffing in April of the previous school year. In August, Mr. Paré was still interviewing teachers to fill in vacancies. Enrolment fluctuates- at end of August, there were 690 students, but now have settled to 665 students. Started the school year without an office because of the construction. There was a lot to set up with moving the internet, computers, and moving furniture. They also added a new office administrator over the summer. It was a challenging start but what's most important is keeping the focus on the kids.

There are three teachers who will be taking turns as the Council representatives this year: Seline Herz-Fischler, Kathleen Connelly and Stephanie Hindle.

- **Bus X56/OSTA**

Bus X56 still does not have a driver. In order to accommodate this shortage, family with students under 12 are offered free single ride passes so that they can travel with an adult to school. The school will accommodate the families if needed.

The bus route exists but there are not enough drivers. OSTA works with private and public school boards. The bus companies bid on bus routes and at this time there were no bids on the X56 route.

6. Teacher's Report (Teacher's Representatives, Kathleen Connelly, Seline Herz-Fischler)

At the beginning of the school year, there is not much to update on. The Terry Fox Run is the first event, which is scheduled for next Tuesday (September 26). They host an assembly with the kids and it brings the kids together to have fun. If parents would like to contact us, send an email to the School or to School Council and we will make sure that it gets to the right person.

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

• Financial update

The account total is \$49 000. Our biggest fundraiser is Pizza with \$18 000. Spring Fair made about \$9000. Mais's fundraisers (Snow Out Blow Out (SOBO), Plantables, Spirit Wear) did well. For Spirit Wear, we should have something later this year. Plantables will not be continued this year as they have moved to a wholesale only platform.

Snow Out Blow Out is scheduled for October 21st.

Mabel's labels is a year round passive fundraiser

8. Committee/Event reports and updates

• Welcome Back BBQ/ Meet the Teachers (Jillian)

The Welcome Back BBQ is happening tomorrow (September 21) from 4:30pm-6:30pm in the Primary Yard. Last year, we ran out of food, so this year we hope this won't happen again as we have been reaching out to the community with an online Food and Drinks Preference Google Form. Jillian reached out to Nancy Dean (Chair of Ridgemont Parent Council) and she helped with getting us in contact with high school volunteers. Volunteers have been asked to help with setting up the area, selling tickets, serving food and drinks as well as clean up. We have enough tables and chairs for each station (tickets, potluck table, drinks, BBQ food and condiments). We reached out to the community for Potluck items of Salads and Desserts and hope that the community responds and will bring items. Hometown will be catering the event as they did last year and for previous years. We are hoping it will be a great event that brings the community together and that families get to meet the teachers

• Family Movie Night (Melissa speaking for Dean)

Family Movie Night was scheduled for September 29, but that is also the day that the school is recognizing the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (T&R) or Orange Shirt Day. We

attempted to research options to continue with the event such as showing a movie about T&R but decided that due to the nature of the event and the solemnity associated with the day, it would be best to forgo this month's movie night. We will ensure to keep this in mind when scheduling events for next year..

The first movie night will now be on October 27, with the movie Luck.

We have now concluded the activities for 2022-2023.

9. AGM Portion led by Dennis Paré

- **Nomination of voting members:**

- **Current Executive and Role Descriptions**

- **OCDSB outlined School Council Roles and Responsibilities**

Chair: plans, organizes and chairs Council meetings; communicated with the school principal and community members; and ensures that parents/guardians of students are consulted on matters under consideration.

Vice-Chair: takes on the responsibilities of the Chair if she/he is absent or unable to fulfill his/her duties.

Secretary: prepares and distributes Council meeting minutes; drafts Council correspondence; and keeps files of Council;s official documents. This position may be shared among 3 people.

Treasurer: receives, pays out, and keeps accounts of all Council funding and approved expenses; prepares regular financial statements subject to annual audits; and holds joint signing authority for Council expenditures along with one other Council member.

- **Call for new nominations**

Chair: Melissa Extross

Vice-Chair: no nominations

Secretary: Jillian Sudayan

Treasurer: Kathleen Wrye and Sam Khan

- **Vote to elect new members**

- **Voteand Election of the 2023-2024 Executive:**

- **Chair:** Melissa Extross

- **Vice Chair:** unoccupied

- **Secretary:** Jillian Sudayan

■ **Treasurer:** Kathleen Wrye

Voting for the treasurer position was held by show of hands, counted and verified by Dennis and Gloria.

10. Discussion items and New business

● **Pizza Day slices sizes and Pricing (Caryn)**

This past year, the Pizza Day raised \$18 000, which is very good for Council. Regular profit was \$10 000. Caryn was asking the Council whether we should give kids a bigger slice and take a hit financially. According to members, students have not complained about pizza slices and have decided to keep the amount and the sizes as is. Last year, free pizza slices were given to students when available. Parents have reached out about subsidizing for other kids who cannot afford. Specialty orders feedback was given, the options for pizzas were fine.

● **Meeting location for 2023-2024 (in person vs. virtual)**

For the past 3-4 years, Council has been holding virtual meetings on Google Meets due to COVID. There is a benefit to in-person and virtual meetings.. There isn't much capacity for a hybrid meeting and is not technologically as feasible. It is possible that we may be doing 1-2 virtual meetings over the course of the school year. We had hoped to returning to using the library for in person meetings this year but due to the delay in construction this is not possible at this time. As the gym has been booked by third parties, Dennis suggested the use of the staff room which was deemed an acceptable alternate location especially with the closure of the front entrance and the use of Door H as the front door. Should the library reopen prior to the end of the school year, meetings will shift to that location at that time.

● **Meeting attendance requirements as per AVSC constitution:**

- **Members must notify when they will be unable to attend a meeting**
- **Members who miss three meetings without notifying in advance will be removed from Council**
- **Removed members do have the option to return to their previously held position so long as the remaining council members vote in favour**

● **Reminder:**

- **Welcome BBQ is September 21, 2023**
 - **School Picture Day is September 28, 2023**
 - **Family Movie Night is now October 27, 2023**
- Family movie night on September 29 is canceled, Mr. Paré will send out an email informing the school community.

● **Next month's meeting will review budget considerations for the 2023-2024 year**

Budget 2 hours for October meeting. This will be our longest meeting as we are reviewing and voting on the teacher funding requests for the first term of the school year.

11. Next meeting: October 18, 2023 (will be held in-person in Staff Lounge)