

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

- **AV Principal Profile Review**

Moving item to the December meeting.

- **Babysitting at Council Meetings**

We would like to be able to provide childcare for parents. Meetings will take place in the library, which would be a good place for parents to also watch their children during the meeting. The school board has a list of guidelines which can be found [here](#) on the OCDSB website.

Discussion:

Melissa: Is this important to offer?

Parent1: Last month, I couldn't go. My daughter was home sick. If she were to come with me, I wouldn't stay for the whole thing. Meeting goes on quite late for the kids.

Parent2: During my years on the school council, I haven't heard of childcare as a reason for people to attend school. Could we do a hybrid meeting?

Melissa: We don't have technological support for a hybrid meeting

Jillian: Can we create a google form and send it to the school community? It is a matter of diversifying voices on school council. I can help with this.

Parent3: For the Google form questions, could we add "why are you not going to the school council meetings?" as a question?

Melissa: Create an open-ended reason

Parent3: I would also suggest, do you know what school council is? Good questions

Another google form suggestion: "I would be interested in volunteering for events."

- **PRO Grant application**

We applied for the Parent Reach Out Grant last year. The presentation was on "Turtle Island Indigenous Music Throughout the Years, with David Finkle. In previous years, Shelly and Janis applied and had a Spoken Word Performer come in. This is a free

event, since the money funding this comes from the school board. The application is open until January 12. The amount of the grant is a maximum of \$750. Abrar has agreed to take on filling out the application, with support from Jillian and Melissa who applied last year.

- **Council Bulletin Board**

Due to construction over the school year, the AVSC bulletin board (located in front of the Gymnasium) was not updated. However after the first Movie Night in October, the bulletin board was in fact visible so we are rethinking putting the bulletin board to use. Jillian volunteered to organize the bulletin board. Kathleen suggested to use the bulletin board next to the office and material about the Terry Fox Run would be taken down. Kathleen has also offered to put up material so we don't have to go into the school.

- **Traffic Issues around AVPS**

Parking is an ongoing issue. In the past, Dennis sent emails about not parking on Randall avenue. This week at Randall and Ridgecrest, a parent was active with taking photos and submitting them to by-law. This parent took a photo and the person driving the vehicle was unhappy. By-law has a history once that photo has been submitted. Discussion with Marty Carr and a parent group (not associated with the school council) was working on these issues.

What can be done to address the parking and traffic issues?

Marty Carr (City Councillor for our ward, former AVSC Chair) reached out to someone in signage and infrastructure about increasing signs. Person in signage and infrastructure said an assessment of the area is needed however it cannot be done during winter with the snow. We need to do an assessment of the area and this was all happening in winter and so they said we can't do the assessments until the snow is cleared.

What is the next step as community members, parents to keep the area safe?
The cross guard was told to not be involved with contacting by-law except for safety reasons.

Discussion:

Parent1: Make the safe, lawful choice the easy choice. Could we use a kiss and ride as the safer alternative?

Dennis: This is a law enforcement issue. City streets are jurisdiction of Ottawa Police and By Law. We can educate and remind parents but those parking on Randall avenue need to get tickets. No amount of good will is going to deter somebody other than a financial fine.

Parent2: Maybe we can use the Grades 7-8 students to help walk the young kids to school from Beaver so they don't have to cross the street, or maybe find parent volunteers.

Melissa: this won't be resolved right away, will talk to Marty Carr to see what is available for next steps.

- **Last call for a Gifts of Giving event lead prior to event cancellation (event scheduled for December 15, 2023)**

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. Funds raised for Charles Hulse and Arch Street, sister schools in the community.

Mark Bartek has volunteered to be the coordinator for this event. Elizabeth Paradis and Nathalie Kovacs (last year's coordinators) will support Mark in setting up this event. Melissa will connect all three via email.

5. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré, Principal)

- **Update re: Library and Construction handed over to school and in operation**

Library opened yesterday (November 14) so the school is happy to see the return of the library.

Due to construction, Dennis and office administrators likely won't be able to return to the main office before the end of the school year.

- **Staffing Updates**

The school is still trying to find a teacher to fill in a post. Suad, one of the office assistants, found a different job at another school this week, a good career move for her.

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

- **Kindergarten:**

Students are exploring 2D shapes and the Power of Magnets. KJSD welcomed a University of Ottawa student leading a Let's Talk Science Presentation. Music Circle lessons with a retired Kindergarten teacher and grandmother of one of the students.

- **Primary:**

On October 26, the Kindergarten to Grade 2 students were given a presentation by author and educator Lana Button. She explained the process of getting works published and read three of her books about social and emotional learning among others. Enthusiastic educator! The library doesn't have any of her books and we hope to include them.

There was lots of excitement during Halloween!

Starr Gymnastics will come at the end of December for Kindergarten to Grade 2 for a fun-filled circuit.

- **Junior:**

- The Winter Junior Sports tournament calendar is currently being updated by the Board. More details will follow in January
- Post-COVID, they cut many sports due to shortages, and they couldn't get enough coaches to bring teams to tournaments
- The school started again with a few sports, like cross-country, borden ball and track and field in the Spring. No other sports. Kathleen is one of the representatives for the region. It comes down to a shortage of teachers. They are trying to get teachers to cover them during the school day to do tournaments between schools.

- **Intermediate:**

- Athletic council is still going strong. Sports are done during recess. The students running the sports are doing a great job, lots of kids coming out to play.
- Band and Orchestra Practices still going on before school.
- WEB team meetings during Student Council.
- Football Coach Mr. Ellis coached the Football team, they had a great day. A volunteer parent coach, Dan Cooper, helped with the football team.
 - We have been working with quite a few parent coach volunteers, accompanied by teachers.
- Find Your Passion Workshops on Halloween included knitting, badminton, science experiments and cooking. It was a fun way for kids to connect.
- A dance was also organized on October 31st that went really well. It was on the same day of the tournament so some students missed the opportunity
- Upcoming Health Presentation on Dec 4th from Public Safety Canada for Grades 7 and 8.
- **School Wide events:**
 - Remembrance Day Assembly on November 11
 - Holiday Bingo: hiding stuff around the yard, and students go around with a Bingo Card looking for objects. This has been going on since COVID and keeping distance

- PHE Canada Healthy School Certification ([website](#))

- Kathleen and Beth are in need of 1 or 2 parent volunteers to sit on a committee with them. Main goal is to collaborate on ways to create a healthier school community.

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

- **Financial update**

The current balance in the council account is \$45,617.00. We have spent over \$4000 so far (without including Family Movie Night in October). Out of our budget, we allocated just over \$2200 so far.

Teacher Requests:

1. Momentum Moves Workshop for Intermediates. \$2250 - **approved**
2. Dungeons and Dragons Club, for a Wizards and Spells guide and dice. \$55 - **approved**
3. Grade 1 class EF1C, worms and composting. \$113 - **approved**

Mugs for volunteers (taken care with Voluntary School fees from Dennis)
Kindegarten - playing with small pieces (Voluntary School fees)

The total of the three items is \$2418.

- **Funding Requests from sister school(s)**

We received a funding request from Charles Hulse. We also reached out to Arch St. to see if they had any needs this year. We received no response from Arch St.

Charles Hulse Funding Requests:

There is still \$840 from last year's Gifts of Giving event to support them now.

Listed by priority

1. \$550 for forest of reading
2. \$775 for ON Planetarium, school wide opportunity. This is booked for March
3. \$800 Writers and illustrators , festival in february
4. \$600 BBoyz of Dance, they are short of \$600

The total of Charles Hulse requests amount to \$2725.

Discussion:

Parent1: Can we use the credits from scholastic instead of giving them the money for the books?

Parent2: Do we want to hold some funds for Arch Street?

Parent3: Do we have a timeline for when they need the money?

Kathy: We could provide them an amount of a grant. Will give them \$1000 for now. We can let them know in January 2024 after fundraising events.

Final resolution - will provide Charles Hulse with a grant amount of \$1000. Once we see what funds were raised from the Gifts of Giving event to take place in December 2023, we will reassess the funds given.

8. Committee/Event reports and updates

- Family Movie Night - Dean

The next movie night will be on Friday December 1.

Movie is Abominable, with a winter feel to match the season. There are many high school student volunteers to help with this event.

Kathleen: a lot of HS students from last year who were hard to manage, some students were stealing from the bakesale. Have a clear list of who will be volunteering because some just come in saying they will volunteer when they aren't.

- SOBO and Spirit Wear Update - Mais

SPIRIT Wear: we didn't hit minimum amounts for any of the item orders and will need to think about refunding those who have already made orders. The Rainbow Club has received many orders.

9. Discussion items and New business

- **Athletic Council**

Athletic Council will be hosting the Bake Sale and supervising the Chili Cook Off taking place during the Book Fair on November 23. Crock pots of chili will be plugged in the staff lounge. Additionally, they will be offering skate sharpening for a suggested donation of \$10/pair.

- **Rink Ratz Presentation (Ingrid and Riaz)**

Ingrid and Riaz explain what they do for the Alta Vista Outdoor Rink (ODR) as Rink Ratz, a volunteer group that has been looking after the rink since 2014. During the skating season (January 1 to March 1, weather permitting) they build and maintain the outdoor rink. They are looking for volunteers for their planning committee (commitment of 1-2 hours per week, January to Family Day in February) and members to participate in events organized by the group. High school students can do this for volunteer hours.

Contact them at altavistarink28@gmail.com, or on Facebook at "Alta Vista Outdoor Rink."

Kathleen (Teacher): they can hold a Snow Stomp Party and get information out to the school. They can adapt the slide show for the school so they know what it entails.

- **Reminder:**

- Report Cards come out on November 16, 2023
- Book Fair is November 22-24, 2023
- Parent Teacher Interviews are November 23-24, 2023
- PD Day is November 24, 2023
- Family Movie Night is December 1, 2023

10. Next meeting: December 20, 2023 (in-person meeting in the Library, Room 219)