

**DRAFT**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Alta Vista School Council (AVSC)**  
**Wednesday, December, 2023 7pm**

**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**

Small changes were made to the profile review, such as the number of students. Mark (Vice-Chair) recommended changes to "Planning and Management Skills."

Concerning leadership skills, Mark asked how the order of those items was set? What is the vision and where is it outlined?

The principal responded that they were the leadership competencies outlined by the school board.

- **Update re: garden beds in front of school**

Back in October, we spoke about the garden beds being overhauled, but not sure when. Maggie, one of our community volunteers, has asked for advance notice about when we will be taking care of the garden so she can dig up every perennial plant, repot them and have them ready for the Plant Sale at the Spring Fair in May.

- **Update re: contact with Councillor Carr**

There was good feedback from Councillor Carr. Melissa spoke with her executive assistant, Sarah. The city is limited with what they can do except for enforcement. Councillor Carr made a request that we look around the school, specifically around structural changes that can be put in place at the school (structural changes could be things like permanently installed speed pylons, cement barriers to stop no parking areas, etc.) that affects the congestion of traffic in the area.

By-Law and Police are doing regular controls when resources are available. Councillor Carr's office requested that the OPS and By-Law supervisors in the area will reach out to Melissa but she has not heard from them yet. OPS has advised that if there is reckless driving, call 911 immediately. They would rather a history of reports than miss something. Any further updates, Melissa will let us know.

## **5. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré, Principal)**

- **Construction Update**

Library is done and so far has been well used in the last couple of weeks. Librarian is happy to have the use of the space again. The Library office space is shared with an ESL teacher and a Math Teacher. Joe (contractor) and the administrators speak regularly. They are currently choosing paint colours for the office. They are expecting a roof unit to arrive on January 28, 2024. They are hoping that construction will be done by March-April, but likely not. There is still no use of the front entrance of the building while construction takes place.

- **Lighting near steps by Door I**

This issue was previously flagged by Council and recently flagged by the school's Health and Safety committee. Lighting was non-existent around the stairs near Door I leading to dangerous conditions when there was low to no environmental light available. The light is now functioning. It was already there, but during the initial phase of construction (specifically in Mme Seline's class), wiring was cut to the exterior light. With the recent repair, this light is now operational.

- **Staff Updates:**

The school is now fully staffed. They recently hired a breakfast monitor. Ongoing staffing accommodates employee leaves throughout the year.

- **Parking**

A section was added to the school website about using the parking at the church, and being a safe driver around the school neighborhood. Now part of school policy.

- **OCDSB**

- **Budgetary concerns:**

School board had fewer students enrolled. Students are how we make money. When a student enrolls, that student comes with a GSN (Grant for Student Needs Regulation). Depending on whether it's for elementary or secondary levels, each student brings \$10 000-15 000 from the Ministry of Education, per student. Most of it goes to salaries, \$100 goes to the school budget for things around the school such as printing, supplies, furniture for the library. The school received less students this year so Dennis' Operating budget has been reduced for the school year. Everything costs more now. Paper orders that were once \$1300 are now \$1900, more printing costs, supply teachers are the same price but we are doing more coaching so we are hiring more coaches. Expecting more money in January. Dennis received a budget of \$34,000 for the 2023-2024 school year plus a carry forward of \$19,000 from the previous year (which is not actually a carry forward as this money was "spent" on items requested last year but that did not arrive until this year).

Finance hasn't been fun. Managing and doing fine but Dennis might have to re-prioritize how the budget is spent. There is enough money for the operations of the school.

- **Trustee:**

During a school board meeting last night, our trustee for our ward, Dr. Nili Kaplan-Myrth, was censured by the school board. She was found in breach of her trustee code of conduct over her conduct in the past year.

We still have a trustee but she cannot participate in certain committees for the next three months and cannot join the school board meeting in January. Every trustee works for every student in the school board. You can call any trustee in the OCDSB and speak about what you would like with your elected officials.

Discussion:

Parent: reduction in students and issues with the budget. Is this affecting the schools with a reduction in students or is it affecting everyone?

Dennis: We got the number of students we were expecting, but there are schools who were expecting 100 more students than they received. We added a class. Extra kindergarten class, so there are less kinder students per class. 29 is the cap per number of students per class. 29, 29, 29, 28 were the number of students, so getting an extra class was a good thing. Reduction in students is affecting the whole district.

## **6. Teacher's Report (Seline Herz-Fischler, Primary Teacher)**

- **Kindergarten:**

Students were excited about the Tuff tables used for the students as seen in the photos. They talked about the holidays and traditions..

- **Primary:**

Grade 3 students learning about how to compost. Field Trips, learning, fun, and more! Patty from the Wild Bird Sanctuary will be coming to the school in February 2024. Museum of Nature field trip to take place in January. Thank you to school council member, Mara, for helping facilitate the Museum of Nature field trip!

- **Junior:**

No updates

- **Intermediate:**

Going to tournaments. Quite a few student teachers. They are helping out a lot in the school. Mme. Emma (Mme. Seline's Student Teacher), has been helping with coaching. There are 9 new Student Teachers this year, more than they had in the past. They are helpful, and this is beneficial for our students as they train the next generation of teachers.

- Grade 7 & 8 students had a presentation on "Cyber Bullying, Sextortion and Online Exploitation" by Public Safety Canada. It was interactive. Taken care of by Kathleen Connelly, for the Health Curriculum.

- **Skating this winter on the Outdoor Rink:**  
Parents will receive forms for Skating soon. Thank you to former AV parent Keith Sherlock for building the shelves last year.
- **Intermediate Upcoming Events / Activities / Needs**  
Next sports team coming up is Volleyball.
- **School Wide Event**  
Thank you for the Colores Andines Concerts! The students really enjoyed them. They were very engaging.
- **Food Drive:**  
Very successful! We collected 1300 donated items from the school community. Our donation was welcomed by the Heron Road Community Centre, in our local community. The school also supported 15 families with hampers, including toys, clothing items and gifts cards.

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

- **Financial update**

Our current council balance is a little over \$42,000.

To date, we have allocated about \$25,000 (teacher requests and standing items) and we have spent about \$9,000.

### **Fundraisers:**

- Purdy's chocolate fundraiser was successful, bringing in just over \$,1000.
  - The Chili Night during the Book Fair was successful, made a bit over \$200 combined with the Bake Sale. They served 40 bowls of chili and ran out within the first half hour. We need more chili next year! The cost of cheese is expensive and will need to be accounted for.
  - Plantables raised almost \$175 last year; cheque was just received (the fundraiser has been discontinued as the vendor has opted to only do wholesale orders going forward).
- **Vote on funding requests**
    1. Kinders, Snow Stompers - 6 sets for \$130 - **approved**
    2. Three Kinders classes asking for Magnetic Construction Sets - \$460 - **approved**
    3. A Kinder class asking for \$60 for Marble Runs - **approved**
    4. New Item to consider (seasonal) Kathleen and Beth would like funding for Rocks and Rings \$600 - **approved**

## 8. Committee/Event reports and updates

- **Book Fair update and need for co-coordinator for 2024-2025 (Melissa for Mais)**

Book Fair was another successful and well received event. From experience with the recent Book Fair, we will need a School Council Co-coordinator for next year to work with the Librarian. The Librarian can do in-school tasks and the Co-coordinator will help with set up. Ahmed identified that his partner might be interested so Mais will send more information to them for consideration.

- **Spirit Wear update**

- We didn't meet minimums but the printing company created them so students weren't disappointed. Orders made through SchoolCash Online.
- We don't really get anything from it as a fundraiser.
- If parents wanted to order them on their own using an online platform, they would be charged shipping fees. We are also not tied to minimum orders this way.
- Mais wants to know what the School Council thinks about switching to an online platform.

Discussion:

Kathy: We usually don't make much money from Spirit Wear.

Parent: If we offer it every few years, then we may be able to meet minimums. Sweats and toques are the bigger orders during the Fall. The Spring orders didn't really make much.

Melissa: If we opt to keep it on as a drive, we need someone to shadow Mais. We will run the drive next year and see if anyone will shadow Mais. She will send Coordinator information to the School Council.

- **Family Movie Night (Melissa for Dean)**

- Teachers are already signed up for the Bake Sale during the next Movie Night.
- From the Movie Night on October 27, we raised \$239 altogether.
- Next Movie Night is January 19, 2024.
- Dean has not yet selected the movie.

- **67s Fundraiser**

- Each ticket sold for \$20, we would get \$10 for each ticket. We must commit to first purchasing 100 tickets and then selling those 100 tickets to break even.
- Games are from December 30 until March 24.
- We need someone to run it. Need to figure out how to send money to purchase tickets. We can discuss it again in January.
- General admission seating is \$25, which is a discount of \$5 off every ticket.
- Francis and Aaron volunteered to reach out to the 67s and get more information. Will bring that information to the January meeting.

## **9. Discussion items and New business**

- **Snow Hawks**

We do not have a parent coordinator for this event. This is not a school event. If a parent would like to volunteer to coordinate, Harvey from Snow Hawks was the previous contact. AVPS is not associated with Snow Hawks but allows the use of the school parking lot as a pick up and drop off point for the event.

- Charles Hulse has a new parent council and will shadow our next in-person meeting in February.

- **Reminder:**

Winter Break will run December 25-January 5, 2024

## **10. Next meeting:** January 17, 2024 at 7pm (virtual)