

DRAFT
Meeting Minutes
Alta Vista School Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 21, 2024 7-9 pm

1. Welcome and Introduction (Melissa Extross, Chair)

Melissa was not able to attend so the Vice Chair, Mark Bartek, chaired the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

Prior to approving the agenda, Mark indicated that discussion of the Colibri fundraising opportunity would be deferred and struck from this month's agenda. Agenda was approved.

3. Approval of last meeting's minutes

January's meeting minutes were approved

4. Chair's Report (Melissa Extross)

- **Gifts of Giving**

No lead found for an alternative date and event officially cancelled for 2023/2024 school year. Funds were allocated to Charles Hulse at the start of this year expecting to raise the amount through hosting this event. With the cancellation, we will need to find another way to fill the gap on these funds.

- **Family Dance**

Caryn agreed to lead the event and funds raised at this event will offset GoG cancellation. The date will be Jun 13, 2024 and Dennis has added it to the school calendar.

- **Spring Fair Committee**

The spring fair committee started work for the event. They will gladly accept additional volunteers/members to assist. 29 Feb will be the first scheduled meeting at 6:30 and location to TBD. Anyone interested in assisting can send an email to the student council email.

- **Flavours of the World Potluck (April 18th)**

No lead for the event identified in the meeting and may need to cancel. The space is booked and tables and chairs have been ordered. 18 April (the scheduled event date) is still far but might be in risk if no one volunteers by the March meeting.

5. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré, Principal)

- **School Updates**

The contractor is hoping to turn the office over to the school around the middle of March and preparations for the move have started. This will coincide with reopening the front door access. Logistic challenges are expected in facilitating a seamless transfer of furniture, moving phone extensions, resetting internet and printers and relocating the camera from door H to the front door.

- **Solar Eclipse Update**

There will be no school April 8th due to the solar eclipse. Staff will be in school and hoping to finish moving the office that day. There will be material sent by the board for the eclipse.

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

- **Update on School Activities**

Kindergarten: exploring the idea that everyone belongs to group, and people in community talk about what they do & Valentines Day

Primary:

Junior:

Intermediate:

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

- **Financial update**

Current account is just over \$44,000

Total net funds raised so far: \$3,980

- Includes \$500 from Ottawa 67s fundraiser.

Total funds spent so far: \$15,838

- Total amount allocated to requests and standing items is \$26,785 (term 1 and 2)
- Remaining funds to be allocated: \$20,610

- **School Council Funding for Buses**

There has been an increase in funding requests to the School Council for buses as noted in the term 2 funding requests. To ensure equitable access to funding and provide consistency in approvals, the school council executive has proposed a policy for considering bus funding requests.

Proposed Wording:

In line with the Council's mandate, the following guidelines are proposed for consideration of transportation costs:

- Team or Club Trips: Local (e.g., to attend tournaments)
 - School council would consider requests to fully fund the cost of the bus
- Field Trips / Class Trips: Local (e.g., to a museum)
 - School Council would consider requests to provide subsidies for students that would be unable to cover the cost of attending (This will likely be managed by the teacher requesting, and receiving, funding from the Principle through the 'flex' money provided by School Council)
- Special Trips: Outside of NCR (e.g., Grade 6 trip, Orchestra)
 - Prior to requesting fund from School Council, the group should conduct its own fundraising
 - Council would consider requests to subsidise the cost of students who cannot afford to attend (post-fundraising costs)
- Where fundraising is required, the Council can also make opportunities available to the group as part of other Council events. For example, bake sale tables at movie night, spring fair or book fair.

The Bus policy was accepted and will be included in the instructions to teachers for funding requests to School Council

- **Term 2 Funding Requests**

Luv2groove - \$1,865

Scientists in school - \$1,035

Miscellaneous Supplies (e.g., sidewalk chalk, bubble wands) - \$200

Furniture renewal for kinders: kitchen play set - \$2,020

Over budget amount (Momentum moves, Magnet Tiles) - \$65

All the requests were approved

8. Committee/Event reports and updates

- **Family Movie Night (Dean):** Next event is March 1st. Movie will be Encanto.
- **67s Fundraiser (Francis and Aaron):** All tickets sold. Worth running this as a fundraiser next year and recommend investigating early in the year to secure more options for games to attend.
- **Purdy's Spring Campaign (Lori):** Recommended to re-run this fundraiser next year.

9. Discussion items and New business

- **Electric School Bus Campaign - Sarah Charron (For Our Kids)**

Sarah, a parent who is engaged with the environmental group, For Our Kids, requested that the School Council consider sending a letter to the OCDSB advocating for electrification of OSTA buses. She provided an overview of the content of the letter and was open to comments and questions.

Discussion

Kathy expressed her concern with sending the letter on behalf of the school council as the School Council decision may not be reflective of all the parents and students of Alta Vista and suggested giving the school community and the council more time to review and think about the letter. Dennis made note that the letter cannot include OCDSB employees (the current draft states that it's being sent on behalf of teachers, parents, etc.). Due to a lack of prior review and the likely need to revise the letter prior to sending no decision was made. For consideration at the March meeting.

- **Reminders:**

- Music Night is on February 22, 2024
- Toonie Tuesday is February 27, 2024
- Pink Shirt Day is February 28, 2024
- Family Movie Night is on March 01, 2024
- March Break is March 11-15, 2024

10. Next meeting: March 20, 2024 (Virtual)