

DRAFT
Meeting Minutes
Alta Vista School Council (AVSC)
Wednesday, June 19, 2024 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)

- **Play Structures and Outdoor Spaces**

Kinder Yard

- **Fresh from the Farm Fundraising**

In the OCDSB's last newsletter, there was a fundraiser that the Council could possibly run. Fresh from the Farm is a fundraiser selling bundles of vegetables and fruits. They offer 4 bundles of varying prices.. We are required to buy 40 bundles, where 40% of the selling of bundles will come back to AVPS. We can have the account registered at the beginning of September, and promote the fundraiser within the first 2 weeks of school.

5. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré, Principal)

- **School Updates**

We are wrapping up the school year, it is very busy for everyone.

For communication, the school is using channels like email and website. Not using Twitter anymore. Kinder night went well and we are looking forward to seeing the new students for next year.

- **Construction Update**

Most of the work is winding down. The HVACs and all the ventilation set up is done. Main office is a good place to work right now. Staff are being relocated because of the changes in the construction, so students will be helping to move books and desks (students love to help out!). Retaining wall will be replaced at the front of the school. Its construction was done about 15 years ago. So this construction will cost \$1 000 000.

- **Staffing Updates**

Report Cards are coming out next week. Almy Vayalta will join us as administrator's assistant. Melinda Spanglett is going to Roberta Bondar Public School and will be leaving us this year. A discussion to get parents involved, should we continue with specialized classes? It would be a chance to save money, but want to make sure that the kids get the education they deserve.

- **Lead in Water**

This has been happening for the last 2 weeks. In the article circulated, provincial and municipal guidelines are different. When there are fixtures and solder joints sitting, the lead can seep into the water. Testing is done frequently. Our Chief custodian, Orlando, goes around and runs the water taps in the morning so that the old water that has been sitting all night is flushed out, and new water is flushed in. He is flushing the water daily, whereas other schools do it weekly.

- **Heat Issues**

All the classes except Kindergarten E (no electrical near the windows). Teachers are limiting students to 20 minutes outside so they can still enjoy their time outdoors during this heat. Students who are medically fragile are being looked after uniquely. The staff remind students to stay hydrated, dressed properly for the weather.

- **Library Furniture**

The furniture in the library is very old, from the 1970s. The school is trying to buy new furniture. In September and October of the following school year, Dennis would like to get AVSC to contribute to discussions about the furniture in the library. It would be a nice Legacy project for the kids, Council and the school.

Discussion:

Parent: Are there still issues in the budget for the school from the start of the year? Was this resolved?

Dennis: Every principal's school budget was cut by 20% this school year. The School board is struggling, like many in the province, because everything costs more. We are taking a net loss because everything costs more money. Hoping there is no cut to the school budget next year.

Thank you, pleasure working with the school Council. We appreciate your time and insights.

6. Teacher's Report (Seline Herz-Fischler, Teacher's Representative)

Update on School Activities

- **Kindergarten:**

The students had their annual kinder countdown. Photos of D Day or "Dance Day," where the classes enjoyed dancing to music, students enjoyed this. There was E Day or "Experiment Day" where students were able to try different experiments.

- **Primary:**

Maverick's Donut Project:

Classes EF2A, 2B and 2C, students made their perfect donut. This project, repeated from last year, was in collaboration with Maverick's Donuts. Students submitted their drawing and writing, Maverick's judged it and made the donuts of the winning students. Every student in the participating classes got a donut to enjoy!

Brewer's Park (June 24):

Many volunteers are still needed. Students will be walking there, which normally takes 25 minutes. Since it is the last Monday Pizza Day, students will have their pizza order delivered to the park (Thank you Caryn!). Parents can drop in and drive, even stay for a half hour if you can. The outing was planned last year but they had to cancel it. This year will be the first time we go since 2019.

Juniors

Skipping Team performed for the Primaries.

School Wide Events

Milo was the Principal of the Day. He followed Dennis around the school and even went on the roof with him to take a look at the school.

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

- **Financial update**

The account balance is currently a little over \$55,000.

Fundraisers this year:

Subways:

This lunch program is expensive. A parent asked if we could find a less costly alternative, for example a bagel lunch instead? A suggestion would be to do a survey at the beginning of the school year asking parents, What kind of lunch program would students and families want? What do families like that Council does?

Spring Fair:

This year, \$10,000 worth of tickets were sold, Games and Food brought in \$2,000. It was a great turn out!

Family Movie Nights:

Movie nights did well, there was less interest in organizing bake sales. Dean has agreed to return as the lead for Family Movie Night.

67s Fundraiser:

The 67s were great. Parents showed much interest and purchased tickets, and families enjoyed the events.

Purdy's Chocolate Fundraiser:

This year we participated in Purdy's Christmas and Spring campaigns. The Christmas orders did better than in spring.

Deals on Wheels:

This fundraiser brings in good money

For the future, we may bring back the Caesars Pizza Fundraiser.

Overall, we spent over \$33,000, which were mostly spent on teacher requests.

We are hoping to start next year in a good position. This year, we raised more than we spent. Council's account will be starting with \$55,000 in the bank for next September 2024-2025.

8. Committee/Event reports and updates

• Spring Fair (Melissa)

The event went well and families had a lot of fun. The weather was nice and sunny. We raised over \$10,000. For food, comments made were that Hometown is more expensive so Council may look into less costly alternatives like making our own burgers for next year.

• Family Dance (Caryn)

The dance was well attended, mostly by families of the younger grades. We needed lights, so Caryn ordered them from Amazon, at \$40 each (bought 2). The lights will also be used for the Grade 8 Leaving Ceremony. Council is able to purchase lights and equipment for future dances. There are sales from Long McQuade, they are used but they still work well.

• Grade 8 Leaving Ceremony (Mara)

The ceremony went well. Cakes were purchased for \$160.

9. Discussion items and New business

• If anyone would like to...

Spring Fair: Lead needed for silent auction. This task requires active solicitation.

• Reminder:

- **Volunteer appreciation on Friday June 21**
- **School Appreciation Breakfast on June 26, 2024**
- **Report Cards go home on June 26, 2024**
- **Last day of school is June 27, 2024 (<--THURSDAY!)**
- **SAVE THE DATE:**
 - **Welcome BBQ will be held on September 18, 2024**

- **Book Fair co-lead for 2024-2025 school year needed**
 - Karyn will be there next year but will need a co-lead from Council
- **Gifts of Giving Coordinators for 2024-2025 school year needed**
 - Lynn found someone who might be interested. We should get more than one coordinator to help because it's a big load.
- **Spirit Wear Coordinator for 2024-2025 school year needed**

10. Next meeting: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 (In Person)