

Alta Vista School Council (AVSC) Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 25, 2024 7-9 pm

1. Welcome and Introduction (Melissa Extross, Chair)

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda has been approved.

3. Approval of last meeting's minutes

Last meeting's minutes have been approved.

4. Chair's Report (Melissa Extross)

• **Welcome Back BBQ and Meet the Teacher**

This year, the council opted to go the route of doing the food for the Welcome BBQ to create equitable access for all families. Kathy (Treasurer) coordinated the event, on September 18. The event went well, and it was a successful event for the school community.

• **Farm Fresh Fundraiser**

A fundraiser where we can purchase vegetable and Ambrosia apples bundles. We keep 40% of all sales made.

• **In search of leads for Book Fair and Gifts of Giving**

We need someone to run the Book Fair. Gifts of Giving Lead has been identified.

5. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré, Principal)

• **School Updates**

We had a busy summer! Parking lot was redone. The fence is still up, they will put a railing over the retaining wall. Need signage to remind parents about drop off. Repaving the entire surface around the school next summer. We will be taking a look at the tennis court fence. At the very least it will be removed. School is working with the City of Ottawa to make sure the courts are in good shape. As the tennis courts are not being used by the school, hoping that should the City be willing, expenses for maintenance for the tennis courts can be moved to them—if not, might be removed.

Kinder Yard: Looking to add an additional storage shed in the Kinder yard.

Portables: The portables continue to be used for outdoor classrooms by Grades 4-5-6. We are using 2 of the 6. The other six were removed as they were no longer needed and to help with the view for duty teachers in the Junior yard.

Traffic: This remains an issue around the school. Met with Councillor Carr to ask for ongoing by-law support. Dangerous now, and in the winter, when the snowbanks are there resulting in even less visibility, will be more dangerous.

- **Staffing Updates**

We are fully staffed. We just hired a Breakfast Club Monitor. We have all our EAs.

Found out today that our school is facing a reorganization. It will result in the reduction of one of our classes. It's bad news for us, and difficult because we spent the last few weeks building community and learning in the classes. Parents will hear in the next week. Our enrollment in our school is the same as previous years but due to the Board seeing a reduction in funding from the province. The school currently has 650 students. In terms of learning needs and personalities, we will work hard to ensure students feel comfortable with their new teacher and classroom environment.

- **Voluntary School Fees**

Requesting voluntary school fees. Schools used to charge a fee. Public education is free. We offer parents an opportunity to pay a voluntary fee. Principal consults with the school council, there are maximums to ask for. We ask for \$20 per student. Parents don't have to contribute anything. That money provides extras for the classroom. School budget pays for photocopies, subscriptions for online learning, field trip funds are increasing in transportation costs. There is a donate button on the school website so parents can get a receipt. Donations go towards extras in the classroom.

- **Alta Vista Safe Schools Committee**

Gloria will be chairing the Safe Schools Team. The focus of the committee will be how to create an environment where students feel safe and welcome. Many conflicts in the world are now touching us in different ways and are coming through the school with differing opinions and beliefs. Ensuring that our staff and students are able to work together.

- **Elementary Program Review**

Looking at the French Immersion, Middle French Immersion Program. We are looking at our Alternative Programs and looking at Specialized Classes. LDSIP Learning Disabilities program. There's a GLP program. PSEN, BIP programs included in what our school offers. We encourage parents to read up on Elementary Program Review. We are expecting to know some more on Friday. Principals are hoping to deal with this in the best way possible. Puts into question on how the OCDSB delivers public education in Ottawa.

Discussion:

Parent: In speaking with the councillor, asked to look into, signage isn't working. Only works with enforcement. They are there at the beginning of the year and then they don't come around later in the year. More there during the Summer months rather than the winter months when there is snow.

Councillor Carr is aware so she's not ignorant to hearing them. It doesn't hurt to be a squeaky wheel and mention to get attention on the issue.

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

- **Update on School Activities**

Kindergarten:

Kinder pictures of sensory play, school has 4 kinder classes this year where last year, there were 5. Workshop on solids, liquids and gases which will allow students to learn and use specialized vocabulary. They make predictions and observations before and during investigations and communicate their results.

Primary (Grades 1-3):

There are pictures of Grade 1 students learning in their classrooms. Grade 2 students during reading time. Class EF2C was working with Ms Flaherty doing math with manipulatives.

UFLI (University of Florida Literacy Intervention). Strategic literacy method. There has been a lot of work to understand the science of reading. Science of reading is years of research. We as teachers have been continuing to do this learning during the PA on Friday. Helping students take sounds and use them in learning how to read. Using the literacy screening for students in Grades 1 and 2. We will be sharing the results of this with parents soon. It puts pressure to assess these students on an ongoing basis to ensure that they are getting the ongoing support to literacy standards.

Scientists in the School: The Gr 2 scientists learned about properties of liquids and solids.

Grades 2A and 2B created Art and had a demonstration in their classroom.

Junior (Grades 4-6)

Intermediate (Grades 7-8)

Field Trip at MacSkimming: The Grade 7 students took a field trip to the MacSkimming Outdoor Education Classroom. Trip organized by the Grade 7 team, there is an influx of new kids from schools with Grades K-6 as well as others from other parts. New and current students come together where they do team building and outdoor activities. This is funded by a grant from the Ontario Ministry of Education.

School Wide

Terry Fox Run: This annual event will take place on Tuesday October 1. Everyone is invited to join. Kindergarten students go to the track and run laps on their own time and pace. Classes of Grades 1-8 run in the afternoon.

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

- **Financial update**

Fiscal year ends on August 31. Started the year with \$49k, ending the year with \$55k.

Largest fundraisers:

- Pizza \$22,380
- Spring Fair: \$8,500
- Movie Nights: \$2,200
- Subway: \$1,600

What to expect for October's meeting: We will present funding requests as submitted by the teachers and reviewed by the Principal, Chair/Vice-Chair and Treasurer. Encouraged to ask questions and discuss the funding requests. We can also defer items to the next month when we aren't comfortable and/or discuss further.

8. Committee/Event reports and updates

• Welcome BBQ (Kathy)

We thought we could do financially better for this year. The prices for the BBQs, we spent \$900. These one-time costs of the BBQs can be used again for next year's Welcome Back BBQ and for the Spring Fair. A suggestion for the next one, is to pre-order food through School Cash Online. This way, the amounts help to make sure they have enough money as well as numbers. Pre-order means that we can also make more sales.

• Pizza Days (Caryn)

Caryn is still on for running the Monday Pizza Program again this year. We will be using the same vendor as last year, Panago. However, they increased in prices this year. This will squeeze some of the profits made.

• Sub Days (Ana)

Ana is still on for running the Friday Submarine Days Program again this year.

9. AGM Portion led by Dennis Paré

- Nomination of voting members:
 - Call for new nominations
 - Vote to elect new members
 - Nomination and Election of the 2022-2023 Executive:
 - Chair - Melissa Extross
 - Vice Chair - Ahmed Abobeid
 - Secretary - Abrar Ali
 - Associate Secretary - position vacant
 - Treasurer - Kathy Falovo

The Council has voted. The 2024-2025 Council is composed of 19 voting members, AV Administration representative(s) and AV Teacher representative(s).

September Funding Requests:

BBQ at Costco \$899 - approved
Tables - \$908 for 4 from Costco - approved

10. Discussion items and New business

Movie nights, student clubs encouraged to sponsor them

67s ticket fundraiser—should we run it again this year? Council in favour. Aaron and Francis to run that again.

Snow Out, Blow Out scheduled for October 19th. Please keep an eye out for upcoming promotions regarding this event.

- October meeting - in person

11. Next meeting: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 (In-person meeting in the Library rm 219)