

Alta Vista School Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

1. Welcome and Introduction

Chair Melissa Extross called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees.

2. Approval of Agenda

- Motion to approve the agenda: Abrar
- Seconded by: Sean
- Decision: Approved

3. Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

- Motion to approve: Aaron
- Seconded by: Caryn
- Decision: Approved

4. Chair's Report (Melissa Extross)

- Grounds Renewal:
 - Positive meeting with Marty Carr, attended by Melissa and Dave Etmanskie.
 - Marty is excited to support the project and has committed a donation from the councillor's budget.
 - Marty's team will identify potential grants and connect the council with developers for sponsorship opportunities.
 - No firm timeline yet; a follow-up meeting is scheduled for late January.
- Principal Profile Review:
 - An additional section on technological needs will be proposed.
 - Last year's profile serves as a good baseline.
 - The draft will be brought to the council for input before finalization.
- Constitution Review:
 - Ahmed is received some feedback from council members and is awaiting additional feedback.
 - Ahmed will consolidate input and present a revised draft at a future meeting.

5. Administrative Report (Dennis Paré, Principal)

- EnviroCentre Traffic Assessment:
 - Conducted a drop-off assessment in November.
 - Recommendations included:
 - A safety blitz campaign involving staff and volunteers.

- Improved signage and consistent enforcement by Ottawa police and bylaw officers.
- Extending no-stopping zones east of Ridgecrest.
- A follow-up meeting with bylaw decision-makers will be explored, possibly with Marty's assistance.
- Safe Schools Committee:
 - The committee plans to meet in January to promote safety initiatives.

6. Teacher's Report (Stephanie Hindle)

- Schoolwide Events:
 - a. Farewell to Principal Dennis Paré
 - The entire school gathered in the gym to bid a heartfelt farewell to Principal Paré.
 - Students, and staff shared warm wishes and celebrated his contributions to the school community.
 - b. Rag and Bone Puppet Theatre – "Hat Trick":
 - A performance featuring a mix of skits, poems, and stories about hats.
 - Students from Kindergarten to Grade 5 were highly engaged and demonstrated excellent behavior during the show.
 - c. Holiday Choir:
 - AVPS choristers practiced twice a week since early December, singing in class and hallways to spread holiday cheer.
 - Students learned "Feliz Navidad," with a Grade 6 student teaching pronunciation and meaning in Spanish.
 - The choir is preparing for the Winter Concert, creating excitement across the school.
- Kindergarten:
 - a. Outdoor Activities
 - Students enjoyed sledding, shoveling, and exploring the snowy environment.
 - Teachers emphasized outdoor safety, including avoiding snowball fights, staying off slippery surfaces, and using tools like shovels safely.
 - b. Science Experiments
 - Hands-on activities explored the properties of snow and ice, such as observing candy canes in liquids and comparing the effects of salt on melting ice cubes.
 - c. Dance and Music:
 - The rainbow portable speaker, purchased with council funding, has been used for outdoor dance parties, which students have loved.

- Primary (Grades 1-3):
 - a. Classes EF2A, EF2B, and EF2/3A engaged in a workshop led by Garnet Moore from the Wabano Centre. Students learned about the Seven Grandfathers – values central to Indigenous culture.
 - b. EF3A and EF3B applied math skills by organizing Food Drive donations, integrating learning with community service.
 - c. EF1B participated in a drama workshop focused on projecting voices, teamwork, and thinking quickly in improvisational settings.

- Junior (Grades 4-6)
 - a. Four teams, involving over 80 students, participated in Bordenball tournaments in December, thanks to parent volunteers and council-funded buses. One AVPS team placed second!
 - b. R4/5A students honed their acting skills.
 - c. Grade 6 students worked on math games focusing on integers.
 - d. The Grade 6 Tradition Project encouraged students to explore and present cultural and personal traditions.
 - e. Junior Acceptance Award Winners celebrated the values of acceptance, inclusion, and open-mindedness

- Intermediate (Grades 7-8):
 - a. Science Experiments
 - Weekly hands-on experiments, led by student teacher Mr. Slinger, have been a highlight.
 - Recent purchases of syringes and tubing will enable a deeper dive into pneumatic systems in January.
 - b. EF67 performed Robert Munsch books as plays for younger grades, fostering creativity and confidence in acting.
 - c. The club baked six types of cookies with Ms. Melissa and Ms. Bee, teaching teamwork and culinary skills.
 - d. The yearly dance workshop with Mr. Bill is planned for January, a favorite event among students. Videos of the dances will be shared with parents.

7. Treasurer's Update (Kathy Wrye)

- Financial Update:
 - Current Bank Account Balance: \$47,224.53
 - Adjusted Council Account Balance: \$48,812.64
 - Total Allocations to Date: \$36,851

- Funds Available for Requests: \$16,772
 - Voting on Funding Requests:
 - a. Library Furniture:
 - The library’s furniture needs modernization to create a more inviting, functional space for students. Upgraded furniture is expected to encourage students to use the library for various purposes, including individual work, group projects, and extracurricular activities such as the Chess Club.
 - Proposal: Allocate \$3,000 from the council’s budget to supplement \$10,000 from the school’s budget for library furniture upgrades.
 - Approved unanimously without objection.
 - b. Flavours of the World:
 - This event is an opportunity to celebrate cultural diversity within the school community. Funding will ensure high-quality performances and cover incidentals.
 - Proposal: Approve a budget of \$1,500 to support performances and incidental costs for the Flavours of the World event in 2025.
 - Approved unanimously without objection.

8. Committee/Event Reports and Updates

- Farm Fresh Fundraiser (Melissa): The event was well-organized, and the product pick-up process went smoothly. Feedback from parents was positive, with many appreciating the opportunity to support local businesses and the school simultaneously..
- Gifts of Giving (Elizabeth/Heather): Raised \$1,673.25. Council members noted that the event was very well organized, and students were very enthusiastic about its return, making it a successful and impactful event.
- PRO Grant (Nicole): The PRO Grant will be used to organize an educational event on technology, social media, and parenting. Two options were proposed:
 1. Raising Digitally Aware Kids
 2. Parent Network: Social Media and Your Kids:
 Council preferred the second option. A formal funding request will be submitted in January or February to finalize the session.
- Chili Night (Sara): Raised approximately \$350 and about 70 bowls of chili were served.
- December Movie Night: Raised \$698. Teachers ran bake sales alongside movie screenings successfully. The events were well-attended.

- Book fair bake sale raised \$375 and Chili Night raised \$355
- Book Fair: Total funds raised not disclosed yet. The book fair was successful but faced challenges with volunteer recruitment. Council suggested sending out one more volunteer recruitment emails in advance and improving signage to attract more attendees.

9. Discussion Items and New Business

- Attendance Review: Members found to have missed three consecutive meetings without notice will be removed from the council, as per council policy.
- Reminders:
 - Winter Break: December 23, 2024 - January 3, 2025.
 - A Spirit Wear Coordinator is needed for the 2024-2025 school year.

10. Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 15, 2025, Virtual (link will be shared closer to the meeting)