

Minutes
Alta Vista School Council Meeting
Wednesday, December 17, 2025 7-9 pm

1. Welcome and Introduction (Melissa Extross, Chair)

9 needed for quorum. (17 voting members).

- Melissa provided the welcome and introduction.
- Quorum was not met. Council did not proceed with review and discussion on any Funding Requests.

2. Approval of Agenda

- Motion by Lynn-Ann and seconded by Shawn.
- Approved.

3. Approval of last meeting's minutes

- Motion by Reuben and seconded by Micah.
- Approved

4. Chair's Report (Melissa Extross)

Open call for nominations for Associate Secretary

Anna Peacock has self nominated for the role

- No additional nominations were presented. Anna has acclaimed the role.

Update re: meeting with Robert Plamondon and Tabussum Khan

- Melissa attended the meeting on November 27 with 18 representatives from school councils within the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB).
- Supervisor Plamondon provided introductions and opened the meeting to council chairs to raise points. Several themes were discussed:

Elementary Program Review (EPR) and Boundaries

- Supervisor Plamondon confirmed EPR is cancelled for September 2026. They determined the changes were chaotic and costly (\$10M). They plan to implement a few things and it will be in phases. Rollout will be implemented slowly and with "thorough" feedback from impacted communities.
- Supervisor Plamondon confirmed that alternative schools will be phased out. He did not offer details on the rollout of Early French Immersion (EFI) in all

schools. Melissa asked what they plan to do with Review Alternative and if the rollout of EFI will impact boundaries. Response was not clear.

- Representatives were somewhat split on the pros and cons of EPR. For example, Pleasant Park would like new boundaries, as the school is approximately 400 above capacity as an EFI school.
- He noted that he does like the community model and there could eventually be boundary changes.
- School closures could be considered if the provincial moratorium on school closures is lifted.

OCDSB Finances

- Supervisor Plamondon noted they are doing a line-by-line review of the budget to find savings.
- Melissa asked if he could guarantee there would be no cuts at the school level as a funding priority for the Superintendency (teachers, support staff, custodial staff and administration). The response was that the Supervisor could not make that guarantee
- Supervisor Plamondon noted they want to attract Educational Assistants (EAs) with higher pay. It was also not clear how this fits with the budget.
- Supervisor Plamondon noted the funding model is tied to enrolment. OCDSB enrolment is declining. Melissa asked if they are trying to find out why, such as completing exit interviews, which they are not doing.
- OCDSB has sold one unused facility and is in discussion to sell two more. OCDSB has announced one new school.
- Supervisor Plamondon noted that school councils raise approximately \$22M annually while \$10M was not spent after last year. He would like to see all funding spent. This reality does not exist for AVPS School Council and its funding model as we try to ensure that we have funds in the bank for the next school year to have the same spending opportunities as the current school year.
- Supervisor Plamondon noted he cannot ask the Minister for new funding (although we do not know how this will work with the plan to higher more EAs with higher pays).
- School councils at the secondary level also discussed a program where high school students take an athletic leadership course to referee at the secondary and elementary levels. This program is related to reduced funding for referees. Possible consensus is that the program is positive theoretically but implementation is problematic.

How the Superintendency is Engaging with the Community

- Supervisor Plamondon cited possible context for his superintendency noting that the OCDSB received the largest number of complaints last year.

- Melissa asked how the Superintendency is engaging school councils not attending the current meeting. Supervisor Plamondon noted he talks to principals directly.
- In addition to the current meeting, Supervisor Plamondon has set up an email to hear from school councils, and other interested parties.
- Supervisor Plamondon has weekly meetings with principals. One common theme is the need for EAs across the OCDSB. Melissa asked who attends and if the diversity of the OCDSB is reflected. The response was 10 principals elected by peers, representing elementary and secondary schools, including two from the “hardest hit schools” in OCDSB—no further clarification was given on how “hardest hit” is being identified.
- Supervisor Plamondon spoke to the rollout of a Family Support Office.
- Supervisor Plamondon shared that he expects to be out of his position a year from now. He also shared his opinion that school board trustees may return with an advisory role and without financial responsibility.

Outcomes and Next Steps

- While the OCDSB is large and varied, and a lot of themes were covered, AVPS is not alone and there are common challenges.
- Melissa asked if Supervisor Plamondon would share feedback from what he heard and if school councils would get an opportunity to review. Response is that there will eventually be a report and review is a good idea.
- Supervisor Plamondon noted he will set up another meeting in the new year.

5. Administrative Report (Alina Orlea, Principal)

School Grounds

- AVPS is still hoping for the fencing to be completed at least by the spring. The school is in queue for this work. Weather may be a factor in delays.
- Five HVAC units remain uninstalled. Installation is scheduled for the summer. Multiple teams are checking the status of the units which have been onsite so long they are out of warranty. Contractors are in the process of bidding to complete this work. Principal Orlea and team are hopeful the project will work as heating is inconsistent and noisy. It is especially cold in the small gym.

Staffing

- There are two teachers retiring early in the new year. Principal Orlea and team found a candidate for one position. They will post the second position in the new year for the fourth time as a long-term occasional rather than permanent in the event that the OCDSB requires attrition at some point. While the position is not filled AVPS will seek daily replacements.
- Principal Orlea and team submitted a request for additional EAs that was denied.

- It remains a challenge to find occasional teachers. A school council member asked about high school students within the Ottawa Catholic School Board filling in as occasional teachers at the elementary level. Principal Orlea shared that the current AVPS practice is to use university level students as emergency occasional teachers if qualified teachers are not available. A school council member asked if parents could meet this need. Principal Orlea noted that this is technically possible and AVPS could consider parents as a last option for emergency occasional teachers while following the screening and interview process.
- AVPS is the only school in the OCDSB to not require a class reallocation this fall. Principal Orlea shared that this positive outcome is thanks to using real numbers and good planning in the spring.

Academics

- AVPS is at or above target for the standard Grades 3 and 6 literacy tests. Results have improved from the year before.
- Principal Orlea thanked school council for ongoing support for the administration and the activities council leads and funds.

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

Update on School Activities

Kinder

- The Kinder's enjoyed the activities by Rag and Bone Puppet Theatre as well as Crock a Doodle where they made ceramics for families.
- The Kinder's are also enjoying their new sensory bins funded by school council.

Primary

- The Ottawa Humane Society held a virtual visit for Grade EF1B that went well.
- Primary students enjoyed a few activities including Rag and Bone Puppet Theatre, Luv2Groove and STEAMPunks Discovery Lab.
- Student participation in the signing club is high. All students are enjoying learning about musical notation and playing the recorder.
- Grade 8 reading buddies are visiting Grade 1 classrooms.
- The Primary Grades are looking for books especially graphic novels.

Junior

- An event called "Find Your Passion Day" was organized for junior students.
- Junior students are participating in regional sport tournaments. It was noted that funding for tournaments is being cut by the OCDSB.
- Junior students wrote letters of gratitude to residents of Perly Health.

Intermediate

- Intermediate students are participating in regional sport tournaments.
- The Ottawa Rowing Club held a free workshop for intermediate students. They brought in several rowing machines and other workout equipment.
- Intermediate students had the opportunity to participate in a few learning sessions by Rideauwood Addiction and Family Services (gaming), CHEO YouthNet (neurodiversity) and Level Up! (skilled trades).
- The Holiday Concert was held on December 12 and was a great success. The concert features Grade 4 to 8 students in the concert and string bands.

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

Financial update

- Funding for the current year is \$57,102:
 - Total allocated to date is 25,545;
 - Remaining funding is 26,290.
- \$8,754 has been raised as revenue so far this year.

Review and discussion on Funding Requests

- Council did not proceed with this as quorum was not met.

8. Committee/Event reports and updates

- **Gifts of Giving (Elizabeth/Heather)** – Raised \$1,600
- **Chili Night (Sara)** – Amount raised TBC
- **Purdy's (Mara)** – Raised \$1,030
- **67s Hockey Fundraiser (Francis/Aaron)** – Over 50% sold already
- **PRO Grant event (?)** – A council member has not indicated interest in submitting a proposal

9. Discussion items and New business

Motion to strike Grade 8 Leaving Ceremony Committee

This item was not actioned as we did not have quorum.

- **Reminder:**
 - **Winter Break (December 22, 2025 to January 2, 2026)**
- **Coordinators needed for the following events:**
 - **Silent Auction Coordinator (May)**
 - **New food program Coordinator (ASAP)**
- Melissa also raised that it would be ideal for a council member or parent to shadow the Subway food program coordinator.

10. Next meeting: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 (Virtual)