

Agenda
Alta Vista School Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 25, 2026 7-9 pm

1. Welcome and Introduction (Melissa Extross, Chair)

- Quorum is 7, we have 11 in attendance

2. Approval of Agenda

- approved

3. Approval of last meeting's minutes

- approved

4. Chair's Report (Melissa Extross)

- Removal of voting members due to non-attendance
 - N/A
- Upcoming Financial Audit
 - Week before March break the Board announced an audit of School Councils. Alta Vista has been selected due to a long gap since the last audit combined with us banking outside the school.
 - Looking for records for the last 4.5 years. Melissa and Kathy are actioning.
 - Are now aware of Pleasant Park also being audited

5. Administrative Report (Alina Orlea, Principal)

- Initial allocation of classes is expected next week, in preparation for fall 2026. Numbers and registrations are looking good (4 kinder, x2 Grd 1 + 1-2 split English only). Trying to avoid 6/7 split, but it'll likely be difficult.
 - Teachers have been asked for their preferences
- EQAOs (standardized tests for Grades 3 and 6) preparation; they will be held in mid May
- Spring concert rescheduled to May 14th (lots of kids will be in mini courses during original date)
- Teachers will be teaching the health curriculum in April-May; letters will be going out to parents to let parents know they can ask for kids to be removed from this learning if that is their personal decision. Typically grade 4 and up
- Board update coming about lead in water. Don't have the details for AVPS at this time.

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

- Kinders C/D had Scientists in School
- Grade 1s had field trips to Museum of Nature & Science & Tech
 - A1 learned about invertebrates
- Grade 2s cookie decorating to work on procedural writing
- Ms Hindle's 5 & 6 class came to teach the grade 1s Math games
- Grade 2 & 3: Author visit from Cynchita Windor

- Grade 4: Luv2Groove happening now & exploring careers with Skills Ontario Workshop
- Grade 5- Dry ice sublimation Workshop
- Junior Tripleball- Grade 8s volunteered to referee the tournaments!
- Ringette team started this year by Ms. Brooks
- Girls & boys basketball teams: Ms. paoulias and Mme. Connelley
- Pickleball: lines getting painted soon, everyone is very excited!
- 88% of all Gr 7&8s belong to a club or team!
 - Teachers are using this info to make sure everyone gets to participate
- Pink shirt assembly went well!
- Library got new books and always accepting donations

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

- Financial update
 - Received \$5K cheque for grounds renewals from a donation
 - Mabel's Labels check received
 - \$50K in account now, \$17K spent this year, \$35K approved
 - Raised \$5,500 in 1st half of the year, doesn't include pizza and subs
 - We may be in a position where we can move some remaining \$ to the ground renewal fund
- Audit
 - Last audit at this school was around 2015/16
 - Kathy and Melissa working to give the auditor what is needed (bank statements, receipts, etc.)
 - Current gap is the lack of deposit envelopes records - will work on addressing next year
- Review and discussion on Funding Requests
 - PE teachers ask ~ \$2,500 every year and wasn't on our list at the beginning of the year. We now have receipts for the \$2,500 and ask for another \$500 for new nets. - **Approved**

8. Committee/Event reports and updates

- Grounds Committee Update (Jen)
 - Met this month
 - Before EPR, lots of work went into planning for the kinder yard. Need ~\$100K to make this happen. Targeting summer 2027.
 - Have applied for some grants, there are also some challenges
 - Next will need to start designing and planning primary yard
 - Melissa asked for Alina to reach out to teachers for their ideas
 - Addressing issue of "mud pit"
 - Next meeting April 7th
 - Primary play structure
 - Priority for summer, likely will not be earlier
 - Alina should know more in June (what happened last year)
- Leaving Ceremony Committee Update (Steph)

- Email drafted to ask for more volunteers to have folks get involved in earlier grades
- Same as last year
 - 30 min Coffee & Cake
 - 2 hour party for the kids
- \$300 set aside for Coffee & Cake (could add \$100 more, but need to add to agenda for approval)
- Last year kids fundraised with tickets for the party
- Vanessa is liaison for grade 8 staff
- If virtual link is needed, just email the SC mailbox
- Spring Fair (Melissa)
 - Next meeting: April 16th Virtual
 - Auction items have started rolling in
 - No garbage truck, fire truck will be requested this week, Pedalheads confirmed
- Flavours of the World (Kathy/Heather)
 - Email went out this week for people to RSVP, posters at school & fence
 - Heather working on backpack flyers and games
 - Set up for hoop dancer
- Felix & Norton fundraiser (Anna/Heather)
 - Frozen cookie bags from Montreal
 - Council gets to keep any \$ over the \$12 cost
 - Okay to move forward with \$18 cost for each bag
 - Council is okay to move forward as a trial. Anna will respond to the company contact.
- Deals on Wheels (Anna)
 - Anna to meet with Melissa to discuss some logistical questions
 - Event scheduled for April 18

9. Discussion items and New business

- Unplugged Canada (Kathleen): [Sign the Pledge — Unplugged Canada](#)
 - Grassroots movement to delay use of smart phones to the age of 14
 - Ottawa chapter just started by Robyn Aaron
 - 106 participating schools
 - Pledge is parents agreeing to delay the use of smartphones for kids
 - Ask is to ask School Council to endorse
 - Email to parents
 - On Facebook page
 - Approved to move forward with supporting
- CAFCO Presentation about Mental Health Supports (Megan)
 - Bilingual, multi disciplinary clinic for children, youth, and adults
 - Therapy offered virtual and in person
 - 8 Group programs
 - “Don’t flip your lid” program for kids Gr. 1-6 that are struggling with emotional regulation

- Also do specific presentation and workshops for schools
- More information on the flyer
- 2SLGBTQIA+ parent working group (Mike)
 - Putting together letter to Board, asking not to cut the fantastic programs that exist for these students. Asking for a meeting to discuss further.
 - Letter:
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/14HxtlXbkBhOGhD2KVgfTG92NBwGly8Xz/view?usp=sharing>
- Charity proposal (Vanessa/Jen)
 - Vanessa introduced the idea of starting a non-profit organization and registered charity
 - Vanessa to send a one pager to Melissa to bring to the board
- Reminder:
 - School closed on April 3 and 6, 2026
 - Grounds Renewal Committee meeting on April 7, 2026 at 8 pm (email sc-altavistaps@ocdsb.ca for meeting link)
 - Flavours of the World is April 9, 2026
 - Spring Fair Committee meeting on April 16, 2026 at 8 pm (email sc-altavistaps@ocdsb.ca for meeting link)
 - Deals on Wheels is April 18, 2026
- Coordinators needed for the following events:
 - Silent Auction Coordinator for next year's Spring Fair
 - New Subway Coordinator (Vanessa Podgurny volunteered)

10. Next meeting: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 (Virtual)