

## Draft Agenda AltaVista School Council Meeting Wednesday February 21, 2018

### 1. Welcome and Introduction (Leanna)

- Leanna welcomed, as Vice-Chair of the Council members, to chair on behalf of the Chair, Alison Millard.

### 2. Approval of Agenda and meeting minutes (Leanna)

- No revision/changes to previous meeting's minutes.

### 3. Chair's report

- a. One of AVPS long-time teachers, Mrs. Burke passed away. The council donated \$100 to the Canadian Cancer Society in her name.
- b. Volunteer Recruitment for Spring Fair: A sign-up sheet for parent/guardian volunteers will be posted at Movie Night. An announcement will be made at the meeting.
- c. Upcoming events – Spring Fair Organizing Meeting will be in early March; next movie night; March 2<sup>nd</sup>

### 4. Administrative Report (Guido Ronci)

**Staffing:** Mrs. Burke, a teacher for 13 years, passed away. Many staff attended wake and funeral.

- One of the Kinder teachers will be away until the end of the school year. A formal process will be launched to fill this position until the end of the school year.
- Mrs. K will be away for three weeks. A supply teacher (familiar to the school) will teach English and math to ensure continuity.
- Mr. Eptom will be absent for the remainder of the year. Mr. McLean will fill in.
- Mrs. Bell (Kindergarten) increasing her return to work; Ms. Deacon is full time.
- Ms. McCullugh is a new EA at the school.
- The Office Administrator position is staffed for the morning; a hiring process is ongoing for the afternoon.
- Currently, Alta Vista has only been allocated a half-time Vice Principal, despite a growing student population (according to the district needs assessment) and a previous full time Vice Principal. The Administration has raised this as an issue to the School Board.
- *Decision:* Council has agreed to write to the Superintendent (cc Trustee) to raise this an issue. Marty will send an example letter on which council can base a letter.

**District Needs Analysis** (as raised at last month's meeting): Board will proceed with consultation process. This will eventually tie-in with the Accommodation Review that was recently put on-hold.

#### **School Learning Plan:**

- In response to mathematics scores on recent EQAO tests, the School Board, and the school put a

strong emphasis on math in the school learning plan. After further analysis, it was discovered that number sense and numeration were a major concern. As mentioned in previous meetings, <Math Talks> were initiated in the school. The school also looked at assessment criteria for grading, compared grading assessment using student work, and reviewed progress on Math Talks.

- The School Board has released funds for <Math Leads> (i.e. Specified teachers) in order to provide them with specific training on mathematics. The challenge this year was that there were limited supply teachers to fill in for these teachers while they were away. The staff also worked on <feedback> to ensure that the student is involved in the learning themselves, and able to set goals for themselves, etc.
- Math nights are being created for the Kindergartens and Grades 1-8. This would be an information, hands-on session for parents/guardians on the curriculum and teaching in various grades.
- The school has also integrated math into all aspects of the curriculum to help reinforce concepts.
- Given the significant drop of scores for students in grade 6, a group of parents/guardians for this cohort would like a separate meeting on the analysis of EQAO scores.

**Tech Plan:** The Council had allocated \$5000 for chrome books; but given the School Board is now purchasing chrome books, the council agreed to re-allocate. Mr. Ronci has surveyed staff and has a list of technology requests.

**Front door:** Council members noted some inconsistencies in the locking of the front door. Mr. Ronci will follow up with staff. Additionally, council noted that some members/parents and community members had a misunderstanding regarding the rationale behind the locked door.

## **5. Teacher's Report (Chantal Smith)**

**Grade 6 camping trip:** A staff member has volunteered to lead the trip. Costs are expected to be lower than previous years.

**School Play:** looking for costumes.

A number of extra-curricular activities and events are happening including mini-enrichment, literacy club, Canterbury Strings concert; spelling bee and practice; G-Girls; mindfulness program (ArtsXpress), Black History Month (a drummer from Ivory Coast); basketball; intramurals and a primary concert.

## **6. Other items:**

a) **Pro-grants (Nancy):** Mindfulness grant (\$1000) has been very successful with over 40 kids participating at the lunch time sessions on tackling anxiety and stress through mindfulness. A parent talk will be held on March 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be a 2 hour parent talk with Jennifer Kay (mental health).

### **b) Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Council (OCASC) update:**

- Yesterday, at OCAS, the Process for Accommodation was released. If we have any comments on the process, comments are due March 23.
- Special Education Advisory Committee is looking for members. The focus of the committee will

be on the gifted program.

- The Board has put out the call for Community Recognition Awards. This is an opportunity to thank people who have been active and supportive, in 5 categories. Nominations are due March 23.
- The Board has an Arts Advisory Committee: Raising awareness of arts in learning. Arts Awards are coming.

**c) Mural (Nancy)**

A mini-mural project on-going. A quilt of the 7 Grandfather teachings will be created which focuses on learning about Indigenous learning as a part of the reconciliation process. Indigenous Elders will be involved to support this process.

**d) Yard and primary play structure**

**Play structure:** The play structure outside of primary wing will need to be replaced by 2024. The woodchips will also need to be replaced. There is still some grant money from the city (GIC - \$6000), in addition to money from the Day care for yard revitalization. Leanna agreed to work with Marty to hand over historical knowledge.

**e) Paul Davis** will be a speaker on April 10<sup>th</sup> (evening) to discuss internet safety. A very strong presentation, useful for parents/guardians with all students of all ages

**7. Next meeting**

- a. March 21