

18 August 2020, COW Budget Delegation – Janice Chamberlain

Thank you for all of the time and work that you have put into trying to prepare and support parents for back to school during this incredibly stressful and frustrating time. I know and appreciate that you have put countless hours and thought into the best options that can be in place for student and staff health and well being.

I am writing to mention a few of items of concern that are specific to but not limited to Alta Vista's PS community needs - proper ventilation, access to safe water and school use by third parties.

There has been a lot of discussion amongst the medical community about the need for proper ventilation in schools as a preventative measure to viral spread. Most of the discussions I've heard during board meetings have centered around the issue of proper use/maintenance of HVAC systems. It is my understanding that AV does not have an HVAC system as it relies on a boiler system to heat it.

-What precautions have been put in place to protect staff and students given there is not an HVAC system in the building - in the classroom, the bathrooms, stairwell and the hallways (the main hallway only has classrooms on one side of the hall and doors which would add ventilation are locked during the day for security)?

-What impact (noise level?) will additional ventilation protective measures have on student learning?

-Has AV been prioritized for window repairs as this is the only measure already in place to ventilate classrooms?

-How will measures be different to accommodate the differing styles of windows in the building - ie: windows that only open near the ceiling vs small sliding windows?

-Have any classrooms already been identified as inappropriate to house classes given the limited ventilation? If yes, which ones?

It is my understanding that water fountains will not be accessible to students but rather students are to bring their own water bottles and refill stations will be used. AV has a population of approximately 650 kids and only 2 refill stations.

-How will students be able to safely and adequately access drinking water given the minimal number of water refill stations?

-Will the spouts if the waterfill stations be properly cleaned multiple times during the day given that students will be quickly shoving their bottles under the spout likely leading to their contaminated bottle spouts coming into contact with the refill station spouts, a perfect conduit for the virus to spread.

Our community still has concerns about lead in the water due to the age of the water system and the testing protocol which only occurs in the summer months rather than when the boiler is running during the colder months as the boiler lines and water lines run in the same trenches. AV parent safety committee had planned to independently test the water for lead in the winter of 2020 but didn't have the opportunity.

-Is it possible to add filters to the water refill stations (when the boiler is being turned on) until parents can be assured that the drinking is safe for children to be ingesting?

Andrew Fleck is the third party care provider in our school which pulls students together from different cohorts and uses classrooms to run its programs.

-Where will the before and aftercare programs be run to ensure that there is not contamination

of the cohort space in the classrooms?

-If the program will continue to be housed in functioning classrooms, how will those classrooms be properly and fully sanitized prior to the classroom students entering the room minutes after the before care leaves the space and prior to the aftercare students entering the space? What is the minimum amount of time that the cleaning products must sit on the surfaces to allow them to be effective?

-Has ventilation in the Jungle Room been properly addressed due to the lack of HVAC system in that space and the lack of windows given the basement location?

Our school is used by Community Use Of Schools.

-How will the areas used by other groups be properly cleaned before and after use including the bathroom, change room and drinking water facilities that those groups have access to?

Thank you for any information you can provide regarding these concerns. I look forward to your response.