

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Dalewood Middle School

(In Person, Art Room)

October 23, 2024

MINUTES

In Attendance: Katie Hopkins (Principal), Chris Adeney (Teacher Rep), Andrea Ara (Co-Chair), Bill Heinrich (Co-Chair), Vanessa Alexander (Treasurer), Katie Davidman (Secretary), Christina Lootsma (Voting Member), Stan Visaticki (Voting Member), Natalia Gonzalez (Voting Member), Ashley Gaskin (Voting Member), Arun Vijayakumar (Voting Member), Rodrigo Venturelli, Alison Simpson, Sweni Sabaratram, Jasmine Gaskin, Heather Smithson.

Agenda Item	Comments
Opening	The meeting was called to order around 630pm with quorum. We opened with introductions, land acknowledgment and the singing of Oh Canada.
Notice of Minutes	The Minutes for the September 2024 meeting were accepted. They will be posted on the school calendar. Thank you to Rosalee for the template.
The Agenda	The agenda was circulated ahead of the meeting and was approved
Principal's Report	<p>Katie Hopkins Reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educational Assistant staffing was increased from 2 to 2.5. Steve Chase has joined two existing EAs• Yearbook Club has started with Ms. Coburn, Edge Imaging will produce them for about \$25• Two new clubs: Volleyball (Mr. Patocs) and Drama (Mr. Adeney)• Second School-wide belonging activities over two days completed today, 10 groups led by Grade 8 students and teachers• Progression Events from Grade 8 to Grade 9: Nov 6 experience a day in the life at Westdale; Info night Nov 21 6pm; plus more info to come in the new year• Fundraising to support student opportunities, equipment and trip subsidies has included COBs Bread Cards, Dominos Pizza Night and Weekly Pizza Days.• Oct 31 deadline for fundraising submission by Principal to HWDSB• School Improvement Plan: math and literacy goals• PA Days to include learning on: Islamophobia, Anti-Muslim Racism (Nov), Anti-Palestinian Racism (Nov), Antisemitism (Feb). <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There was clarification that a consulting firm will be delivering the anti-racism training to teachers on the November 1st PA day, the purpose is for staff learning and to better know the students and families we serve.• Theatre accessibility lift is in progress, likely complete by new year

Teacher's Report	<p>Chris Adeney Reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletics going strong, volleyball teams now active • Remembrance Day Assembly being planned incl. Gr 7 Dundurn field trip led by veterans • Concert band rehearsals now going • Choir club now going • Maker Space being set up: looking for donations and ideas for activities. Some ideas were shared crocheting, origami, tinfoil LED kits (DIY electronics), sewing, gardening <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A big thank you extended to the teachers who are volunteering their time for all these clubs and activities <p>Action Taken: Natalia offered to take the lead on collecting donated items for the Maker Space using the neighborhood gifting group</p>
Chair's Report	<p>Bill Heinrich Reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarified the role of Council from the regulations • PRO (Parent Reaching Out) Grant Applications designed to engage parents. Up to \$1K. Deadline Nov 22 <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One drawback of past PRO grants is that a lot of work goes into bringing in a speaker and few attend. • Ideas were brainstormed under New Business
New Business	<p>To Brainstorm ideas to apply for the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant:</p> <p>Food Theme (11 Votes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching about food sustainability • Inviting a chef who can model healthy seasonal cooking • Hosting a local farmer's market, perhaps w/ prepared foods + talks • Tie this into the Maker Space: growing plants/student garden/greenhouse • Involve foods and families of different cultures <p>Transportation Theme (4 votes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation modes to school like the Columbian Cyclovia festival <p>Art/Garden Theme (4 votes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage parents in designing an art or garden project. • Hire a community artist to paint a mural on the wall <p>Games Day / Week Theme (was tabled to non-grant ideas)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sports/fair/circus/arts day/ week for kids and parents to come together and play

	<p>Anti-Bullying Theme (was tabled to non-grant ideas)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite a professional to speak about bullying. It was named that the teachers are receiving this education currently <p>Additional notes shared about the grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$500 for school parent community engagement could be used with the PRO grant • It was clarified that staff don't have to attend the parent engagement activity <p>Action Taken: Bill, Christine, Sweni, and Vanessa volunteered to form a sub-committee to write and submit a PRO grant application on the theme of Food because it received the most votes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was named that we could still decide to pursue the other ideas as part of council priorities outside of the granting process: Transportation, Art/Garden, and/or Anti-Bullying. <p>In the process of brainstorming ideas for the PRO Grant, ideas also emerged about how to engage / support the students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideas related to both feeding kids and educating kids about food were suggested: Rodrigo suggested bringing food from the farm once weekly to serve the kids a breakfast / snack/ lunch and also to have a farmer engage with the kids to educate • McQuesten Urban Farm has teachers, Grade 8s are keen to visit • Point of information: About 20-25 students in our school community receive food bags for the weekends. Funding from TasteBuds and another program (missed the name) support our efforts to feed students
Summary of Actions Taken	<p>Action Taken: Natalia offered to take the lead on collecting donated items for the Maker Space using the neighborhood gifting group</p> <p>Action Taken: Bill, Christine, Sweni, and Vanessa volunteered to form a sub-committee to write and submit a PRO grant application on the theme of Food because it received the most votes.</p>
Future Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Goals for Council – it was named that a number of ideas emerged today including the idea of engaging the school community around themes of food, transportation, art/gardening, and anti-bullying. • Snacks It was named by Principal Hopkins that snacks are eligible to be purchased for School Council with the \$500 for school parent community engagement. However, a brief discussion yielded that snacks are not a high priority for school council and the money

	would be better spent elsewhere, for example, in conjunction with the PRO grant. We will discuss this again as needed.
Next Meeting	Next meeting: Wednesday November 27, 2024, 630pm
Adjournment	We adjourned at 7:35pm