

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Dalewood Middle School

(In Person, Art Room)

January 29, 2025

MINUTES

In Attendance (15 Total) In Person (14): Katie Hopkins (Principal), Mr. Adeney (Teacher Rep), Mme. Anna Parsons (Teacher), Andrea Ara (Co-Chair), Bill Heinrich (Co-Chair), Katie Davidman (Secretary), Vanessa Alexander (Treasurer), Natalia Gonzalez (Voting Member), Rosalee Van Staaldunen (Voting Member), Christine Lootsma (Voting Member), Stan Visaticki (Voting Member), Rodrigo Venturelli, Sweni Sabaratram, Laura Waltman, Allison Henderson. In Attendance Virtually (1): Mutaz Arbab

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 November 27, 2024 meeting were approved.
The Agenda	The agenda was circulated and approved
Principal's Report	<p>Katie Hopkins Reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Math midyear assessment: trying something new, to expose students to EQAO-style experience, a consultant was involved• Belonging: school mission is to engage <i>every</i> student; the four values are compassion, dignity, trust, and joy; and there are 7 points of focus with progress on each (slides with details).• Grade 8s to lead another belonging day. It will be re-branded to appeal more to students, they will come up with a new name. Maybe a winter carnival theme.• Preparedness for the future info has been circulated. On February 13 Westdale is coming around the BluePrint option sheets. Planning My Way is a regularly updated online resource to help Grades 7s and 8s prepare for high school. Summer Reach Ahead allows Grade 8 to do a high school summer course before they enter high school. Deadline today but there is a Spring entry point if space.• Plan B Farms has been coming every Wednesday, providing a meal. It's been a popular program, and appreciation was expressed to Rodrigo for sharing his passion for farming and food. She has invited kids to bring their own containers, saves about 200 disposable plates that were otherwise being distributed. On Feb 22 she is going to the farm to do some work to express her thanks and she welcomes others to join her.• Grade 8 trip is organized, thanks to Mme. Parsons (more below).• Maker Space has been busy and appreciated, thanks to Mr. Adeney (more below).• Auditorium construction to begin around March 7 for 6 weeks to make it accessible.

	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several people expressed thanks for Plan B's work on Wednesdays that kids are enjoying it and learning to appreciate new foods. • Anyone interested in going to the farm on Feb 22 should contact Rodrigo. • Rodrigo could use reusable bowls with sporks for kids who forget to bring their own containers. • Slides with more details from this report to be sent out with the minutes
Teacher's Reports	<p>Mme. Parsons Reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 8 trip is planned for May 15 to Toronto from 9am-8pm. Ripley's Aquarium, Old Spaghetti Factory, Blue Jays Game. \$95. Fundraising is the Pita Pit Lunches. Focus on making it accessible. Anyone can attend even if they can't afford it. • Talent Show: hoping for student leadership to host Dalewood Has Talent. Students will MC and be in managerial roles. First general meeting has occurred, auditions next week, she will continue to report on progress. Likely date depends on auditorium construction. This might be used as a fundraising opportunity. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents expressed appreciation for Mme. Parson's work in organizing the Grade 8 trip. • Katie Hopkins shared that there will be no cost barrier for the trip, anyone who has a permission slip signed can go. There are also some other accessibility issues that are being addressed so that everyone can participate. • Foundation for Success grants are no longer available for trips or winter clothing. We made good use of these in past years. <p>Mr. Adeney Reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maker Space is popular and expanding. He thanked the community for the donated materials. We'll continue to need more materials and ideally also volunteers. It is now open about 3 periods a week, and is available for teachers to book or to sign out the bins. <p>Requested Materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ yarn, knitting needles, crochet needles ○ 3D printer, ○ laminator, ○ more snap circuits, ○ tiny led lights + coin batteries, ○ large canvas, ○ box of old toys, ○ extension cables and plug trees, ○ hot glue sticks and craft / popsicle sticks, ○ jewelry making, ○ stuffing for fabric

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ other ideas welcome • Drama club is happening weekly, they may write a collective script <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Adeney was thanked for his leadership in creating this space for students. Vanessa Alexander volunteered to come offer a knitting workshop. Mme. Parsons might be able to get some McMaster volunteers. Rodrigo volunteered to make papier mache creatures with the kids. Natalia volunteered to make jewelry with the kids.
Chair's Report	<p>PRO Grant Application Updates: Bill Heinrich</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$900 was awarded, thank you to all those who worked on this submission. The whole fund was distributed between all applicants. • Katie Hopkins shared that a \$500 top us available to us so total could be \$1400 • We identified that we'll need a process for spending • Katie Hopkins shared that the grant money went straight into the school budget, so individuals should not try to buy things and get reimbursed, Katie Hopkins should approve and procure things we need (or other staff). • Each workgroup gave an overview (here below) and is to return to next meeting with a written plan. <p>1. Garden Box (hopes to engage 25 families): So far: Arun Vijayakumar, Alison Simpson, & Rodrigo Venturelli: Katie Hopkins has requested approval for the piece of land. Once a piece of land has been granted, we identified that this workgroup needs to make a plan for how the land can be prepared, how families can get involved, and how the garden can be maintained for the first year. Rodrigo shared that he can provide the seedlings.</p> <p>2. Family Kitchen Movies (hopes to engage 30 families): So far: Andrea Ara, Sweni Sabaratram & Mr. McHarg. The plan is to invite families to make short videos on recipes or cooking hacks. A compilation will go out to the community accompanied by written recipes. Andrea has already contacted a few families and is soliciting a diverse range of inputs from different cultures and styles of diets. This workgroup wants to plan the communications to generate broad interest. They also want to develop guidelines for the videos to guide submissions. It was named that voice is more important than quality per se to be inclusive.</p> <p>3. Newsletter Links (10 families): So far: Laura Waltman & Rosalee van Staaldunin. The plan is to share vetted resources or links in the newsletter that already goes out to the community. This workgroup to decide on the content and frequency.</p>

	<p>4. Farmers Market at June Open House (hopes to engage as many families as possible): So far: Vanessa Alexander, Jasmine Gaskin, Natalia Gonzalez, Allison Henderson & Katie Davidman. On the evening of the Spring Open house when families are already here, we plan to invite farmers like Plan B and potentially others like the bicycle ice cream guy, and the Humble Bee. Katie Hopkins will generate a date. This workgroup to consult with Rodrigo about vendors and about a format that will work for vendors.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rodrigo suggested a plant sale, he's starting a cactus plant project • Appreciation was expressed for Katie Hopkin's support on all these projects • Groups to meet on their own and prepare a written report for next meeting
New Business	<p>Planning Time in Project Workgroups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We divided into our 4 projects groups to begin planning and make dates to meet again between council meetings
Summary of Parent Action Items / Commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 4 PRO Grant workgroups are to meet and prepare a written draft report of the plans for their project for discussion at next Council Meeting • Council members who were absent can join any group they would like and get in touch with the subcommittee members as listed above • Anyone who would like to go to Plan B Farm on Saturday February 22 with Katie Hopkins to let Rodrigo know • Vanessa volunteered to offer a knitting workshop in the Maker Space. • Rodrigo volunteered to make papier mache creatures with the kids in the Maker Space. • Natalia volunteered to make jewelry with the kids in the Maker Space. • Requested Materials for the Maker Space: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ yarn, knitting needles, crochet needles ○ 3D printer, ○ laminator, ○ more snap circuits, ○ tiny led lights + coin batteries, ○ large canvas, ○ box of old toys,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ extension cables and plug trees, ○ hot glue sticks and craft / popsicle sticks, ○ jewelry making, ○ stuffing for fabric ○ other ideas welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Plan B program needs reusable bowls with sporks
Next Meeting	Next meeting: Wednesday February 26, 2025, 630pm
Adjournment	We adjourned at 7:30pm and committees were invited to stay longer to meet.