

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Dalewood Middle School

(In Person, Art Room)

February 26, 2025

MINUTES

In Attendance (8 Total). **In Person** (8): Katie Hopkins (Principal), Andrea Ara (Co-Chair), Bill Heinrich (Co-Chair), Katie Davidman (Secretary), Vanessa Alexander (Treasurer), Sweni Sabaratram, Rodrigo Venturelli, Allison Henderson. **In Attendance Virtually** (0): No one. **Regrets**: Rosalee Van Staalduinen (Voting Member), Christine Lootsma (Voting Member), Natalia Gonzalez (Voting Member), Alison Simpson, Laura Waltman.

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 January 29, 2025 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">• Katie thanked us for work on PRO grant. She's been putting materials in the MS Teams Folder• Dalewood Spring Open House date has now been set: Thursday May 22nd 5-630pm. The staff meeting has also been set for that evening, increasing chances that staff can attend.• PA Day: teachers will engage about antisemitism via Facing History & Ourselves, and focus on the math curriculum• Human Development and Sexual Health Strand D Healthy Living coming up March/April, email went out today for parents who want their kids to opt-out, there is a parent guide as well. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was clarified that kids can't opt out of health teaching themselves, it would need to be parents who make that decision
Teacher's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No report this evening
Chair's Report	<p>Principal Placement Survey & Volunteer Policy Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We took about 10 minutes to name the qualities we value in a Principal at the request of the Board (Katie left the room). Andrea offered to upload our responses.• The Volunteer Policy Consultation is our homework, there is a brief online survey: https://ca.research.net/r/HWDSB_Volunteer_Policy <p>PRO Grant Application Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is only the April 23 meeting and then a meeting the night before the May 22 event, so planning will have to happen between meetings going forward.

New Business	<p>PRO Grant Group Reports:</p> <p>Budget Update by Vanessa: \$1400 budget, has to be spent. Vanessa would like to get an idea by March 26th about each sub-group's budget line needs. There will then be a process for requesting an expenditure.</p> <p>1. Garden Box Report: (Group members are Arun Vijayakumar, Alison Simpson, & Rodrigo Venturelli): One concern is that there isn't sun in the spot of land we likely have. For that reason it was suggested by Rodrigo that we grow native perennials, which is still a starting point for student engagement, which could then be expanded in other ways. Perhaps families that are more interested could click on a QR code that would lead to more, and / or be invited to Rodrigo's farm. This year, we would create the foundation with the help of parents, and then next year we would get the students more involved. Rodrigo envisions a raised area of soil, no wood box required. Katie will invite Rodrigo to meet with her facilities point person who needs to know some details. They will meet after march break. Vanessa will attend the meeting to understand the budget needs. Rodrigo suggested that budget line items might include compost and plants, perhaps from Northland Nursery.</p> <p>2. Family Kitchen Movies Report: (Group members are Andrea Ara, Sweni Sabaratram & Mr. McHarg). This group prepared an invitation brochure to families, approved this evening by Council. It is to be sent out in the weekly email and sent home with the kids. The office administrator Kim is looking into getting this printed, budget estimate is \$200. Once videos have been submitted, one idea is to work with Grade 8 students to have them help compile the videos. The video compilation will then reside on the Dalewood website where it can be accessed into the future. It can also be playing in the background at the open house. We discussed using OneDrive instead of Google Drive for storing the videos, since the school already supports OneDrive.</p> <p>3. Newsletter Links Report: (Group members are Laura Waltman, Rosalee van Staalduinen and Christine Lootsma). This group circulated a draft survey to parents, to find out what kind of info families would like to receive. Council approved the survey. The survey will go out to parents in the weekly link. Katie is checking with communications about the potential of a moderated discussion for after families receive information, although it is controversial because without moderation a discussion can go sideways. Council members wondered if the survey and subsequent dissemination of requested info is enough engagement for the scope of this particular project.</p> <p>4. Farmers Market at May Open House Report (Group members are Vanessa Alexander, Jasmine Gaskin, Natalia Gonzalez, Allison Henderson & Katie Davidman). This group still has to meet and report back about the suggested format for the evening. We discussed showcasing the garden,</p>
--------------	--

	having the video compilation playing, and having food available. Teachers are to be consulted about their desired contribution, last year they hosted a scavenger hunt that engaged about 50 families. Cootes Paradise Grade 5 students typically attend, we can likely expect a couple hundred people overall. Last year there was also a Matilda teaser and food trucks. We discussed putting some budget money into having food from Plan B available at the event.
Summary of Parent Action Items / Commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 4 PRO Grant workgroups are to continue to meet and keep their projects moving along between now and next meeting in April. • Each PRO Grant subgroup will submit a written draft of their budget line item needs to Council by March 26 (one month from now). • Opinions about barriers/ improvements to volunteering at HWDSB to be shared via The Volunteer Policy Consultation: https://ca.research.net/r/HWDSB_Volunteer_Policy
Next Meeting	Next meeting: Wednesday April 23, 2025, 630pm
Adjournment	We adjourned at 7:36pm.