

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Dalewood Middle School

(In Person, Art Room)

April 23, 2025

MINUTES

In Attendance (14 Total). **In Person** (14): Katie Hopkins (Principal), Andrea Ara (Co-Chair), Bill Heinrich (Co-Chair), Kevin McHarg (Teacher Rep), Katie Davidman (Secretary), Vanessa Alexander (Treasurer), Sweni Sabaratram, Rodrigo Venturelli, Allison Henderson, Rosalee Van Staalduinen (Voting Member), Christine Lootsma (Voting Member), Natalia Gonzalez (Voting Member), Alison Simpson, Ashley Gaskin. **In Attendance Virtually** (0): No one. **Regrets**: none.

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 February 26, 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">• Grade 8 students are working on making a kid-friendly indigenous land acknowledgment• The upgrades to the auditorium are delayed but will hopefully be complete by mid-May. Talent Show will be outside if auditorium not ready in time.• There will be a Talent Show teaser at the May 22nd Open House in mid May.• Dalewood Musical 2025-2026 plan in place, to be announced soon.• Fundraising: Grade 8 Commencement and Trip: Pita Pit \$930 & Grade 8 Trip Donations \$453• Open Donations \$453 to date, to be used to subsidize field trips• Grade 6 & 7 End of Year Activities, Park and Bowling respectively• Garden has been improved, she proposed Saturday May 3 to invite everyone to build the garden, 9am-12pm, she has submitted a permit, followed by a visit to Plan B Farms• Dalewood School Organization – will be shared at May Council Meeting, the plans for the fall• 2025 Program Review Strategy – parents and staff are invited to give their input, specialty programs are being reviewed like French Immersion, and whether Grade 1 is the right entry point for that <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the Special Ed program get reviewed during the Program Review mentioned above or is that in a separate cycle? We noticed that it is included.• Can there be organized activities at the Grade 6 end of year trip to the park so that some kids aren't sitting around under-engaged. It

	<p>was noted that phones are much less of a problem now that they aren't allowed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there any sign that the French Immersion program is at risk? No.
Teacher's Report	<p>Kevin McHarg Reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trips: volunteers needed for the end of year trips, vulnerable sector screen is required June 12 is the Grade 7 trip to Splitsville Bowling May 6, 7 June 12 is the Grade 7 trip to the Dundas Valley RBG Today Grade 6 Choir and Band are rehearsing to perform at Commencement Yearbook Team is finishing up. Cost will be \$25 to break-even. All art submitted will be included. Thank you to M Adeney for the maker space Kevin offered to support students to edit the Digital Recipes videos using Streams on MS Teams There will be a Joy Assembly next week hosted by Mr. Matic's 6B Class (virtual since the auditorium is unavailable) The optional math Gauss test will be on Wed May 14th, M Parsons to start up the math club again in anticipation Belonging activity days are being planned by Grade 8, end of May and June, two days Talent Show has been rehearsing, Days 2 & 4. It will be an evening in June as well as a daytime performance in gym if not auditorium There is a basketball skills group on Wednesdays at second break Sports: Tues 29th sports meet, boys flag football May 12 and 22, May 30 girls flag football, ultimate Frisbee May 29th, it will be a co-ed team yet to come together <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re: media consent: the yearbook will not be placed online. The platform to make the yearbook is online, but the book not. Edge Imaging is the company involved. Katie Hopkins is thinking about whether we can create intra-murals to allow more kids to participate on sports teams It was proposed that at the open house we have QR codes for volunteering so we get more volunteers A parent asked how kids got involved in the talent show, they volunteered and auditioned, about 23 kids are doing it A parent asked how kids get involved in the Gauss Test, it's a mix of volunteering and being invited
Chair's Report	See below for PRO Grant Application Updates
New Business	<p>PRO Grant Group Reports:</p> <p>1. Garden Box Report: (Group members are Arun Vijayakumar, Alison Simpson, & Rodrigo Venturelli): The garden plot will be 12 square feet space on the side of the school accessible to water in the shade. We have</p>

	<p>most of what we need (shovels, compost, mulch). Katie proposed Saturday May 3 to invite the school community to come build the garden and then go visit the Plan B farm. Katie H proposed we include the caretaker's time in the budget for about \$365. Serviceberry trees will perhaps be sourced from WiffleTree (about \$40 each) and some flowers are being grown. A hose will be required (about \$100). Vanessa is preparing the budget. They may make a watering schedule for the students to help make sure new plants get established.</p> <p>2. Family Kitchen Movies Report: (Group members are Christine Lootsma, Andrea Ara, Sweni Sabaratram, & Mr. McHarg). Two videos have been submitted. Goal was 30 videos. Some people might be struggling to upload or follow through. One week left before deadline. Ideas included making prizes for people who submit, or pivoting to invite recipes. The subgroup will meet again to decide. It was clarified that the group seeks content from parents not kids.</p> <p>3. Newsletter Links Report: (Group members are Laura Waltman and Rosalee van Staaldin). There were fifteen responses to the survey. Links have been prepared to reflect the interest expressed in the survey and were circulated to this council earlier this week. Council approved that these links will go out with the weekly newsletter. The subgroup asked for more suggestions of food events and some ideas were offered.</p> <p>4. May Open House Report (Group members are Vanessa Alexander, Jasmine Gaskin, Natalia Gonzalez, Allison Henderson & Katie Davidman). At the May 22 Open House, we expect about 200 people or 60-70 families based on last year's estimated attendance, possibly more. There are 283 students at Dalewood. Staff will offer a scavenger hunt as they did last year, and the Talent Show will offer a teaser. Rodrigo agreed to sell prepared food on a pay-what-you-can basis, and possibly also to sell items by ChocoSol and/or Claire the Paletta vendor. We will promote the new garden and the kitchen videos. We will take pre-orders for the Dalewood Yearbook, and for Spiritwear, and have information on how to become a Dalewood volunteer. West End Sports is donating 15 spiritwear t-shirts which can be used as prizes for the Scavenger hunt.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kids haven't done seedlings but Rodrigo might bring some to the Open House • We might need some large foldable tables for this event, to be included in the budget for this 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 the next meeting / Open House.

Next Meeting	Next meeting: Wednesday May 21, 2025, 630pm
Adjournment	We adjourned at 7:32pm.