

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Dalewood Middle School

(In Person, Art Room)

June 18, 2025

MINUTES

In Attendance (13 Total). **In Person** (13): Katie Hopkins (Principal), Andrea Ara (Co-Chair), Bill Heinrich (Co-Chair), Kevin McHarg (Teacher Rep), Katie Davidman (Secretary), Vanessa Alexander (Treasurer), Rosalee Van Staaldunen (Voting Member), Christine Lootsma (Voting Member), Natalia Gonzalez (Voting Member), Ashley Gaskin (Voting Member), Sweni Sabaratram, Allison Henderson, Alison Simpson. **In Attendance Virtually** (0): No one. **Regrets**: Arun Vijayakumar (Voting Member), Stan Visaticki (Voting Member), Rodrigo Venturelli, Jasmine Gaskin.

| Agenda Item | Comments |
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| 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 May 21, 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">• Gratitude – Thank you for an amazing 2024 – 2025 school year!• Focus on board values this year: compassion, dignity, trust and joy• Partnership and community were important values this year• Staff Appreciation Lunch – A huge thank you!• Grade 8 Commencement – June 20 (Ceremony at Westdale followed by a dinner/dance at McMaster)• Dalewood School Council Annual Report (link to report). We may need to fundraise next year to be able to donate to Plan B and fund other initiatives• 2024 – 2025 Road Map (link to Road Map) – outlines the events of the year as they connect to the priorities from the school improvement plan• School Council Handbook (link to handbook). Available online. It addresses the Purpose, Role, Regulations, Membership and School Council Elections Procedures (Pages 4 – 8)• Auditorium should be ready for September• Staff Changes, new hiring is almost complete<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two retirements Ms. Coburn and Ms. Diacon• M Boissonneault moving to a physed position at another school• Mr. Iaccobucci moving into a FT position elsewhere• Ms. Gillespie, LTO, moving into a permanent position elsewhere• For the final week of school, Grade 8s who come into school are expected to stay rather than come and go throughout the day <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Role of Plan B next fall – is this a Council initiative or something else |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auditorium work will continue over the summer if need be |
| Teacher's Report | <p>Kevin McHarg Reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The digital recipes from the PRO grant are being put into one video, working with Sweni, should be ready for the Fall when it can continue /expand, perhaps into a cookbook fundraiser, maybe in collaboration with Plan B Gr 7 had a good end of year trip at Splitsville bowling alley Soccer tournament last Friday, 42 kids, about half of whom hadn't been on any other teams this year Choir and band have been working hard for commencement performances June assembly on Monday, talent show to perform, with MCs Grade 7 & 8 helping with Cootes Play Day Tuesday Grade 5 progression event was canceled due to fear of lightening. Katie will go there to talk to them instead <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Idea for Plan B have a drop off box spot at the school Dress Code for Choir / Band: light top and dark pants/skirt The School will have about 320 kids next year (1 remote class) |
| Chair's Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bill Heinrich expressed a big thanks to council members for a productive year with a positive culture, we thanked him in turn for his leadership and Andrea for getting us all started. Bill expressed openness to put himself forward for this role for one more year Elections to occur in the Fall – see more in New Business below |
| Treasurer's Report | <p>Vanessa Alexander reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The only budget we had this year was the PRO grant, as well as certain bits that Katie was allowed to support from her budget Budget summary was in Katie's Council report (see Principal's Report above), no further updates here Idea to fundraise for next year to have a budget for Council <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See new business for our discussion on fundraising ideas and priorities We learned that we can roll money over the years as long as we are transparent about what we are putting the money towards Councils have strict limits on how they can spend money, we identified they we need to learn about this (more in New Business) |
| New Business | <p>Prepare for fall elections and Fall 2025-2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invitation to reflect on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did we do this school year? Priorities for next school year? How could we fundraise to support priorities for next year? |

- What additional roles do we want?

Discussion Around **Roles** for Next Council:

- Maybe we could appoint a communications person to help promote us and our initiatives
- Distinction btw the role of a Council versus the role of a Home & School was described. Council supports and advises the Principal, and supports student interests and achievement, and the school improvement plan, all in prescribed ways with prescribed limits. Home & School is an arms length nonprofit that has more freedom to spend money in less prescribed ways
- Would we want to start a Home & School? The general feeling was that as long as we can accomplish our goals inside this Council we could remain as such. The spending of a Council however has prescribed limits that we need to learn. Katie could have Finance come to speak to us about our parameters and scope of our fundraising and spending

Discussion of Potential **Priorities** for Next School Year:

- Would we want an ongoing focus on food with the Plan B Wednesdays and a potential cookbook project and weekly food box option?
- Would we want to support additional trips or subsidize existing trips or bussing?
- Could we fund the soccer nets they have at Cootes for Dalewood?
- A shirt for each Grade 8 grad, rolled up with their diplomas?
- A community event with a partner like King West Books?
- Could we survey teachers to find out what they think the priorities are for the kids? Vanessa, Ashley and Bill agreed to spearhead this.

Discussion of **Fundraising** Ideas for next school year:

- Something equivalent to the Pumpkin Hike at Cootes that brings out the whole community, maybe a Board Game Night, Trivia Night, Escape room, Haunted House / Fright Night like at Ear Kitchener, a play (although that is already sold out to parents)
- Consult with a Dundas School that has successful fundraisers
- Are there other grants we could get
- Cookbook fundraiser idea to build on this year's work
- Book fair (however, we learned that the money raised from a Scholastic book fair is only to buy more books, so it won't raise money for Council, but still be good to help out the library)
- A King West Books partnership for some kind of community event
- Cobbs bread raised about \$500-1000 so council could do that
- Spiritwear is for the school budget and doesn't raise a lot
- Dominos pizza could be an option, also doesn't raise a lot

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| Summary of Parent Commitments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher survey about priorities for the students: Ashley, Vanessa, Bill to prepare for September. We will be careful not to “compete” Principal Hopkin’s needs and priorities. |
| Next Meeting | Next meeting: Wednesday September 17, 2025, 630pm |
| Adjournment | We adjourned at 7:42pm. |