

## SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Dalewood Middle School

(In Person, Art Room)

May 21, 2025

### MINUTES

In Attendance 9, In Person Sweni Sabaratram, Bill Heinrich, Andrea Ara, Alison Simpson, Natalia Gonzalez, Katie Hopkins, Rodrigo Venturell, Katie Hopkins (principal), Anna Parson (core French teacher), Allison Henderson (recording minutes) In Attendance Virtually: 0

Regrets: Katie Davidman (secretary) and Vanessa Alexander (treasurer), Rosalee Van Staaldunen, Christine Loostma, Stan Visaticki, Ashley Gaskin, Arun Vijayakumar

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 April 23, 2025 meeting were approved.  Natalia moved approval – approved Sweni (1), Rodrigo (2)
The Agenda	The agenda was circulated and approved.  Natalia moved approval – approved Sweni (1), Rodrigo (2)
Principal's Report	Katie Hopkins Reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update re: Dalewood participation at HWDSB Speaks event – two students participated</li><li>• Grade 8 trip – organized by Ms. Parsons, attended with Ms. Hopkins providing accessibility support – positive experience for students (Ripley's Aquarium, Jay's Game, lunch at Spaghetti Factory)</li><li>• Shared school organization for 2025 – 2026; will not be down any classes – plan is to stay the same as current year – 12 Homeroom Classes</li><li>• HWDSB has released survey seeking feedback on programming – survey closes June 11</li><li>• Saturday Gardening Event – Rodrigo facilitated building of the school garden; families attended – families then invited to Plan B Farm. Discussed idea of Dalewood students splitting, planting, selling cactus at markets to help support the school Wednesday meals from Plan B.</li><li>• Sensory Room – being created at Dalewood and will be ready to support students next year. Creating an inclusive space for new students coming in from Cootes and existing students. Working with an occupational therapist to develop plan for selecting items for space.</li><li>• Open House – tomorrow night, plan shifting due to rain. Food will be provided – subsidized by Parent Reaching Out grant, families</li></ul>

	<p>invited to make a donation for Plan B Farms. Natalia, Bill, Sweni, Allison arrive 4:45 to assist with welcoming/directing families.</p> <p><b>Invoice by May 30 to Bill for food costs of open house event.</b></p>
Teacher's Report	<p>Anna Parsons Reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports – Dalewood did very well at Swim Meet event. Football, ultimate Frisbee, track and field events scheduled.</li> <li>• Art Club – ongoing</li> <li>• Band – ongoing</li> <li>• Math Club – completed Gauss test, students performed well – 70 students participated in club</li> <li>• Belonging Activities postponed to next week due to the rain (rescheduled for next Tuesday)</li> <li>• Grade 7 trip to Splitsville</li> <li>• Grade 8 games-based inclusion day with other feeder schools for Westdale Secondary School on Monday</li> <li>• Grade 8 Commencement – no limit on event attendance, Westdale large space, 73 students will be graduating and 5 remote students</li> </ul>
Chair's Report	See New Business
New Business	<p>PRO Grant Updates:</p> <p><b>1. Garden Box Report:</b> (Group members are Arun Vijayakumar, Alison Simpson, &amp; Rodrigo Venturelli): Event went well, families enjoyed.</p> <p><b>2. Family Kitchen Movies Report:</b> (Group members are Christine Lootsma, Andrea Ara, Sweni Sabaratram, &amp; Mr. McHarg). Some videos did come in, not high volume. Mr. McHarg will assist with editing/sharing process.</p> <p><b>3. Newsletter Links Report:</b> (Group members are Laura Waltman and Rosalee van Staaldunen). Members not present for meeting report today.</p> <p><b>4. May Open House Report</b> (Group members are Vanessa Alexander, Jasmine Gaskin, Natalia Gonzalez, Allison Henderson &amp; Katie Davidman). As discussed above in Principal's Report.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff Appreciation Lunch – Andrea described event last year; group agreed to facilitate again this year (June); request to include the four recipes from the videos</li> <li>• Talent Show – acts will be incorporated into the final school year assembly; 8 acts. Team discussing if families of performing students will be invited to assembly. More information to come to families. Auditorium is being worked on still; will be ready for next school year.</li> <li>• Student Council – in the past there has been structured councils; this year more informal – students engaging in other leadership</li> </ul>

	roles, for example, planning the dance. Impression is that this has worked better to ensure more students involved.
Summary of Parent Action Items / Commitments	Ms. Hopkins to send invoice to council by May 30 for food costs from Open House Event
Next Meeting	Next meeting: Wednesday June 18, 2025, 630pm
Adjournment	We adjourned at 7:30pm.