

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Dalewood Middle School

(In Person, Art Room)

October 29, 2025

MINUTES

In Attendance (13 Total). **In Person** (13): Katie Hopkins (Principal), Kevin McHarg (Teacher Rep), Bill Heinrich (Co-Chair), Diana Moscu (Co-Chair), Katie Davidman (Secretary), Natalia Gonzalez (Voting Member), Sweni Sabaratram (Voting Member), Allison Henderson (Voting Member), Susanna Galbraith (Voting Member), Andrea Ara (Voting Member), Alison Simpson, Rodrigo Venturelli, Sevda Lindo. **In Attendance Virtually** (0): No one. **Regrets**: Rosalee VanStaalduin

Agenda Item	Comments
Opening	The meeting was called to order around 630pm with quorum. We opened with introductions, land acknowledgment (with a highlighting of the pillars of the Palisade which wrap around students to support them) and the singing of Oh Canada.
Introductions	We shared our names, our child's name and how we'd like to reach out to someone in the Dalewood community who would like to be involved.
The Minutes & Agenda	The Minutes for the September 19, 2025 meeting were circulated ahead of this meeting and approved. The agenda was circulated and approved.
Principal's Report	Katie Hopkins • Summary of PA Day: Part I: teachers got into working groups to flesh out the 5 priorities of the school improvement plan: numeracy, literacy, preparedness for future, well-being, and belonging. Part 2: compliance with Caring and Safe Schools policies • School Assembly on personal mobile devices – assemblies to gather student voice and also remind them of the policy. It now gets logged when a phone is found, with f/u from Principal Hopkins first to call parents and have a conversation and second time to have the parent pick up the device. It has made a huge difference to disruptions. • Human rights assembly – students watched a video about community and being kind. The message was if you see something say something so everyone's safe. • High school info nights coming up for Grade 7 & 8s – Nov 19th 6-8pm at Westdale High including info, school tour, and then FI info. Other info sessions such as Westmount or Glendale are also listed on the flyer. • School trip: Gr. 8's to Westdale for a day in the life of high school • School trip: whole school to McMaster to watch women's Soccer • Volunteers: Principal Hopkins is connecting with parents • Partnership with Plan B Farms: lunches to start again Nov 19th at second break. Goal is to have students to bring their own cutlery / containers. We're looking at how to cover Plan B's costs.

	• Dance/Games Room for Oct 31 • Fundraising Plans: Last year: pizza days (\$7000), Dominos dough raiser (\$500), Cobbs Bread (\$270), pita pit lunches (\$2000). These funds supported 20% of students per class received trip subsidies, about 5% get pizza provided (10-15 students), and 8 commencement hoodies (8-10%). This year proposed same fundraisers with allocations of: DPA equipment (\$500), trip subsidies (\$1000) commencement subsidies(\$1000), and student laptops (\$2000). Discussion: • Rodrigo offered the idea of a plant sale with the cactus plants that he's grown – income would go to the Plan B lunch program. Kids could get involved in planting them.
Teacher's Report	Kevin McHarg Reported: • 2nd round auditions have started for the school play. 80 students auditioned, now narrowed to 40 students, likely a double cast again, and there can be a role for anyone who still wants it. There will also be roles for painting sets and other backstage roles. • Safe Space now Positive Space meets Tues / Thurs first break, also now welcomes neurodiverse students as well as LGBTQ • Maker space – old toy parts welcome to make a school-wide sculpture • Library drawing contest: draw favorite book character as a ghost concludes Friday • all 4 volleyball teams are going • Games Club: D&D Day 4 Discussion: • Appreciation was expressed for all these activities
Co-Chair's Report	Diana Moscu reported • The Co-Chairs, Principal and Secretary attended the Student Council networking and training event. We learned that there is a Foundation that allows parents to get tax receipts for fundraising donations. We otherwise learned that we are lucky to have a positive friendly atmosphere on our Parent Council, and that we are otherwise doing the same sorts of activities that other parent councils are doing.
New Business	• Council Priorities: members were invited to brainstorm priority events. Everyone placed their ideas on post-its which were then organized by theme. Broadly we had proposed a family event, an arts/cultural/music event, and a food event. Our ideal aim would be to host one event each season of Fall, Winter, and Spring.

PRO-Funds Request for Coordinator	Allison Henderson volunteered to put all the ideas into a spreadsheet. She and Katie Davidman and Principal Hopkins volunteered to then gather to propose a shorter list of specific events from which council will choose, and then we will draft a grant proposal for a PRO Grant due Nov 21.
Activity Chair Requests	Allison Henderson volunteered to lead a committee for one event, other committee chairs still needed
Summary of Parent Commitments	Allison Henderson and Katie Davidman to work towards the PRO Grant
Next Meetings	The Fall School Council Meeting Dates are: Wednesday November 26th, 2025, 6:30pm-7:30pm, Dalewood Art Room Wednesday December 17th (if needed), 2025, 6:30pm-7:30pm, Dalewood Art Room
Adjournment	We adjourned at 7:38pm.

Additional information...this was not presented at the October meeting. We present it now to share additional information from the community. Please note the activity date and join as you are able/interested. This is **NOT** a Dalewood school council event or Dalewood School event.

From: Kidical Mass Hamilton Communications <communicationskidicalmassham@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:38 PM

To: Dalewood Council <dalewoodSC@hwdsb.on.ca>

Subject: Kidical Mass Monthly Ride Invitation

You don't often get email from communicationskidicalmassham@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Afternoon Dalewood School Council,

My name is Liam O'Reilly, a McMaster student reaching out on behalf of Kidical Mass Hamilton to cordially invite you to join us (in whatever capacity you're comfortable) on our bonus monthly ride led by the bike mayor of Hamilton Mike Anderson.

Here at Kidical Mass we work with community partners like Cycle Hamilton and Daily School Route (whom I understand you've collaborated with in the past) to create community events and activities that bring families together to enjoy cycling in a safe & fun environment.

We're currently planning a special ride (tentatively) on Saturday, November 8th, at 10am, involving a slow-roll group biking session from Dalewood to Churchill Park. Incentives including snacks,

refreshments, and merchandise will be provided by us, but we are happy to accommodate for any needs you may have.

I believe this opportunity coincides with 3 of your 5 school council priorities you will be discussing in your upcoming meeting:

1. Community building and connection
2. Inclusive engagement
3. Hands on/Active participation

We would be truly grateful if you could consider discussing this opportunity at your upcoming meeting or with interested families.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you'd like to chat further. I'd be happy to connect by phone or email to answer any questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Liam O'Reilly

Kidical Mass Hamilton | 647-926-6783

Check out some of our work here! <https://www.instagram.com/kidicalmasshamilton>