

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Dalewood Middle School

(In Person, Art Room)

January 21, 2026

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), Vanessa Alexander (Treasurer), Natalia Gonzalez (Voting Member), Sweni Sabaratram (Voting Member), Andrea Ara (Voting Member), Allison Henderson (Voting Member), Ashley Gaskin (Voting Member), Rosalee VanStaalduinen, Jean Brown. **In Attendance Virtually** (0): No one. **Regrets**: Alison Simpson

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. Ms. Hopkins informed us that Mr. Empringham is attending continuous learning on indigenous themes.
Introductions	We shared our names, our child's name, and one surprising thing that happened in the last month,
The Minutes & Agenda	The Minutes for the December 17, 2025 meeting and the agenda for today were approved.
Principal's Report	<p>Katie Hopkins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gratitude for identity collages in front display case• Fundraiser Partnership being explored with RealFruity perhaps an ice cream card• Belonging Activities – Gr 8 are working on leading another event• Progression Timelines: Gr 8 making class selections for Gr. 9, presentation Jan 22 6pm at Westdale for parents• Save the Dates: Grade 8 Trip Wed April 29 and Commencement Thursday June 18th <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cell phones question: what are the rules and what is the practice? Katie explained HWDSB policy: during instructional time students can't have phones out unless teacher discretion indicates a phone is allowed. This also applies to recess. When a cell phone is found in use without permission it is placed in a pocket and Katie tracks and follows up with the family if it's ongoing. If it happens a third time a care giver will be invited to pick it up. Students are permitted to take their phones when they go off campus at recess. Students cannot use phones to order food for delivery to the school.
Teacher's Report	<p>Kevin McHarg Reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jr. Band has started, almost 20 kids came out. Sr. band members from last year are mentoring, it might become one band.• Rehearsals have started for the Charlie Choc factory Musical

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive space club (rebranded from safe space) are doing posters on neurodivergence • Tues morning basketball with Katie brings out about 20-25 kids <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The musical will likely be at the end of May, dates to be confirmed. There are six performances all together including the dress rehearsal performed for the student body.
Co-Chair's Report	<p>Bill reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congratulations to the PRO grant team—funded \$806 <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • see new business
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRO Grant Planning Cinema Night Allison: The Westdale approves our plans to have a bake share/sale and art on the screen. They are flexible about us using their concessions and ticketing or not, they could support us to save money in a number of ways. We agreed: to confirm the April 9th movie night date, pay the \$200 deposit, and send film ideas to Allison (can't be Disney). Allison will clarify with the Westdale whether our film ideas are viable and then we could have the kids vote from a shortlist. Allison will also clarify the format required for the art clips. We could play a teaser of the play at movie night. Allison to bring a list of tasks to next meeting. • Cootes & Dalewood Councils Partnership- Andrea: is there interest in meeting / collaborating in any way? A number of people expressed interest in keeping the lines of communication open between the two councils. Ideas included exchanging and borrowing ideas, workshop evenings where parents volunteer; Grade 8s mentoring clubs for Cootes school; more Play Day coordination; a joint end of year picnic. We agreed to continue this conversation next meeting. • Canada Post Community Foundation Grant- Diana: proposed that we apply for funding for something and showed examples of past successful grants. We began to brainstorm ideas: field trip subsidies, Plan B partnership, laptop cards. Swani and Vanessa volunteered to work with her, to be continued next meeting.
Summary of Parent Commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members: to send movie ideas to Allison for Westdale Theatre movie night by Jan 22 • Allison: to liaise with the Westdale Theatre to confirm April 9th date, verify film ideas to result in a shortlist, clarify format required for our art reel.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allison to bring a list of next tasks for the movie night to next meeting • Katie H. to manage the deposit to the Westdale Theatre
Next Meetings	<p>The Next School Council Meeting Dates are:</p> <p>Wednesday February 25, 2025, 6:30pm-7:30pm, Dalewood Art Room</p> <p>Wednesday March 25, 2025, 6:30pm-7:30pm, Dalewood Art Room</p>
Next meeting topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRO Grant Movie Night Project Updates & Assign Tasks • Next Steps for Dalewood & Cootes Councils Partnership • Canada Post Grant Application Updates & Next Steps
Adjournment	We adjourned at 7:35pm.

Reminder of Key priorities from September meeting (summary from minutes)

Sticky Notes 2025 - 2026 Parents Reaching Out Grant_2025-11-06_22-10-04.pdf

- **Community Building & Connection** - Creating opportunities for parents, families, and students to connect meaningfully in person
- **Inclusive Engagement** - Reaching communities and parents who haven't been involved yet
- **Showcasing Diversity** - Celebrating the diverse skills, talents, and backgrounds within the school community
- **Giving Back & Collaboration** - Work together respectfully to support the school and each other
- **Hands-on/Active Participation** - Learning by doing through crafts, gardening, sports, and other activities