

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Dalewood Middle School

(In Person, Art Room)

April 22, 2026

MINUTES

In Attendance (12 Total). **In Person (12):** Katie Hopkins (Principal), Kevin McHarg (Teacher Rep), Bill Heinrich (Co-Chair), Diana Moscu (Co-Chair), Katie Davidman (Secretary), Vanessa Alexander (Treasurer), Rosalee VanStaalduinen (Voting Member), Sweni Sabaratram (Voting Member), Andrea Ara (Voting Member), Alison Simpson, Sevda Lindo, Jasmine Gaskin. **In Attendance Virtually (0):** No one. **Regrets:** Allison Henderson (Voting Member), Natalia Gonzalez (Voting Member).

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 shared that Mr. Empringham’s school-wide walk for learning about indigenous themes will be on May 12.
Introductions	In honor of April weather, we each shared a time when we felt both hot and cold.
The Minutes & Agenda	The Minutes for the March 25, 2026 meeting were approved, and the agenda for today was amended to add the staff appreciation lunch.
Principal’s Report	<p>Katie Hopkins Reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gratitude for our community • School Council Bylaws need to be passed, see below • Plan B Farms visits are going well, they are popular. Ideal budget would be \$300/visit, or \$1/child / week. We need to raise funds. See discussion below. • New School Website – coming Monday. • Guest Speaker: Aubrey Noronha (Hello Hope) was engaging. Students created slides with their reflections/learnings to be shared at the April Staff Meeting and at our next meeting • Realfruity Ice Cream Card Fundraiser – We have sold 65 ice cream cards at \$30 per card (Realfruity \$22.50; Dalewood \$7.50). Plan to distribute by May 1st; working with Jacob from Realfruity • Grade 8 Commencement Trip- Wednesday, April 29, 2026. Paid – 84/115 ; Donations - \$278; Dalewood anticipates supporting 12/115 students, no barriers to attend. Students MUST have their signed consent forms prior to April 29 to attend. • EQAO – Grade 6: May 5 – June 9, 2026. Families will receive specific dates for each class shortly. • Dalewood Spring Open House – May 21, 2026 (4:30 – 6:00 pm) Scavenger Hunt – students and families (Grade 5s from Cootes are invited. Dominos “Dough Raiser” – Pizza Fundraiser for families to pick up before/after our event to raise money for Dalewood initiatives.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musical – Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. 3-4 evening performances: May 25-28. Ticket sales will go up early May (\$10 per ticket). Each cast member will receive two free tickets to one show <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To raise funds for Plan B we'll have a QR code at Open House staffed by students. Katie H to inform parents about him with photos so parents become more aware. He'll be added to the scavenger hunt. • The Guest Speaker Aubrey Noronha (Hello Hope) has a Part II offering, to be considered for the fall • We can potentially make \$500 from the Dough Raiser, although this money cannot be put towards Plan B. • The pizza provider for pizza days may shift to Dominos next year. • The play costs about \$1700 with license fees. The hope is that the \$10 tickets will recoup that. Plan to let parents know that ticket price is to recoup costs. Thought of selling snacks. Concern about the clean up, but may consider non-messy snacks. Vanessa volunteered to explore the possibility of Wonka bars through Walker's Chocolates.
Teacher's Report	<p>Kevin McHarg Reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets for the play are coming along nicely. Kids are learning their parts. Exact days TBD. • Positive space meeting Tuesdays at first break, theme is inclusion. • Art Club preparing for HWDSB Art Exhibit for the Head Office. • Yearbook Cover Design Contest ongoing • Earth Day activities ongoing this week: daily themes • Sports: Jr Basketball; co-ed football has started. • Choir: planning songs for Grade 8 commencement <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Band may perform at Gr 8 commencement, otherwise they may do an assembly • Yearbook cover contest is open to anyone in the school, not just art club members. • Vanessa did a photography lesson, and next an editing lesson, with the yearbook club. She may bring a camera for a photo day. • A separate media consent will go out for yearbook. Students taking photos should ask permission. Only Katie and Edge Imaging have access to the yearbook photos.
Co-Chair's Report Bill & Diana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westdale Theatre PRO Grant Event: Big thank you to everyone. About 220 attended. Feedback forms had a lot of affirming comments. There was one "meh." Two people indicated interest in School Council and Bill reached out to them. PRO Grant event is now complete. We agreed that it felt positive and easy enough to do as an event.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal Placement Survey was sent in with our notes
Old / Current Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships/Planning: Cootes & Dalewood joint event- Andrea – no updates. Cootes kids are invited to our May 21 Open House. Especially inviting the Grade 5 from Cootes to participate in the scavenger hunt. • Dalewood Spring Open House – May 21, 2026 (4:30 –6:00 pm). As discussed, there will be a scavenger hunt. Do we want a Council presence this year? We discussed being greeters again like last time. We could have info available about joining council and explaining the roles. Rosalee to design a flyer. Rec Centre will come and have a table. Can sell play tickets if they haven't sold out online. We will have a QR code to donate to Plan B. Real Fruity could be invited to be out front. Council Members can arrive about 5 minutes early.
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form a workgroup on bylaws: Deadline to implement new bylaws is Fall, 2026. Bylaws are now required by all parent councils, at least 4 basic minimum ones are required. We don't want to add any unnecessary gatekeeping that could exclude people. There is a document of them to be reviewed. Proposal to start with those basic 4 to get this done. We will vote on them at the June meeting. Staff Appreciation Lunch: We picked a date: Thursday June 11, things arrive with kids in the morning, volunteers come to help set up the table and to later take it down. Sweni volunteered to be in charge, Vanessa to potentially help her if she is in town, Bill shared that his wife Heather is willing to help. Wonka / Walkers Bars: Vanessa to see if she can get Wonka bars for sale at the play through Walker's Chocolates. Other ideas include gob stoppers or lollypops. Will pay attention to copyright concerns. Any proceeds could either be used for the play budget, or, for our Plan B fundraising. Shakespearean: an old Dalewood Grad reached out to Bill to ask if we could share info about his free summer theatre program. Bill directed him to reach out to Katie H. They can also do in-school engagement. Katie H to expect to hear from him.
Summary of Parent Commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vanessa volunteered to explore the possibility of Wonka / Walkers bars through Walker's Chocolates. • Rosalee to design a flyer about School Council to be shared with parents at the Spring Open House. • Council Members volunteering at the Spring Open House on May 21 can arrive about 5 minutes early. It starts at 4:30pm.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweni volunteered to be in charge of the Staff Appreciation Lunch for June 11. Vanessa volunteered to potentially help if she is in town, and Bill shared that his wife Heather is willing to help.
Next Meetings	<p>The Next & Final School Council Meeting Date is:</p> <p>Wednesday June 3, 2025, 6:30pm-7:30pm, Dalewood Art Room</p> <p>(No May Meeting due to the Open House)</p>
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