

**SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**

Dalewood Middle School

(In Person, Art Room)

February 25, 2026

**MINUTES**

**In Attendance (11 Total).** **In Person (11):** Katie Hopkins (Principal), Anna Parsons (Teacher Rep), Bill Heinrich (Co-Chair), Diana Moscu (Co-Chair), Katie Davidman (Secretary), Vanessa Alexander (Treasurer), Sweni Sabaratram (Voting Member), Allison Henderson (Voting Member), Rosalee VanStaalduinen, Alison Simpson, Sevda Lindo. **In Attendance Virtually (0):** No one. **Regrets:** Ashley Gaskin (Voting Member), Natalia Gonzalez (Voting Member), Andrea Ara (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 is supporting students to create their own land acknowledgments.
Introductions	We each shared something we'll take a break from over March Break
The Minutes & Agenda	The Minutes for the January 21, 2026 meeting and the agenda for today were approved.
Principal's Report	<p>Katie Hopkins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gratitude for a staff activity uplifting the team</li> <li>• In the foyer there are books and info related to current holidays</li> <li>• Black History Month: the kids picked a leader to learn about</li> <li>• Dalewood Speech Competition will be April 8</li> <li>• HWDSB Speaks will be May 13. Theme: Stories That Shape Us</li> <li>• Washrooms – still issues with vandalism, open to suggestions</li> <li>• Nutrition Programs – Enhanced Programs – will get a new fridge and capacity to provide students with three snacks / day. Ms. Hopkins will try a morning grab and go where students are welcome to grab up to 3 snacks / day. She may need volunteers. Kids already get food for the weekend. And some take home from the Plan B offering.</li> <li>• Plan B was well attended today. Still open for donations. We're at \$333. The hope is to give him some compensation every time he comes.</li> <li>• Yearbook team, Ms. Coburg, each class to have representatives</li> <li>• March 6 PA Day</li> <li>• Spring Open House May 21 430-630pm</li> </ul> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We wondered what is driving the destructive behavior in the bathrooms. One possibility is tiktok trends. We wondered about cameras but they are not allowed. Or a moisture detector. Or a humorous sign. And conversations at home. Reminders that it's the caretaker who has to clean it up.</li> </ul>

Teacher's Report	<p>Anna Parsons Reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls Sr. Basketball has wrapped up. Jr. program will start</li> <li>• Clubs are ongoing: games, robotics, choir, positive space</li> <li>• A project is targeting racism called Because of Them</li> <li>• Partnership: McMaster students have partnered with vulnerable Dalewood students to positive effect</li> <li>• Partnership: Westdale students to support Dalewood students to fundraise for an event in May to raise money for Relay for Life, Canadian Cancer Society. More info to follow</li> <li>• Grad 8 trip finalized for Ap 29 at \$100/student including bus, with no cost for those who can't afford it.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fundraising for the Gr 8 trip is ongoing and well positioned</li> </ul>
Co-Chair's Report	See Old/ New Business below
Old Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Westdale Theatre Event Planning- Allison H.:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As per recent email update we are showing Charlie &amp; The Choc Factory on April 9.</li> <li>- We agreed that Katie D Katie H and Allison will sort out details for the invitations and tickets, Katie mentioned that we could use School Cash Online.</li> <li>- It was discussed that we will request that the Westdale open their concession stand rather than us trying to provide baked snacks. We explored the idea of offering free popcorn but we're out of budget.</li> <li>- Allison agreed to ask if we can have captions to support accessibility goals.</li> <li>- Diana to work with Katie H regarding the art project display / slide deck</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Cootes &amp; Dalewood joint event- Andrea</b> not here this evening</li> <li>• <b>Canada Post Community Foundation Grant-</b> Diana to complete an application for a cart and 7 laptops for \$5000, Katie H to be the contact, decision by September.</li> </ul>
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Principal Placement Survey-</b>Due April 24 th – Bill to forward the email, Vanessa to solicit input at the next meeting and collate responses</li> </ul>
Summary of Parent Commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Katie H, Katie D &amp; Allison to sort out movie invites and tickets</li> <li>• Allison to ask the Westdale Theatre if we can have captions</li> <li>• Diana to complete Canada Post Grant Application and to coordinate with Katie H about the art display at the movie night</li> </ul>

Next Meetings	<p>The Next School Council Meeting Dates are:</p> <p>Wednesday March 25, 2025, 6:30pm-7:30pm, Dalewood Art Room</p> <p>Wednesday April 22, 2025, 6:30pm-7:30pm, Dalewood Art Room</p> <p>(No May Meeting due to the Open House)</p> <p>Wednesday June 3, 2025, 6:30pm-7:30pm, Dalewood Art Room</p>
Next meeting topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Westdale Theatre Planning Updates: Allison H., Katie H, Katie D, Diana: Invitations/ Tickets; Captions; Art Display.</li> <li>• Cootes &amp; Dalewood joint event- Andrea</li> </ul>
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