

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Dalewood Middle School

(In Person, Art Room)

March 25, 2026

MINUTES

In Attendance (12 Total). **In Person (12):** Katie Hopkins (Principal), Chris Adeney (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, Allison Henderson (Voting Member), Natalia Gonzalez (Voting Member). **In Attendance Virtually (0):** No one. **Regrets:**

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 planning a school-wide walk of 17km of learning about indigenous themes
Introductions	We each shared something small that keeps us grounded
The Minutes & Agenda	The Minutes for the February 25, 2026 meeting were approved with some changes, and the agenda for today were approved.
Principal’s Report	<p>Katie Hopkins Reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gratitude for the council working well together • School Council Bylaws committee to meet in May/June • March 6 Staff Professional Activity Day: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning about Artificial Intelligence (Microsoft Copilot) which is only for use by students when they reach secondary school; • Erin’s Law (Bill 123) – Child Sexual Abuse Prevention instruction for students will now be annual, no opt-out in future years, parents will be made aware in advance of content to be shared; • Duty to Report Child Protection Concerns training for teachers; • School Improvement – 5 priorities. • New HWDSB School Website – coming in April/May • Westdale Movie Night Ticket Numbers for April 9th is 142. Deadline to claim free tickets is April 2. Theatre is accessible. Tickets being printed, design by a student. A trailer for the play and a slideshow of student art are both being produced by students for display at the theatre. • Dalewood Speech Competition (April 8) and HWDSB Speaks (May 13) – Theme: Stories that Shape Us • Student Yearbook Committee 1 st meeting Monday 23rd, Vanessa offered a photography lesson which was well attended, students are enthusiastic • Guest Speaker – Hello Hope (April 10) on racism, info to families to follow. Funded via a \$1,000 grant that Katie H. applied for.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Open House – May 21, 2026 (4:30 – 6:00pm) <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was suggested that the trailer for the play / art slides be shared ahead of movie night with the school community and Katie H agreed. • We briefly discussed that teachers have a duty to report for child protection and were trained in that on the PA day • Someone inquired about reporting an assault between two minors and Katie shared that there would be a process for this
Teacher’s Report	<p>Chris Adeney Reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track and field, flag football, swimming all coming this spring; • Walk for indigenous learning coming April/May on Ravine Rd Trail with opportunities for student leadership led by James Empringham, who is also inviting students to make personalized land acknowledgments; • Grad 8 trip finalized for Ap 29; • Musical coming on our new stage, new curtain arrived today, Mr. Adeney working on covers for back-stage, rehearsals are ongoing, art classes are working on set design, more prop requests coming, he could use plywood, plexiglass, overalls, and other things itemized on a hand out, as well as the associated labour; • Garden initiative: last year’s garden got destroyed. If we re-did it, we would need a barrier. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More info on the indigenous learning will be coming out for parents
Co-Chair’s Report	<p>Canada Post Community Foundation Grant- was submitted</p>
Old / Current Business	<p>Westdale Theatre Event Planning- Allison H.:142 tickets are now claimed for the free Charlie & The Choc Factory screening on April 9. Discussion: we won’t open it to Cootes because this number could still grow and be sufficient. We will track people as they arrive to monitor numbers for the headcount for fire code. 342 is the max legal limit. We would like to have a QR code that lets parents know this event was “brought to you by school council” and engages parents with a survey with questions like: how do you like to engage, rating scale on this experience, do you want to help make props for the play? Suggestion for a stand-alone email for this event next Tuesday before the ticket deadline.</p> <p>Cootes & Dalewood joint event- Andrea – received supportive feedback on an email that suggested cooperation on the playday run by Dalewood students. More info to follow after their next meeting.</p>

New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline to implement new bylaws is Fall, 2026. Bylaws are now required by all parent councils. There is a document of them to be reviewed. We will vote on them at the June meeting. Natalia offered to lead a discussion, she named that three important bylaws relate to Frequency (e.g. min 4 meetings a year), Duration, and Membership. • Bill named that he won't be co-chair next year, and Katie D named that she won't be secretary next year, to provide a heads up for succession planning. • Principal Placement Survey-Katie H left the room and we brainstormed our responses for this form. Katie D took notes and agreed to share them with Bill who will submit them.
Summary of Parent Commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allison to communicate our final questions to the Westdale Theatre • Vanessa to assist Katie H with the QR Code content for the movie night • Katie D and others who are able to show up early on movie night to help track numbers of people as they arrive • Katie D to share the Principal Survey notes with Bill • Bill to submit the Principal Survey results
Next Meetings	<p>The Next School Council Meeting Dates are:</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>
Adjournment	We adjourned at 7:40pm.

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