

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Dalewood Middle School

(In Person, Art Room)

June 3, 2026

MINUTES

In Attendance (10 Total). **In Person (10):** Katie Hopkins (Principal), Anna Parsons (Teacher Rep), Bill Heinrich (Co-Chair), Diana Moscu (Co-Chair), Katie Davidman (Secretary), Allison Henderson (Voting Member), Rosalee VanStaalduinen (Voting Member), Sweni Sabaratram (Voting Member), Andrea Ara (Voting Member), Nikol Piskuric. **In Attendance Virtually (0):** No one. **Regrets:** Vanessa Alexander (Treasurer), Alison Simpson, Natalia Gonzalez (Voting Member).

Agenda Item	Comments
Opening	<p>The meeting was called to order around 630pm with quorum. We opened with introductions, land acknowledgment and the singing of Oh Canada.</p> <p>Ms. Hopkins shared that Mr. Empringham’s school-wide walk for learning about indigenous themes occurred on May 12. They will likely run it again next year. Mr. E had attended 5 training sessions and a parent volunteer helped with the education on the walk. Learnings from the day are to be incorporated for next year. Next year, Diana offered to connect with the McMaster indigenous outreach folks as well.</p>
Introductions	We all answered the question: If you had 25 hours a day, how would you spend your extra time?
The Minutes & Agenda	The Minutes for the April 22, 2026 meeting and the agenda for today were approved.
Principal’s Report	<p>Katie Hopkins Reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gratitude for our community • School Improvement Summary – Katie used graphics to review the HWDSB mission statement, school improvement goals, strategic plan and core values; and, how this applies at Dalewood. • Annual School Council Report and Annual Financial Report were attached. Our school council used up our PRO grant as planned, and had a balance of \$282.36 from other funds allocated to us. We cannot carry it forward. • Yearbooks: 147 Yearbooks Sold (pre-orders); Anticipated arrival – June 18th. Katie was the lead teacher and was supported by parent volunteers. • Dominos “Dough Raiser” May 21: 59 Pizza sold (profit of \$295). • Musical – Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (May 25-28): Gratitude to the two teachers who volunteered. There was a post-production party yesterday. There will be discussion about whether to run another next year but usually we take a year off. 298 tickets sold through School Cash Online (\$2980); Approximately 80 tickets sold at the door (\$800). This covered the cost of the music and licensing.

	<p>About \$1500 is left which will allow us to purchase a new sound system after ours broke during this production.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan B Farm Donations: \$861 through School Cash Online; Approximately \$700 via Foundation for Student Success (people who donated enough to get a tax receipt). • First School Council Meeting/Election 2026-2027 School Year: Wednesday, September 30, 2026, from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. Based on feedback this year; shift to 90 minutes meetings. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan B: despite the donations, we didn't raise enough to cover Rodrigo's needs, so how can we raise enough money next year – perhaps a card that parents could buy, or a cookbook fundraiser, or kids/parents having to pay a nominal amount. • The date of the next council meeting (Wednesday, September 30, 2026) is also the National Day of Reconciliation so we could do a learning piece that day. • A parent asked for a highlight from the EQAO results: Katie explained that math needs to be the focus, specifically thinking and problem solving. About 38% of current Grade 7 met benchmarks. • A parent asked how excursions are decided: Katie explained that they are staff – driven and has to be tied to the curriculum. Some are school-wide and some staff-class-specific. • The musical is typically now every other year. There is advocacy from some for it to be annual but Katie explained that she respects teacher voice to doing it every other year. In the off years, Mr. McHarg works more deeply with band and choir. • A parent asked what happens with the Council's Annual Report – it gets submitted to the board.
<p>Teacher's Report</p>	<p>Anna Parsons Reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Griffin House folks came to the school to talk to the Grade 6 cohort about how the black community grew in Hamilton related to the underground railroad. It was a success. • Gauss test: there was high level of participation, almost 100 this year. She would like to encourage even more. • One more school dance this year • FIFA games, two of them, to be watched as a school community 1pm games. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A parent would have wanted to encourage her kid to do the Gauss test. There was some discussion about whether all the Grade 7 & 8 students could do it automatically. However, some students may experience this as a pressure, or need accommodations (which aren't permitted on the Gauss test), or wouldn't benefit from it. We concluded that it's best left a choice, but, one that can be widely encouraged and more widely communicated in the school community. Teachers could be encouraged to share examples of

	<p>Gauss test problems in their math classes and/or with parents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second language students experience barriers with both the Gauss test and the EQAO, although the latter allows accommodations
Co-Chair's Report Bill & Diana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gratitude for the school council this year – Bill shared some remarks of appreciation to each person here.
Old / Current Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming Teacher Appreciation Lunch (Sweny and Andrea): Sweny is pleased with the response so far, she still needs volunteers around 2:15pm for clean-up, and to make thank you cards, and to provide a few more elements of food/drinks. Thursday June 11. • Bylaws Discussion (Rosalee, Diana, Katie D., Katie H.): the subcommittee proposes using the standard bylaws template with some small modifications that were circulated in advance (e.g. that an HWDSB employee could be a Vice Chair). The new bylaws will come into effect for the Sept Council. Discussion: Rosalee provided some additional comments today by email and explained them at the meeting. • Bylaws Vote: Diana Moscu motioned to approve the bylaws as amended today (to be sent by Rosalee in an email). Seconded by Andrea Ara. All were in favor. No one opposed or abstained.
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The September 30 meeting begins with an election, followed by the first meeting.
Parent Commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need parents to make food and thank you cards for the June 11 teacher appreciation event (to be dropped off by 10am), along with volunteers for clean up at 2:15pm
Next Meetings	<p>The Next School Council Meeting Date is:</p> <p>Wednesday September 30, 2025, 6pm-7:30pm, Dalewood Art Room</p>
Adjournment	<p>We adjourned at 7:32pm.</p>

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