

New Dundee Public School - School Council Agenda/Minutes

Date: September 22, 2025

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Meeting Link: <https://meet.google.com/out-qmsr-ind>

School Council Handbook: [School Council Handbook](#)

Introductions and Attendance

- **Principal:** Joshua Kirk
- **Staff:** Kelly Willig
- **Chair:** Sarah Cherry
- **Secretary:** Melissa Kristensen
- **Treasurer:** Sarah Benn

- **School Council:** Jessica Nartey, Keizo Mauri, Anita Cressman, Kiersten Milanovic
- **Student:** none
- **Regrets:**

Welcome / Territory Acknowledgment

As we gather virtually this evening, we would like to honor the existence of the First Peoples by acknowledging that we are on the traditional land of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Mississauga peoples. New Dundee Public School occupies the land of the Between the Lakes Treaty from 1792. As learners, we continue to understand this place has significance to the First Peoples because of the rolling hills, forests, flat land, and the proximity to the Nith and Grand River, which is fed by the Great Lakes. Settlers need to take responsibility to continue our education and honor of the First Peoples. Let's work to honor the Dish with One Spoon covenant, a peace agreement made between the Indigenous nations before the settlers arrived. It characterizes our collective responsibility to each other and to Mother Earth. We should only take what we need and leave enough for future generations.

Welcome Principal Josh Kirk!

- Married with three children – Lachlan (6), Callum (4) and Malcolm (2)
- Live in Kitchener (by Sunrise Plaza), grew up in Cambridge
- Background teaching Grade 1-12 – started in secondary with UGDSB
- Spent most of teaching career at Clemens Mill PS in Cambridge (French)
- VP at Stanley Park SPS and Queen Elizabeth PS
- Temporary Principal at Stanley Park SPS

Principal Update

Updates

- Mr. Kongdara worked hard over the summer by himself to make sure school was clean for staff and students to return
- Great first week of school – Welcome Back Assembly on Friday September 5 – introduced/reviewed RISE character traits – Code of Conduct
- DVF's sent home second week of school – please return if you have not already
- Forms on School Day – Media Release, Concussion Protocol, Responsible Use of Technology – if not yet signed please do this ASAP
- Meet the Teacher September 11th – excellent turn-out
- Completed two of three fire drills per Health and Safety – one more tomorrow
- Lockdown Drill scheduled for next week
- Working with small committee on SLIP (school learning and improvement plan) – looking to ensure 80% or more of our students in Grade 3 & 6 achieve provincial standard or above on EQAO – Acadience (early literacy screening tool, SK-2, phonological awareness, decode text), ORF (oral reading fluency assessment tool, literacy screening 4-6, student reading fluency), MAAP (math achievement action program, developed by the ministry, exposing all students to grade level expectations) – also focus on Equity Habits of Mind
- This will also benefit the other grades – full staff engagement
- Also focus on RISE – code of conduct – Respect, Integrity, Safety, Encouragement – celebrated in the form of Gotchas
- Asbestos - there still some in the school and is in the top of the building and not easily disturbed. It will be removed eventually, but board is prioritizing schools that have the hazard in a more easily disturbed area

Important Dates

- Terry Fox – September 25th (Mr. Heer's class)
 - Toonies for Terry, but organization is moving more to online
- Orange Shirt Day – September 30th
- Firebird shopping cart food drive, occurring in the next few weeks
- Photo Day – October 7th
- PD Day – October 10th
- IEPs Go Home – October 14th
- Progress Reports – November 2025

Action item:

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Election 2025 - 2026 School Year

Running unopposed:

Sarah Cherry - Chair
Melissa Kristensen - Secretary
Sarah Benn - Treasurer

Action Items:

- Acclaimed by Josh, not contested by meeting participants.
- Care Committee, Kelly Willig to continue, would anyone like to assist - Thank you Steph!
- Staff/Teacher Rep?

What are we fundraising for?

- Bussing for field trips
 - Pass a motion for council to approve
 - Grade 5 and 6 aviator trip
 - Grade 2-3 going on a farm field trip

- Nutrition for learning
- What is on the educator wish list this year?
 - Gym equipment - dodge balls
 - Outdoor equipment
- What school improvements are needed?
 - May 2025 - discussion about fence around kindy area, action for principal to investigate: most schools are moving to a fence around kindergarten area as best practice. NDPS is approved by the board and completely funded by the board. Fence by the planters with a gate, installed in the next 2-3 weeks.
- How much should we save for playground equipment repairs/replacement?
 - *Sarah C is in contact with Forest Glen Public in NH, they recently fundraised for their new play ground, looking for information on how to go about doing the same*
 - Biggest help was corporate donations, churches, local businesses - companies have to offer vs. us asking
 - Special fund for the playground equipment
 - First event we do could be for the playground
- attach a goal to each fundraising event, can earmark some for playground

Action Items:

- Motion by Sarah Benn to approve school council funds for busing field trips and nutrition for learning, second by Melissa Kristensen; approved.
- Josh will talk to Mr. McKenzie and bring to council for approval

Fundraising Plans and Ideas for 2025 - 2026

Current Plans:

- **Veggie Boxes:** September
- **Bookfair:** November *Volunteer sign up will go out shortly*
 - Scholastic points are used to purchase items for the school, determined by the staff
- **Dance-A-Thon:** February
- **Chocolate:** March
- **End of year event:** May or early June

Other Ideas

Vote on how many and which ones this year

- Family Christmas Photo
- Colour Paradise Poinsettias
- Baden Coffee
- Bright Cheese
- Little Caesars Pizza
- Uncle Dad's Pizza
- Domino's Pizza (discount code)
- Candy Co. Stratford
- Reids Chocolate
- Rheo Thompson Chocolate - voted (NDPS mold?)
- Rachel's Butter Tarts
- Cressman Meats
- Butcher Barn
- Warren Greenhouse Spring Pansy
- Huron Ridge Greenhouse Christmas Wreaths
- Laura Secord Chocolate

Event Ideas

Vote on if we are having one, when, and which one (vote can occur at a later meeting)

- Outdoor Movie Night
- Fall Harvest BBQ
- Pumpkin Carving Night & BBQ
- Trivia & Games Night
- Fun Fair
- Outdoor Concert with BBQ
- Family Bingo Night
- End of year BBQ

Action Items:

- Voted on end of year community BBQ event in May or early June
- Voted on chocolate fundraiser in the spring

Financial Report

School Council Funds Summary	
September 2025	
<i>Main Account</i>	
Opening balance - May 2025	4,506.43
Herrle's fundraiser (School Day so far)	70.00
Bussing for field trips (prior school year)	- 713.34
Balance in account at September 19, 2025	<u>3,863.09</u>
<i>WEFI Account</i>	
No activity since April 2025	

- \$140.80 in the School Council Float

Action item:

- Transfer from WEFI to main account, so dance-a-thon fundraiser was earmarked for busing but busing was paid out from the main account.

Volunteer

- Police check frequency - 1 year every year on the year. Only for working with students alone.
- How can parents support educators and students outside of fundraising?
 - Would teachers want in class volunteers?
 - Is there a need for more lunch / recess monitors to provide teachers with extra prep time - provided by the board through the collective agreement
 - Other ideas from educators?
- Send a note on school day to gather volunteers that are not able to commit to the school council but still want to help within the school.
- Volunteer list - “get it done group” to do the fundraiser, called “execution group” at Sir Adam Beck. For people who want to volunteer and be involved but don’t want to be on council - want to what, when, how, where, etc. send out a survey through school day

Action item:

- Josh will put out to staff if they want volunteers in the classroom
- Sarah C. to create a volunteer survey to be sent via school-day
- Create a list of volunteers to help with fundraising and events

Ongoing Programs and Other Updates

- Nutrition for Learning - Anita to provide an update at 7:30pm
 - Changes from last year - funding - to make it more equitable across the board for all schools. We can do at least 1 fundraiser focused on N4L, but schools in lower economic status areas weren't getting very much funding.
 - This year N4L will mass order and provide the food depending on the program they are on - our school is grab and go (available all day, every day). Food options will be as good as ordering on our own, it will look different, but still high quality and healthy food.
 - QR code to donate directly to NDPS, but on the website it will go to a pool
- Strong Start
- Gardens
- Care Committee - Steph to join! Thank you!
- Hot lunches
 - Thank you everyone who volunteered to help distribute the pizza!
 - Pasta will not be added this year but we can reach out to the ESNS coordinator next year if we stay with Mother Flockers and want them to add it: Jane Querin, Her email is: jane@esns.ca.
 - Can we add Mother Flockers every Thursday instead of every other?
 - We can look into this

Action item:

- Look into Thursday hot lunch

WRAPSC/PIC Meeting Update

WRAPSC

These meetings will be a hybrid model, and be held in-person at Forest Heights Collegiate Institute and virtually, on Zoom. Unless otherwise noted, all WRAPSC meetings run from 7:00 p.m. to approximately 9:00 p.m.

- Select person to be the WRAPSC rep (does not have to attend all meetings)

PIC

The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) is a group of parent volunteers and education stakeholders in the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) who work together to support and enhance parent/guardian engagement in education to improve student achievement and well-being. There are only five meetings in a year at 6:30pm.

Any parent or guardian can attend PIC meetings or events, but if you want to be a voting member of the committee, you must apply (usually in October) to fill one of the 16 parent/guardian seats. Application: [online application](#)

Upcoming meetings

- Create rotation for attendance
 - Sep 25, 2025 - PIC - 6:30pm
 - Nov 4, 2025 - WRAPSC - 7:00pm (Sarah C)
 - Nov 25, 2025 - PIC - 6:30pm
 - Jan 6, 2026 - WRAPSC - 7:00pm (Melissa)
 - Jan 27, 2025 - PIC - 6:30pm (Sarah C)
 - Feb 3, 2026 - WRAPSC - 7:00pm (Sarah B)
 - Mar 24, 2026 - PIC - 6:30pm
 - Apr 7, 2026 - WRAPSC - 7:00pm (Kiersten)
 - May 5, 2026 - WRAPSC - 7:00pm (Melissa)
 - May 26, 2026 - PIC - 6:30pm
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Action Items:

- Send out meeting list and create rotation - Melissa

2024 - 2025 School Council Dates

- September 22
- November 10
- January 19
- March 30
- May 25

Meeting Minutes Approval

- Motion by Katarzyna Walus, Seconded by Sarah Cherry

Please email the chair or administration with any agenda requests before the next meeting: sewrustic@gmail.com, joshua_kirk@wrdsb.ca, ndpscouncil@gmail.com

Topics from last year for future meetings

- PRO grant - November
- Grade 6 transition
- Staff appreciation lunch
- EQAO snacks
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