# Douglasdale School Council Meeting

## *Meeting Minutes*

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|---|---|
| **LOCATION:** | DDS Learning Commons & TEAMS |
| **HOSTED:** | In Person & Virtually |
| **DATE:** | 11-04-2026 |
| **ATTENDEES:** | Heather McKay, Monique Koleyak, Monica Nartey, Danielle Bertrand, Kathleen Myroon, Megan, Morgan Caswell Jenn Bennett (online), Gen Lal (online), Madeep Kaur (Online), Connor Knight (online) |
| **TIME:** | 6:00 pm |

### I. CALL TO ORDER

***Monica (chair)*** called to order the DDS School Council meeting at ***6:00 pm***

*Land acknowledgment* for Treaty 7 territory and the Blackfoot nations (Siksika, Piikani, Kainai), as well as Tsuut'ina, Stoney Nakoda, Métis Nation, and all who live in Southern Alberta.

### II. ROLL CALL

***Monica*** conducted a roll call.

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Approval of September AGM Minutes seconded by: ***Danielle.*** The minutes were approved as read.

**For parents' information:** Previous minutes are on the DDS website under *Get Involved/School Council*

### IV. SCHOOL UPDATES

**Staffing/ Enrollment updates**

- The school has received funding from the Government of Alberta with the intention of addressing classroom complexity and class sizes.
- Two 30-hour Educational Assistant (EA) positions have been hired and one new teacher who supports Kindergarten, grade 4 and 5. There is potential for one more teacher.
- There are currently 343 students registered at the school.
- Substitution shortage: The school continues to experience challenges with substitute teacher availability, particularly when responding to last-minute absences due to illness. At times, this requires combining classes to ensure adequate classroom coverage. While staff do their best to minimize disruptions to student learning, the ongoing shortage is making this increasingly difficult.

**School development Plan**

SRSD stands for Self-Regulated Strategy Development is a new program that the school has started to use with all grades. It is an evidence-based teaching approach used in schools to help students improve their writing skills while also developing independence, confidence and self-regulation.

The school is focusing on improving students' sentence structure, with teachers receiving guidance and learning from two University of Calgary researchers to strengthen their instructional approaches.

**Call to action for 2026/2027**

Explore opportunities to bring Stacey into the school to share knowledge about Blackfoot culture, traditions, and teachings. This would provide students with an opportunity to learn more about Indigenous culture, history, and perspectives while supporting cultural awareness and understanding within the school community.

**Creating community** (multi-age, assemblies, residency performance)

The school is focusing on building a stronger sense of community through an initiative called Heart. The goal is to help students of all ages get to know one another, learn each other's names and build connections throughout the school. Older students are encouraged to mentor younger students, and family groupings bring students together from Kindergarten through Grade 5 to strengthen relationships and create a sense of belonging.

**Residency**: The school will be hosting a Decidedly Jazz residency in December, providing students with an opportunity to participate in dance and movement activities and explore jazz through a hands-on experience.

**Christmas Celebration**: There will be no formal Christmas concert this year. Instead, the school will host a celebration of learning on the last day before Christmas break, providing an opportunity for students to showcase the Jazz Residency.

**Assembly**: The gym curtain is currently broken, which has prevented the school from holding assemblies, which is currently getting fixed. The school will be having a school-based Remembrance Day celebration this year rather than hosting performances for families.

**School Clubs**: Several clubs have started, including Leadership Club, Grade 3 Games Club and Plasticine Club. The Blue Jays have also donated a variety of swag to support the upcoming Baseball Club, which is expected to start in the spring.

**Future Club Opportunities**: Monique and Heather will look into the possibility of introducing additional sports clubs, such as basketball and soccer, to provide more extracurricular opportunities and help bridge the gap between elementary and middle school.

**Physical Education**: Parents have raised questions about why the school does not have a dedicated PE teacher. Heather explained that a PE teacher position is not currently included in the school's budget.

**COUNCIL UPDATES**

**Difference between School Council and Parent Society:**

**School Council-** Being a parent/guardian of a DDS student automatically makes you a member of school council. School Council is a means for parents and community to work together with administration and school staff to promote the well being and overall effectiveness of the school community. (Like a Bridge connecting parents and the school community).

**Parent Society-** It is a separate Legal entity. The purpose of the society is to provide means for parents and community members to provide additional financial resources and support for the school. The main role is focused on fundraising.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**Fun Committee Events planned this year:**

- **Staff Appreciation Lunch**: A fall comfort food-themed Staff Appreciation Lunch was held on Wednesday, October 28, 2026. Thank you to all the families and volunteers who contributed and helped make it a success! Another appreciation lunch is planned for the spring.
- **Holiday Cards for Seniors**: DDS is joining community initiative to make and deliver cards to seniors during the Holiday Season. Promote kindness, inclusion and community connection. Final day for DDS pickup is December 17th.
- **Stock the pantry/Staff cookie week**: Stock the staff room with treats ($250 Costco haul). Cookie week, 4 dozen cookies/holiday baking brought provided by volunteers for staff, during the week. (December 7th-11th).
- **Staff appreciation lunch**-TBD likely Mid March
- **Teacher Appreciation Treat Cart/Stock the Pantry:** Stock the staff room with treats ($250 Costco haul). Treat cart with refreshments (Teacher Appreciation Week, May 3-7th, 2027)
- **School Multicultural Event:** The school is exploring the possibility of hosting an evening multicultural event on February 18 (tentative). Families would be invited to share and celebrate their cultures through photos, food, music, traditional clothing, dance and games. Monique will gather more information and provide an update.
- **Spring dance**: Will be held in Spring (mid may)
- **Grade 5 Celebration Decore Committee:** TBD, End of June 2027
- **Food truck night + bottle drive**: June TBD

- **Fundraising committee updates:**
  - Skip the Depot: Ongoing, council will update socials to promote use
    - Steps to create an account with www.skipthedepot.com
      - Click create an account
      - Schedule pick up from your home
      - Select "Douglasdale School Council" to donate to
  - Mabel's Labels: Ongoing

- Benevity: Ongoing. Information printouts in the office by the volunteer sign in sheet
- Winter Fundraiser idea: Last year there was a Flames Raffle. Plan for a fundraiser in January?
- Read-a-thon: May TBD
- Bottle drive: To coincide with our Food Truck night in June
- Spring Fundraiser: Any ideas? Maybe Growing smiles.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE FUN OR FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE OR YOU HAVE A FUNDRAISING IDEA PLEASE CONTACT MONICA AT: DOUGLASDALESCHOOLCOUNCIL@GMAIL.COM

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**COUNCIL MEETING DATES:** JANUARY 13TH, 2027, MARCH 3RD, 2027, MAY 12TH, 2027(AGM).

**VOLUNTEER ROLES NEEDED TO BE FILLED:**

Fundraising Lead and Fundraising committee needed: Kathleen will help with fundraising while vice Chair Heidi will help support. Thank you, Kathleen.

**2027 WORKSHOP:** Begin planning for the 2027 workshop. A $500 Government grant will be available to support the event. Potential options include:

- ASCE Online Access Pass: A one-time annual fee of $500, providing access to virtual monthly speakers and recorded presentations.
- Patrick Dahlstrom: Online workshop on The Developing Brain in a High-Stimulation World, at a cost of $500.
- Meeting consensus- Prefer in person workshops for community connection, even if numbers remain low as previous years.
- Suggestion: An in-person workshop for students and families on promoting Literacy connection. Looking into cost/program availability

**Pedestrian Safety:**

- Reflective Armbands: AMA reflective armbands are available in the office for students who walk or bike to school.
- Pedestrian Safety: Continuing to advocate for flashing lights at the pedestrian walkway that currently does not have a traffic light.
- School Patrol: Having students participate in school patrol at this location would be challenging due to safety concerns, as it would not be safe to have children directing or assisting at the crosswalks.
- Parking and Traffic Concerns: Continuing to work with Parking Patrol and Calgary Police Services (CPS) to address ongoing safety concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

***Monica*** adjourned the meeting at ***6:41pm.***

Minutes submitted by: ***Monica Nartey (Recorded at meeting by Jenn Bennett).***

# Douglasdale School Council Society Meeting

## *Meeting Minutes*

| | |
|---|---|
| **LOCATION:** | DDS ROOM 22 & TEAMS |
| **HOSTED:** | In-Person and Virtually |
| **DATE:** | 11-04-2026 |
| **ATTENDEES:** | Heather McKay, Monique Koleyak, Monica Nartey, Danielle Bertrand, Morgan Caswell, Kathleen Myroon, Megan, Jenn Bennett (online), Gen Lal (online), Madeep Kaur (Online), Connor Knight (online |
| **TIME:** | 6:30 pm |

### V. CALL TO ORDER

***Monica (president)*** called to order the DDS School Council meeting at **6:41pm**.

### VI. ROLL CALL

***Monica*** conducted a roll call.

### VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Approval of **Sept minutes** seconded by: ***Danielle.*** The minutes were approved as read.

**For parents' information:** Previous minutes are on the DDS website under *Get Involved/School Council*

### VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT

a) **Treasurer's update:**

- Treasurer report shared by Danielle
  - **(1)** General account: **$4,627.23**
  - **(2)** Casino account: **$51,122.04**
  - **(3)** Charity Account: **$11, 410.63**
  - **(4)** GIC INVESTMENTS: **$1, 148.30**

**Other Business**

- Casino: The casino dates have been confirmed for March 14–15, 2027. A large number of volunteers will be needed to support this fundraiser. Volunteer sign-up information will be sent out in early 2027.
- **Casino Organizers: Morgan Caswell, Alan Preston and Kathleen Myroon will be coordinating the casino fundraiser.**

### IX. ADJOURNMENT

***Monica*** adjourned the meeting at ***6:49pm.***

Minutes submitted by: ***Monica Nartey (Recorded at meeting by Jenn Bennett).***