

Douglasdale School Council Meeting Meeting Minutes



LOCATION: DDS & Virtually
HOSTED: Learning Commons & Virtually
DATE: 11-02-2026
ATTENDEES: Heather McKay, Monique K., Monica Nartley, Kat Thompson, Heidi, Danielle, Kelly, Sharon, Tiffany, Alisa, Megan, Mandy, Sirander
TIME: 6:00 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

Monica (president) called to order the DDS School Council meeting at **6:01 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 [March 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

a) HydroGrow wall

- School received an Alberta Government nutrition grant shortly before spring break with a very short (~10 day) spending window and parameters on eligible spending.
 - (1) **Decision:** invest in a long-term solution rather than buying large volumes of student snacks (storage and expiry concerns).
 - (2) **Unit details:** movable version; can rotate and has a whiteboard on the back.
 - (3) Partnered with Terra Grow (same company behind the school's Serenity Spot) to install a movable hydroponic "HydroGrow Wall."
- Plan is to tie the HydroGrow wall into the science curriculum with hands-on learning.
- Initial crops mentioned: bok choy, basil, and different lettuces; future ideas include experimenting with strawberries (not confirmed).
- A teacher in-service with Tom is scheduled for tomorrow; Grade 4 will meet with him, and Grades 4 and 2 will do the first grow cycle.
- Practical learning included: plant care, cleaning the unit, mixing fertilizer, and ongoing maintenance.
- School currently has a year's supply of planting materials; will purchase supplies for future cycles.
- Parents were invited to share any advice (especially what to avoid, e.g., pests like spider mites).

b) Volunteer Appreciation event:

- Invitation to be sent out in the "Week Ahead;" RSVP is important for planning tables, food, drinks, and seating.
- Event date confirmed as May 1.



- **Message to community:** this is volunteer appreciation (not a musical performance), and attendance is intended for those who have volunteered.

c) **New Enrollment Intentions Form (pilot):**

- Douglasdale is piloting; families will be asked to complete to support accurate staffing/budget planning.
- Form will go out as its own email (expected Friday morning).
- Deadline emphasized as April 20 (tight timeline due to late addition to pilot).
- Applies to all grades, including Grade 5 (and info to be shared onward for Grade 6 transition as needed).
- While the new form is not budget-impacting "for next year," demographic/enrollment confirmation generally becomes budget impacting if not completed (budget forecast vs. confirmed end of September).

d) **Enrollment, staffing, and budget context**

- Projected enrollment discussed as ~350 (for 2026–2027), reflecting a downward trend from ~395 when the speaker first arrived.
- Registration status has shifted to "**open**" for the first time in the principal's tenure:
 - (1) Open status allows registration from outside the catchment.
 - (2) Closed status would prohibit bringing in new students.
- Enrollment change factors discussed:
 - (1) Kindergarten choice expanded to allow attendance at any school.
 - (2) Midday busing reductions and childcare/half-day kindergarten logistics affecting family choices.
 - (3) Families choosing alternative programs (e.g., Montessori, TLC, science programs) and private operators.
- Potential future increases anticipated due to nearby housing builds (e.g., areas like Quarry Park and Douglas Glen; multi-unit development near Gold's Gym mentioned).
- Budget timeline:
 - (1) RAM (Resource Allocation Method) budget expected April 23.
 - (2) Staffing decisions typically follow meetings with directors after budget release.
 - (3) "Word on the street" suggests budgets may be more positive than prior years.
- Staffing challenges noted:
 - (1) Teachers leaving the profession; new graduates not available until late April.
 - (2) System strain due to additional temporary roles (e.g., complexity teams at other schools) and difficulty hiring EAs.
 - (3) CBE described as proactively recruiting across universities.

e) **Student programming: residencies, culture event idea, and music transition**

- Calgary Classroom Crew residency (Calgary Friends Foundation) is underway; Stampeders visited earlier in the week.
 - (1) **Cost update:** expected \$450/day, but it is actually \$450 for the full four days, plus equipment is left behind.
 - (2) **Result:** extra residency funds likely to be carried over to next year.
- Upcoming residencies:
 - (1) African drumming and dance residency planned for June.
 - (2) Lacrosse residency already booked for September next school year.
 - (3) Potential next-year options in discussion: Métis beading/art experience and robotics/STEM experience.
- Families invited to email ideas for additional residencies; general mix goal is 1–2 athletic residencies (no dedicated PE teacher) plus music, and more science/art experiences.

f) **Multicultural family event proposal (council-led, family-driven):**



- Idea inspired by another school's successful model of family booths showcasing traditions.
- Intended as an evening event so families can supervise food sharing.
- **Goal:** increase visibility of culture across the community (not only in classrooms) and allow students/families to share traditions.
- Timing discussed as likely closer to February (not fall) to allow planning and parent organizers.

g) **Indigenous knowledge keeper relationship:**

- Beginning relationship tomorrow with Stacey Running Rabbit and her family to share Blackfoot culture.
- Framed as part of reconciliation learning and understanding the school's own community.

h) **Music program and Mr. Anderson's retirement:**

- Mr. Anderson is retiring; students recently completed their final performance.
- Plans to honour him at the final residency performance and at the final student assembly.
- He prefers a quieter, more intimate approach.
- **Idea raised:** a recorded compilation of messages/performances from students (including former students) that he can watch privately.
- A council member volunteered to take on coordinating the recorded tribute.
- **Music program transition note:** the school will not have a winter concert going forward (weather/illness cancellations and stress), and concert timing will shift to a different time of year to support the new music teacher and avoid direct comparisons.

i) **Fun committee updates:**

- Staff appreciation lunch occurred; thanks shared for food/setup/cleanup.
 - (1) **Reminder:** leftover dishes are in the small kitchen for pickup.
- Parent workshop update:
 - (1) Date/time changed to next Thursday, April 23 at 5:00 PM to avoid conflict with MPS open house.
 - (2) Workshop is 5:00–6:00 PM (speaker stays for Q&A); attendees can still make MPS open house afterward.
 - (3) Registration is low (~15); event is open to community.
 - (4) **Feedback:** registration link may be hard to find; QR codes are posted on doors and socials; link was in Friday school update email.
 - (5) **Workshop content:** online safety/protective factors led by a retired police officer; recommended Grade 4+ (parental discretion for younger).
- Spring dance:
 - (1) Scheduled Thursday, May 14, 6:00–8:00 PM.
 - (2) Theme: "Shelly Dance" beach theme; DJ booked; candy bags and popcorn planned.
 - (3) Coincides with an MPS dance; viewed as potentially fine (may even help attendance).
 - (4) Flyers to be made next week; include date in weekly message.
- Teacher/staff appreciation week:
 - (1) Planned for May 4–8: Costco pantry stock-up plus Tim's coffee/treat cart.
- Food truck night + bottle drive:
 - (1) Scheduled for June 18.
 - (2) Dog Father unavailable; outreach underway to other vendors (Corn Ice Fry Guy; Mexican and Indian cuisines mentioned) with follow-ups planned.

j) **Fundraising updates:**

- Skip the Depot ongoing for bottle pickups.
- Mabel's Labels ongoing.
- Rain barrel fundraiser:



- (1) Slow so far (~30 sales at last check).
- (2) City of Calgary rebate emphasized: \$50 per rain barrel; delivery available for \$10.
- (3) Need to highlight rebate more prominently in promotion.
- (4) If sales remain low, may need to partner with another school for pickup logistics.
- (5) Volunteers needed for pickup day; email council if you didn't receive the volunteer note.
- (6) Council earns \$10 per rain barrel sold.
- (7) **Promotion ideas:** printable flyers for neighbors, leaving printed copies at office/volunteer table, community mailbox posting, PDF version to forward to family/community.

- **Benevity:**

- (1) Reminder to check if employers match donations or credit volunteer hours (some companies provide donations + tax receipts).
- (2) Question clarified: Benevity runs through employers; no switching required by families beyond selecting the appropriate charitable recipient.

- **Read-a-thon:**

- (1) Work underway updating forms/links; noted access issues due to two-factor authentication tied to Jen's phone (needs change next year).
- (2) Still needed: confirm prizes (e.g., "principal/AP/Mr. Tim for a day", name the HydroWall, book draws discussed) and finalize dates.
- (3) Tentative start date discussed as the 14th (seeking confirmation).

- **Funding priorities and needs**

- (1) Discussion began on selecting a fundraising "theme"/focus (technology vs residencies, with playground also mentioned as a big-ticket priority) to help messaging and parent buy-in.

k) **Approval of March Minutes**

l) **Committee Updates**

m) **Other Business**

- **AGM**

- (1) **Scheduled:** May 2026
- (2) Several positions need to be filled.
 - (a) **Society President role** (currently Jen Drews) is outgoing; focus is mainly fundraising, with support from Heidi (vice-chair), especially for the read-a-thon.
 - (b) **Secretary role** (currently Kat Halsan) is outgoing; role is meeting minutes/note-taking with flexible timelines and can be done from home/online.
 - (i) Microsoft Teams/Copilot was mentioned as a potential aid for minutes, with the reminder that meetings must be disclosed as recorded.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Monica adjourned the meeting at **7:11**

Minutes submitted by: **Kat Thompson**



Douglasdale Parent Council Meeting Minutes

LOCATION: DDS - Library
HOSTED: In-Person and Virtually
DATE: 15-02-2026
ATTENDEES: Heather McKay, Monique K., Monica Nartley, Kat Thompson, Heidi, Danielle, Kelly, Sharon, Tiffany, Alisa, Megan, Mandy, Sirander
TIME: 7:11 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

Monica (co-chair) called to order the DDS School Council meeting at **7:11pm**.

II. ROLL CALL

Monica conducted a roll call.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Approval of [March Minutes](#) seconded by: **Kelly**. The minutes were approved as read.

For parents' information: Previous minutes are on the DDS website under [Get Involved/School Council](#)

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

a) Treasurer's update:

- Treasurer report shared (Danielle not present).
 - (1) General account: \$9,567.11
 - (2) Casino account: \$83,153.83
 - (3) Charity Account: \$380.00
- Current balances only; checks need to be ordered for the read-a-thon spending account (~\$250, treated as an emergency expense).
- Year-end is March 31; general and casino account returns are in progress and will be brought to the AGM for approval.
- Next casino fundraising event expected in Q1 (Jan/Feb 2027); relies heavily on volunteers, and days/timing may be mid-week depending on availability.
 - (1) August 2026 will be when the draw for when our Casino will be scheduled
 - (a) Tentatively January or February

b) Other Business

- Attendance Draw – Dance Winners
 - (1) Tiffany – In person
 - (2) Sirinder – Virtual

V. ADJOURNMENT

Monica adjourned the meeting at **7:18**

Minutes submitted by: **Kat Thompson**