

Douglasdale Annual General Meeting

Meeting Minutes



LOCATION: DDS - Library

HOSTED: In-Person and Virtually

DATE: 21-05-2025

ATTENDEES: Heather McKay, Monique K., Joseph, Michael, Cala, Monica Nartley, Jennifer Drews, Kat Thompson, Bruce Anderson, Heidi Tawadros, Danielle Bertran

TIME: 6:00 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

Monica (co-chair) called to order the DDS School Council meeting at **6:02 pm**.

II. ROLL CALL & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Monica conducted a roll call.

Land Acknowledgment: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-z-CJwNa4w>

Speakers:

- **Daisy (Kokum Daisy)**
- **Charlie**
- **Henri**

Transcript:

- (Daisy) Oki, Tânsi, Dadanast'ada, Âba Wathêch, Tanwshi
- (Daisy) Hello Charlie!
- (Charlie) Hi!
- (Henri) Hello Kokum Daisy!
- (Daisy) Oh! Hello Henri!
- (Daisy) Hello everyone, my name is Henri, and we're about to do a Treaty 7 land acknowledgement. This is a good way to honour the original Caretakers of the Land we live on. You're welcome to join us.
- (Daisy) Today we acknowledge our Treaty 7 friends. The Blackfoot who meet at Elbow's Bend. Along came the Tsuut'ina from the Beaver Clans and the Îethka Stoney Nakoda who live in the Mountainlands. Finally, the Otipemisiwak Métis of Districts 5 and 6. Together we are all Treaty people here in Moh'kinstsis.
- (Daisy) Thanks to all of you for honouring the land with me! Until next time!

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

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

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

IV. SCHOOL UPDATE

- a) **Read-a-thon**
 - Hype the genre



- Daily Book Draws
 - (1) Gave away first 12 prizes today (May 21st)
 - (2) World Book Day | MC Grammar
- b) **DDS Serenity Spot Completed!**
 - (1) See DDS (@dds346cbe) Instagram as it's built
 - (2) Living wall and fish tank, but so much more of a conversational area for all
 - (3) Thank you so much to TevaGrow
- c) **Student Experiences – Mr. Anderson Presentation**
 - For information on Garth Prince's School Visit and Programs: <https://garthprince.com/about.html>
 - Request for Music Residency for **2025/2026 school year**
 - (1) Garth Prinsonsky a.k.a. Garth Prince, Founding President, Namibian-Canadian JUNO Award-winning musician and Academy founder
 - (2) Dr. Kathy Robinson
 - (3) Dr. Kofi Gbolonyo
 - (4) Dawn Pemberton
 - **Residency Topic:** “Black Experience: Best Practice Approaches to including African music in the music classroom”
 - **Reasoning:** Residency encompasses DDS's core mandate and commitment for diversity of the students attending DDS
 - (1) DDS has not had a music residency in recent years
 - Prince's residency provides all musical instruments when attending schools
 - (1) DDS has instruments, so unless it's a specialized instrument or a quantity issue, we should have enough to cover students
 - Brings students of all ages together and builds on the diversity through music
 - (1) See short video from YouTube as a sample of Garth Prince's school residency
 - (a) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DReLSLbv6uw>
 - Request to offer this residency during June 5-8
 - (1) Currently booked to hold a spot
 - (2) Residency costs: \$6100
 - (a) Deposit for residency TBD
 - (b) Mr. Anderson will provide at a later time
 - (c) Council suggested that we could use the remaining Casino funds for 2024/2025 year to cover deposit
 - (d) The remaining cost can then be covered by the 2025/2026 Casino funds when they are deposited in the Fall
- d) **DDS Residencies**
 - Residencies currently scheduled/tentatively scheduled for the 2025/2026 school year
 - (1) Tentatively booked for 3rd week of December
 - (a) Alberta Lacrosse booked – 1st physical experience
 - (b) Flag football ball hockey – 2nd physical experience – booked for April
 - Council budgets ~\$20,000 for the school year for residencies



(1) Number of residencies changes each year based on cost of each residencies requested

e) **School Development Plan**

- Another student writing is coming home
- Another survey is coming home as well
- Parents/Guardians are asked to complete the survey and return them
 - (1) New survey isn't based on spelling
 - (2) Wasn't clear during the last survey if spelling was a part of the survey and quality of writing for feedback
- The first survey was successful
 - (1) Students were unsure how to self-talk at home

f) **2025/2026 Registration Update**

- Decline in registration for 2025/2026 school year
 - (1) DDS currently at 375
 - (2) 2025/2026 registrations around 354 students
 - (3) Not as many kindergarten registrations as previous years
 - (a) Potential for only 2 kindergarten classes
 - (4) Potentially will increase during the summer
- Students were invited to list up to 4 friends they'd like to be in class with next year
 - (1) Final placement decisions are made by administration and teachers based on:
 - (a) Class sizes
 - (b) Student learning needs and required supports
 - (c) Classroom dynamics and the goal of a positive learning environment
 - (2) Friend requests are considered but not guaranteed-placements are made in the best interest of all students
 - (3) DDS Administration does not accept parent/guardian requests for specific friend group placements
 - (a) Exceptions may be considered only if a student's unique learning or environmental needs require it
- No split class at this point
 - (1) Split class for 2024/20245 was needed to keep other class sizes low
 - (2) Grade 5 class size is looking at being slightly over 30 students/class
 - (3) Grade 4 class size looking at just below 30 students/class
 - (4) Kindergarten to Grade 3 class size is looking well below 30 students/class
 - (5) Feedback wasn't great so now class size will increase for 2024/2025

g) **Fun Committee**

- Staff Appreciation: Thank you to all volunteers who brought items and helped out
- Spring Dance: Thank you to all volunteers, staff and families. Thank you to Mrs. Krieger and the Spirit Club for the amazing theme idea and making the decorations!
- Food Truck Night June 19th
 - (1) Booked
 - (2) Burrito Mexican Food



- (3) Kona Ice
- (4) The Dogfather and Family
- (5) Fry Guy
- (6) Bottle drive will there too

- Looking for Volunteers for Fun Committee

- (1) Creating an online form
- (2) Fun Committee is very casual, not f/t commitment
- (3) WhatsApp community chat with details of upcoming events looking for Fun Committee members to help volunteer
 - (a) No Stress!
- (4) Clarification will be coming on what Fun Committee is all about

h) **Fundraising Committee**

- Skip the Depot balance: \$335.76
- Read-a-thon:
 - (1) Donations due by June 9th
 - (2) If you go through Benevity, you'll get a tax receipt
 - (3) Some companies will donate based on their employees volunteering at DDS

i) **Annual General Meeting – School Council Board Elections**

- The following School Council positions were voted on and confirmed for the 2024–2025 school year:
 - (1) **Chair:** Monica Nartey
Motion passed unanimously by Heidi, Jenn, Danielle, Kat, Heather McKay, Monique K.
 - (2) **Vice Chair:** Heidi Giebrecht
Motion passed unanimously by Jenn, Monica, Danielle, Kat, Heather McKay, Monique K.
 - (3) **Treasurer:** Danielle Bertrand
Motion passed unanimously by Jenn, Heidi, Monica, Kat, Heather McKay, Monique K.
 - (4) **Secretary:** Kat Thompson
Motion passed unanimously by Jenn, Heidi, Danielle, Monica, Heather McKay, Monique K.
 - (5) **Casino Chair:** Position remains open – TBD
 - (6) **Volunteer Coordinator:** Morgan Caswell
Motion passed unanimously by Jenn, Heidi, Danielle, Monica, Kat, Heather McKay, Monique K.

j) **Parent Workshop: Feedback Formula**

- Confirm a September/early October date
 - (1) After Open House September 17
- Back to School Launch for parent engagement

V. ADJOURNMENT

Monica adjourned the meeting at **6:46**

Minutes submitted by: **Kat Thompson**

Douglasdale Parent Society

Meeting Minutes



LOCATION: DDS - Library

HOSTED: In-person and Virtually

DATE: 16-04-2025

ATTENDEES: Heather McKay, Monique K., Joseph, Michael, Cala, Monica Nartley, Jennifer Drews, Kat Thompson, Bruce Anderson, Heidi Tawadros, Danielle Bertran

TIME: 6:46 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

Jennifer (co-chair) called to order the DDS School Council meeting at **6:46 pm**.

II. CALL TO ORDER – PARENT SOCIETY MEETING

Monica called to order the DDS Parent Society meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

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

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

IV. OPEN BUSINESS

a) **General Account - \$15,285.98**

b) **Casino Account - \$40,267.93**

- Technology received but waiting for the invoice
- Clarification received that it's 36 months to spend the casino funds based on when we received the funds
- Usually received at the beginning of the following quarter
 - (1) Won't find out final totals of casino until then
 - (2) Budget meeting will need to be very conservative until casino funds are confirmed

c) **Dance:** Raised \$1,810

d) **Casino 50/50:** Raised \$195

e) Read-a-thon funds

- Won't know final numbers until after June 9th
- Some parents/guardians/donators may wait until the last day to donate
 - (1) Looking to have student's who raised money colour and name a paper fish to stick in the Serenity Spot as an incentive for students to raise money

f) **Charity Application Update**

- Still pending
- Case has been assigned to a CRA officer



- Council received a letter
 - (1) We need to update our purpose as per CRA
 - (2) May be looking for a grant writer to assist with getting funding approved

g) **Casino Fundraiser**

- Thank you to all who volunteered!
- A special thank you to Morgan Caswell for organizing, and for her dedicated work as Casino Chair the past few years
- Casino Chair's committee is only required every other year
- New Casino Chair needed!

h) **Annual General Meeting – Parent Council Board**

- The following Parent Council positions were voted on and confirmed for the 2024–2025 school year:
 - (1) **President:** Monica Nartey
Motion supported by Heidi, Jenn, Danielle, Kat, Heather McKay, Monique K.
 - (2) **Vice President:** Heidi Giebrecht
Motion supported by Monica, Jenn, Danielle, Kat, Heather McKay, Monique K.
 - (3) **Treasurer:** Danielle Bertrand
Motion supported by Heidi, Jenn, Monica, Kat, Heather McKay, Monique K.
 - (4) **Secretary:** Kat Thompson
Motion supported by Heidi, Jenn, Danielle, Monica, Heather McKay, Monique K.
 - (5) **Casino Chair:** *Position remains open*
 - (6) **Volunteer Coordinator:** Morgan Caswell
Motion supported by Heidi, Jenn, Monica, Danielle, Kat, Heather McKay, Monique K.
 - (7) **Parent Society Chair:** Jenn Drews (stepping down from position; served since 2021)
Acknowledged with thanks. Motion passed for transition.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Jennifer adjourned the meeting at **7:04 pm**.

Minutes submitted by: **Kat Thompson**