

Kanétskare School Council

Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2025

Members present:

Chair: Jennifer Walsom

Principal: Joanne Hall

Secretary: Helen Burnett-Nichols

Jennifer Castle-Timms

Pam Ekins

Regrets:

Vice-Chair: Meaghan Eisenberg

Teacher: Janine Durajlija

Esme Rambert

Tiffany Herron

Natacha da Silva

Cindy Stranak

Louai Moghrabi

Katherine Hollands

Also in attendance: Rosalyn Johnson, Andrea McLean, Laura Roloson (Kanétskare Recreation Centre), Fleur McGeoch, Jackson Hudecki, Julie Yan

- Andrea McLean, Rosalyn Johnson and Fleur McGeoch have joined council as members this month.

1) Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Attendance

Julie Yan read the land acknowledgement, and attendance was taken.

2) Approval of September Minutes

- September minutes were distributed prior to this meeting. Minutes were approved by Pam Ekins, seconded by Jennifer Walsom.
- Helen Burnett-Nichols volunteered to be rotating secretary for this meeting.

3) Meeting Agenda

Recap/feedback on the **Fuel for Kids event on September 24** — consensus was that the event was a success, well attended and fostered positive interaction between kids in different grades.

The henna activity in particular was popular and the students enjoyed the race car assembly at the school during the day. The event raised just under \$1,900 in total for the school.

The **50th school anniversary and open house on October 16** was also a success and was well attended by current students and parents as well as alumni, the school trustee and councillors for wards one and two.

Feedback was that the event was a great use of the whole school and showcased the rebranding and recent refurbishment. Council highlighted the efforts of students in making posters and decorating the school, as well as the volunteers in helping make the event possible.

The videos/archive material found in the time capsule were also popular amongst students and attendees— videos have been digitized and are available to view on the [HWDSB Educational Archives YouTube](#) channel.

PRO Grant

Council chair Jennifer Walsom noted that PRO Grant submissions are due November 21, for maximum funding of up to \$1,000 to be used towards an event or activity aimed at engaging parents in the school community.

Last year, the school used funds for a speaker event but has decided not to pursue this route this year.

One idea mentioned for this year's PRO Grant submission included a self-defence night for parents/caregivers and students, to prepare them for difficult situations in the community.

Principal Hall noted that the school has been focusing on identity this year, via different activities with students and teachers in order to spark conversation. To complement this, she suggested an idea for the PRO Grant around an 'electives night,' similar to the school's elective day activity last year.

Suggested for electives night, families would pre-register online and experts could come in to offer sessions in art, yoga, self-defence, woodworking, sports, cooking, parkour, calligraphy or henna teaching. Principal Hall noted that this type of event would tie in with the identity work the school is already doing, and they would collect student feedback around the activities they would like to participate in with their parents/caregivers.

Next steps – Jennifer to discuss idea with Cindy Stranak in terms of creating a submission by the deadline. The school would aim to run the event in Spring 2026.

4) Principal's Report

- Principal Hall noted that the fall has been very busy so far, including four volleyball teams running at the moment.
- On Monday, October 27, a new initiative is taking place, with Westdale football coaches and players coming to Kanétskare to run a football skills clinic for interested Grade 8 students. The event is intended as a progression activity, aimed at developing teamwork skills and easing the transition for Grade 8s into high school and 40 students have signed up. Principal Hall is looking at whether they can run a similar event for volleyball or music.
- Grade 8 students will also be travelling to Westdale on November 5 for 'a day in the life,' to see what high school and high school programs are like.
- The information flyer was also recently distributed to Grade 7 and 8 students with dates for information nights at all HWDSB high schools.
- Grade 6 students recently participated in a successful trip to Crawford Lake for team building
- The school will be participating in spirit week activities from October 27-31

Fundraising:

Pizza Days are currently underway and are the school's major fundraiser, usually generating between \$8,000-\$10,000 for trip subsidies, classroom items and technology.

Other fundraising efforts/plans for 2025/26 — the Scholastic Book Fair at October's open house/50th anniversary raised just under \$700.

The Kanétskare Café held in the spring usually raises approx. \$1,500 towards technology and school revitalization.

Pop/chips/candy sales go towards Grade 8 graduation.

The school is holding a TBCY fundraiser in November, funds will be put towards the purchase of new technology, including iPads and laptops, which is this year's big focus for fundraising.

Principal Hall noted that the school is permitted 10 nutrition days per year — she anticipates three are unallocated, which may allow for a hot dog day fundraiser at some point.

Other:

Principal Hall shared that she has received requests for an online option for council meetings and asked whether this is something council would like to consider. One attendee mentioned that a pro of a listen-in option is that it would be helpful for busy parents, who would be able to join from anywhere and find out what's going on.

Other considerations include how best to provide the link to attendees, for example, whether it would be sent out to council members only via a group email and to interested parties by request.

Council has decided to try implementing an online option for the next council meeting, via a link sent to those included on the email list. The online option will be offered on Microsoft Teams and any attendees will need to be admitted into the meeting by Principal Hall.

5) Teacher's report

There was no teacher's report this evening, as Janine Durajlija sent her regrets.

6) Hamilton Recreation Report

Laura Roloson from the Kanétskare Recreation Centre attended the meeting and shared information about the programs taking place this fall at the Recreation Centre, including:

- Girls Who Play, different sports activities offered free on Mondays for girls ages 9-12 from 6-7pm. Students are required to register, but can do so on the day. This is followed by a girls-only open gym for ages 10-14 from 7-9pm
- Drop-in youth basketball, Tuesday nights from 7:30-9pm
- New this year, free swims Monday and Friday, 6-7-15pm

Laura also mentioned the advanced aquatics programs available at Bennetto Recreation Centre, including Bronze Medallion, Bronze Cross and Emergency First Aid.

7) PIC Update

PIC update has been deferred to the next meeting

8) Adjournment & Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 27 at 6:30pm in the learning commons with a virtual option available.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm