

Kanétskare School Council Meeting - Minutes

Monday, March 9, 2026, 6:30 pm

In Attendance: Andrea McLean, Jennifer Castle-Timms, Cindy Stranak, Helen Burnett-Nichols, Jennifer Walsom, Joanne Hall, Janine Durajlija

Regrets: Esme Rambert, Natacha Da Silva, Meaghan Eisenberg, Pam Ekins, Tiffany Herron

1) Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Attendance

2) Secretary: Jennifer Castle-Timms

Approval of November meeting minutes: motion to approve Jenn Walsom; 2nd Andrea McLean

3) Reports & Updates

Principal Report (Joanne Hall)-

- On March 5th Joanne received 4 weeks notice from the City of Hamilton that construction is set to begin early April (depending on weather). She shared a plan with them that involves making Robinson a one-way street going OUT of the school and Duke a one way street going INTO the school. City is to get back to Joanne about this as well as Hamilton Road Safety (the hope is to get more crossing guards at Queen with more foot traffic).
- Vaccine email went out – there are around 100 kids needing updated vaccines and so far they have been successful at contacting half of those families. Suspension period (if records remain incomplete) begins March 12, 2026.
- Safe Schools – Fire lockdown drill this week – email sent out
- School website is being updated and will be live March 13th. Unfortunately, with the new website there will be no way to subscribe to it anymore, but this will hopefully get figured out. This leaves School Messenger as the only mass communication method to parents for the time being.
- The Olympic challenge was great. They had music playing to the opening and closing ceremonies and the kids were really into the challenges and competitions. The leadership kids did a great job with this! They are hoping to do something like this with the World Cup. Lots of lightning bolts were given out and there will be a big draw at the end of the year.

Teacher Report (Janine Durajlija)-

- No changes to extracurriculars and intramurals – all is well here
- Junior basketball is up and running for boys and girls

PIC update (Cindy Stranak)-

- HWDSB is starting the 2026-27 budget consultations, it's a January to June process involving many groups including parents. The board's revenue is dependent on enrollment, for next year the projected enrollment is expected to be 37-38,000 elementary students and 14,000 high school students. Per student revenue is \$14,560. There is additional revenue per student for special education, which is based solely on age, younger students receive the highest amount. The board spends the revenue on several key areas. 60% of the budget is used for staff salaries and not negotiable. The remaining funds are divided into special education, administration, transportation, learning resources and facilities. There is some flexibility in the budget and the board is looking for feedback on how they should spend the funding, a survey was sent to all parents on School Messenger on March 3, 2026, for convenience, here is a link to the information that includes the link to the survey: HWDSB's 2026-2027 Budget Process: We Want to Hear from You! | Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
- There was also a presentation from the Human Rights Office. The office is comprised of 4 people that are responsible for: internal human rights resolution process, building system-wide training to understand and apply human rights, reviewing policies, procedures, and practices and system navigation. For more information visit: Human Rights and Equity | Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
- Finally, we had a presentation from the Safe School Action Plan about school lockdown drills and how that impacts the staff and students' mental health. There was an activity that invited members to elaborate on lockdowns in schools and to share their reflections or personal experiences with the group.

Joanne commented on how well the lockdowns go here. They take the kids who have been through trauma out early so as not to re-traumatize them and overall they do things as quickly as possible.

Principal Placement Survey – due April 24th – Joanne has asked not to be moved. School Council should fill it out and express their wishes. Cindy is going to fill out a draft and send it to Jenn.

4) Parent Engagement Event

Volunteer coordinators: Andrea McLean and Natacha DaSilva passing things over to Jen Castle-Timms

Promotion: Esme Rambert and Meaghan Eisenberg (poster and sign ups)

Joanne will ask student leadership club to help out as well.

For materials, it's likely that volunteers will have to purchase them and Joanne will reimburse them after.

10 Activities:

1. Pickleball – Mr. Boissineau and Mr. Melki will lead this in gym.

2. Yoga – Katie from DeLaSol

3. Video Games – our volunteer needs 4 monitors with HDMI capabilities.

4. Kickboxing –

5. Meditation –

6. Line Dancing

7. Card games – Pam

8. Pilates –

9. Illustrations – Jacquie Oakley

10. Cooking

Apart from the gym and the library, we will decide classrooms once we know numbers after signup. Smaller classrooms will be capped at 20 people.

Someone offered to do a Rugby clinic and we won't be going ahead with that – we need the gym for pickleball.

We will inform parents that the parent (or sibling or caregiver over 18) needs to sign up for activities with their child. No siblings will be able to attend. Childminding was discussed, but it needs to be arranged through the School Board and paid for – this was determined to not be the best use of funds.

Budget - Total Available: \$806 PRO Grant + \$200 School Council Funds = \$1,000

PLAN:

Jen and Andrea to send form to activity leads re: activity description, supply and support needs, ideal participant numbers by March 13th. We will ask to have that back by March 20th.

Activities finalized and summary sent to Meaghan to develop sign-up system done by March 25th (Jen CT Andrea M)

March 31st – Sign up form will go out to school community – Jenn W. to write the message to send out on School Messenger. Esme will design the poster and Meaghan will do the QR code. Joanne will find out about translating the poster into different languages.

Jen CT to contact Natacha to take over the gmail account and start communicating with volunteers.

5) Upcoming School Events

a. Staff Appreciation (Friday May 8th) – Parent donations for food and snacks. 1 or 2 possible volunteers to go to the school and help put food out that morning. Can Natacha do a sign up for this? Email to be sent out to parents to ask for donations in April, after the Parent Engagement evening.

b. Open House & Café –discuss at next meeting.

c. Grade 8 Graduation – Friday, June 19 – school council awards to be sponsored by parent council. We decided to give \$25 cash in lieu of gift cards so that we don't have to do paperwork. 6 x \$25 for a total of \$150.

6) School Council By-Laws – HWDSB is moving towards standardized by-laws. Will bring forward to a future meeting. To be implemented before September 2026.

7) Adjournment Approx 7:50pm

Next Meeting: Monday, April 13th, 6:30 pm