



William Dunbar Public School School Community Council (SCC) October 2025 Meeting Minutes

Date October 22, 2025
Place Room 104
Time 6:00pm

Principal	Tina Mandal
Vice-Principal	Terry Lawrence
Chair	James Tantsef
Co-Chair	Terra Snape
Treasurer	Jamie O'Connor
Secretary	Farzana Damji

Attendees

Shannon Belmore
Alexis Daiter
Sahaba Mufallal
Alana Burns
Ivana Habib

Ahila Srikandarajah
Lisa Tsobanos
Nicole Bacci
Samia Siddiqui
Jenn Danaher

Patrice Bigwood
Rachel St Louis

Meeting Start & Opening Remarks

6:00pm

Welcome – James Tantsef & Terra Snape, Chair & Co-Chair, begin the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

Land Acknowledgement & Human Rights Policy – presented by Terry Lawrence, Vice-Principal.

SCC Norms – presented by Terry Lawrence.

Fundraising Plan

by James Tantsef and Terra Snape, Co-Chairs, 6:05pm

All attendees were asked to bring forward any ideas they have for fundraising for September & October 2026

Overview of Fundraising Plan for 2025-26 School Year.

- 3 Cash events per year
- Presentation of last year's most successful events
- New ideas for fundraising for this year
- Open to floor for any new ideas for this year

Proposed Fundraising Options to Vote On:

1. Glow Dance: November 2025
2. Movie Night: January 2026
3. Winter Raffle: Dec 10/11 draw to take place
4. Freezie Friday: June 12 2026 & September TBD
5. Tuck Shop on musical night: May 6/7 2026
6. Fall Fair: October 2026
7. Trivia Night (adults only)
8. Special Lunches
9. Kids Night Out/Parent's Night Off

Non-Fundraising Initiatives

1. Art Fair/Science Fair – Mme. Masson to take this back to rest of staff for feedback.
2. Volunteer days (as community building)

Additional ideas from the floor:

- Read-a-thon
- Croc Charm
- Fun Fair (June)

6:45pm Voting members voted on top 6 options for this year.

Outcome of votes were:

1. Glow Dance – November 2025
2. Movie Night
3. June Freezie Friday
4. Spring Fun Fair
5. Trivia Night
6. Tuck Shop: with flowers/stuffies/food

Table for June SCC Meeting

- September 2026 Freezie Day
- October 2026 Glow Dance

Feedback for Fundraising Events

- Fun Fair: need a solid committee to lead it. This can not be done by 1 or 2 individuals. May be tabled if there is no committee.
- Auditor: This relates to cash events. As a result of being audited for the previous 2 years, the DDSB auditor's recommendations were to keep cash events to a minimum (2-3 per year).
- Suggestion was made for a call out to whole school community for volunteers to help with events on sub-committees.

Profit Spending Plan:

- Assist with equipment for Spring Musical:
 - \$600 for scripts, rights, etc.
 - \$200 for props, costumes, etc.
 - \$300 Lapel Microphones
- Drumming workshop that all can participate in.
- Additional \$500 for Grade 8 Graduation.
- We can leave some options open if we fundraise a significant amount.

No vote was held to approve these items for profit spending. A formal vote will be held at the January 2026 meeting.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

by James Tantsef, Chair, 7:37pm

A motion to approve the minutes from the last SCC meeting (September 2025) was put forward. Motion was passed and the minutes were approved by Jenn Danaher & Nella Cozza.

Student SCC Report

by Student Reps, 7:44pm

The Grade 8 Student Reps gave an overview of what events are currently in place and will be coming up in the near future at William Dunbar. There is a Junior World Cup taking place, among other activities.

Treasurer's Report

by James Tantsef, Chair, 7:50pm

Freezie Friday took place on September 26, 2025.

Revenue: \$798.00

Expenses: \$0.00

Net Earnings: \$798.00

Combined with the \$500.00 welcome funds, the current SCC account balance is \$1,298.00.

SCC Communication

by Terra Snape, Co-Chair, 7:50pm

Main form of communication is email. Attendees were reminded to sign-in and asked to include an email address to ensure they are kept informed and up-to-date on SCC business. There is also an informal WhatsApp group that many members use. Those that want to be added to the group were asked to email SCC.WilliamDunbarPS@scc.ddsb.ca.

Proposed Meeting Dates

by James Tantsef, Chair, 7:51pm

Thursday, January 15, 2026 – 6:30pm, Room 104

Thursday, April 16, 2026 – 6:30pm, Room 104

Thursday, June 18, 2026 – 6:30pm, Room 104

Administrators' Report

by Tina Mandal, Principal, and Terry Lawrence, Vice-Principal, 7:51pm

New at William Dunbar:

- Stage and benches placed in the kindergarten yard
- A grade 5 at William Dunbar was selected to be Police Chief for a Day – whole school went outside to support the student as she flew over the school in a helicopter
- New door wrap on the gym doors – says “welcome” in multiple languages – a nice way to welcome visitors into the school and represents an inclusive environment

Multi-Year Strategic Priorities have been introduced.

- Ignite Learning – emphasizes the importance of meaningful learning. The focus of instructional program should be on quality education and transferable skills and competencies to prepare for the future, while moving beyond narrow or usual definitions of learning and success to promote all kinds of learning, both in and out of the classroom.
 - John Hattie’s research and the Hinge Point (0.4) was explained. It’s a scale of the impact that various approaches or factors have on learning. Those approaches or factors measuring from 0.4 to 1.6 are considered effective. Those under 0 are considered to have reverse effects.
 - School is looking to implement and focus on approaches and factors in the effective range.

School Achievement Plan

- Meaningful Learning – focus is to collaboratively analyze student work and data to improve instructional practice and improve achievement.
- Well-being – focus is to improve students’ sense of belonging and mattering at our school.
- Connected Communities – focus is to provide opportunities for families and caregivers to get involved in their child’s learning.

Meaningful Learning

The school has begun with a writing initiative. Teachers worked with those who teach a similar grade or subject to create success criteria linked to specific curriculum expectations. The goal is to have more uniform grading among classes within the same grade so that there is a unified understanding of students’ writing development across all grades. This enables teachers to provide sufficient support to students as they develop their writing skills.

Well-Being

The school has a Positive School Climate Team which consists of staff, students, parents/guardians, our Public Health Nurse, our Police Liaison Officer and administration. Student turnout at the first meeting was very high and the Team has been broken into specialized committees:

- Washroom Warriors - increasing safety in our washrooms
- Well-Being - increasing well-being in our primary classes
- Recess Guardians - organizing cooperative games for our primary students with a focus on positive language
- Walk to School Wednesday's
- Belonging/Greeting Students - door greeters + positive affirmations

Connected Communities

Partners in Literacy – October 23, 2025 – for grade 1 and 2 parents and caregivers interested in learning more about the school approach to literacy and how they can help their child's journey at home

Tea with T&T – October 28, 2025 – an opportunity to meet with the Principal and Vice-Principal to learn about what is happening at the school and areas of focus

Family Math Night – February 26, 2025 – Families will enjoy hands-on activities, games, and challenges designed to spark curiosity and build confidence in mathematical thinking. Sponsored by the Parent Reaching Out Grant.

Meeting Adjourned

by Terry Lawrence, Vice-Principal, 8:12pm

Attendees were thanked for coming and the meeting came to an end.