

2024-2025 Dr. Denison School Council

Elected Members	Location: Library	Meeting Dates
<u>School Council Co-Chairs</u> Chris Duggan Lena Singh <u>Secretary</u> Katie Bosse <u>Treasurer</u> Zalema Mavor		October 8th - Tuesday November 18th - Monday January 13th - Monday February 10th - Monday April 14th - Monday May 12th - Monday <div style="background-color: #00FF00; padding: 2px;">New start time 6:30 PM</div>

Date: October 8th, 2024			Start Time: 7:00pm
In Attendance (In Person or Hybrid)		Regrets	
Parent Members	Administration/Staff/Student Rep		
Chris Duggan Katie Bosse Maria Hipolito Alice Souvannakhily Susan Rough Lena Singh (Hybrid) Kris Maye Zalema Mavor Kayathry Kathakaran	Seiji Ishiguro Deborah Austring Jemva Morgan Rebecca Baker Lesley Smith		

Agenda Item	Discussion and Action Item
Introductions and Welcome (Hybrid) Land Acknowledgement	Shared by Seiji Ishiguro
Student Report	<p>Given By: Deborah Austring Club Fair Sept 26, 2024 Students engaged in a scavenger hunt activity exploring different clubs. The Student Council reports that the event was successful and they received many new applicants for council.</p> <hr/> <p>Truth and Reconciliation Students participated in a school wide Art project where they added handprints to a larger poster which was displayed in the cafeteria.</p>

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	<hr/> Upcoming Student Council Events House Teams All students have received their house colours. Each team is composed of many different students in different grades. Students participate in events throughout the school year earning their house team points. House teams are Red, Blue, Green and Yellow. Oct 17 is the first house leaders meeting. Upcoming house events <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Halloween scavenger hunt during school day (Halloween Day)- Spirit Days (3 days)- Costume Day- 80's Day (Each month will be a different era) **Special Education would like to have more involvement in house teams and events. It was tricky for students with larger crowds and sensory input in the cafeteria. Recommendation: Each class placed in different house colours as a group so that it is easier to support the whole group. Possibly pre filming or creating audio files of each club so the community classes to view prior. Rebecca Baker and Jemva Morgan will connect to see how we can better provide equitable access to school events for all students. <hr/> Food Drive -We scare Hungry Beginning after Thanksgiving Proceeds go to the Local Community Food Bank <hr/> Student Council Training Members of the Student Council will be engaging in a Leadership Retreat where they will be receiving training for their positions.
Staff Report	Denison Food Pantry is back!! <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Located out of room 127 and accessed through guidance• Parents can email brad.young@yrdsb.ca to get put on the distribution list• Shopping Style• There will be set days and times for pick up• Pet food is available if you email rita.goverde@yrdsb.ca• If families would like to donate food they can contact brad.young@yrdsb.ca Community Class will organize items for their work experience.

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Post Secondary Fair Dates (Priority given to grade 11-12)

Newmarket Post-Secondary Fair at Sacred Heart High School

- October 10th - 6:00 to 8:00pm

Ontario College Fair at Enercare Centre - October 16 - 17

- Denison Field Trip Oct. 17 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
\$5.00 per student which includes transportation by school bus (Denison received grant \$ to keep this cost so low) on School Cash Online

Level Up - Apprenticeship Fair at International Centre - November 26 -28

- Hopefully it will be a Denison Field Trip (depends on if we get grant \$) - more information to come (Guidance Google Classroom)

Newcomers Club

- Our school is becoming more diverse so we are getting more Newcomer students.
- We started the club last year to help students build positive relationships with others in school
- They meet every Thursday during lunch period 2 and 4 in room 216
- Thursdays after school in room 205
- Follow them on Instagram @denisonesi

Communication

Concerns around equitable communication were raised at the school council meeting.

How are we delivering school communication?

Electronically in English

Do families have access to school communication and technology to view information?

How can we reach a greater number of families? Print Options

The Elementary Panel has already begun providing prominent languages through translated hyperlinks in their communication.

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	<p>Click here for the Persian Translation. Click here for the Russian Translation.</p> <p>Please email the school if you need the Gator Social translated into a different language. phoebe.gilman.ps@yrdsb.ca</p> <p>School council would like to see all communication with families and within the school to be equitable and available in multiple languages.</p> <p>Rebecca and Seiji will look into board resources to support this initiative.</p> <hr/> <p>Special Education Report</p> <p>Fresh Food Fundraiser</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Run by the Intensive Class• Payments on School Cash Online until October 15• Delivery in mid November- 10 days notice will be given• All proceeds go to Special Education Program Initiatives• Email melanie.french@yrdsb.ca for more details• Pick up times will be arranged for parents <hr/> <p>Denison Market</p> <p>Proposal of possibly having 2 dates Winter and Spring</p> <p>School council agreed that this year it may be too rushed to introduce a 2nd date in the Winter but will reevaluate for the 2025-2026 school year.</p>
Admin Report	<p>School Council Fall Forum Registration Open</p> <p>Wednesday Oct 30th at Newmarket HS</p> <p>5:30 PM - 8:30 PM</p> <p>This event is for members of the School Council to come together with other members and learn more about what different School Councils are doing within their communities.</p> <hr/> <p>Thoughtful Thursdays</p> <p>Run on Thursday evenings - games, student- wellness initiatives, Thursday evening activities</p> <p>Focus on providing organized sports to kids who may not have access. Bring community members.</p> <p>Discussion around trying to make Thoughtful Thursdays more of a family centred activity.</p> <p>Chris will connect with Town Councillors and invite them to our November to discuss partnership with the Town.</p>

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	<hr/> Important Upcoming Dates Picture Retake Day October 15 Interim Reports eDistributed starting October 15 PA Day October 21 October 22 International visitors Meet the teacher night, Oct 24 Take your kids to work day - grade 9s, November 6th <hr/> Meet the Teacher Night Oct 24, 24 The School Council will have a table set up to share information with families about how they can get involved in their students' education. Sign up, water, sharing of information Rotation of parents Zalema Mavor will create a 1 page school council Community class will make a banner Caretaking will put out a table in the foyer <hr/> Grade 8 Information Night Nov 21, 2024 is a CONFLICT with other local schools Gr. 8 information night Admin will investigate changing the date to NOV 14, 24 Another great opportunity for the School council to connect with families. School is looking for a school community to contribute donated items to be raffled off in silent auction baskets. School to send out a eblast asking families to donate. With examples of items and information about where proceeds will be going. Proceeds will go to Relay for Life
Other Business	Overall School council Goals this year <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. More school council presence and involvement at events2. Fundraising- What are the needs? (Needs Survey)3. More equitable communication with families and guardians

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PRO Grant Application

Consideration for using the PRO Grant to promote equitable communication

Guest Speakers- haven't been very successful in the past

Building up Thoughtful Thursdays with parent engagement.
Connecting families (grade specific nights) in the Cafeteria

Seiji Ishiguro- will fill out the PRO Grant

November Meeting- brainstorm an events calendar

Fundraising

Funds are needed at Denison.

Seiji Ishiguro will create a blurb about where funds will go based on the needs of the school community.

Proposed Ideas for 2024-2025 fundraising

1. Online Gift Card Sales

<https://www.fundscrip.com/how-it-works>

<https://www.flipgive.com/>

Katie to look into each site and determine which one we should use.

2. Terra Cotta Cookies

<https://terracottacookies.com/>

3. Poinsettia sales

Zalema Mavor will send proposal for Terra Cotta Cookie and Poinsettias

School Principal Profile Input- Was not covered at this meeting.
Will be put of the agenda for November if needed

Subsidising Fees for students in need

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	<p>Council asked the school if funds are available to subsidise students who may not be able to afford school events. School assures the council that every student will get covered when needed.</p> <p>Denison Cares: will be an account set up for providing students with funds to cover school events.</p> <p>Action: School will set up SchoolCashOnline to allow for donations to be made to the Denison Cares Fund. There will be a round up and dollar amount donations options.</p> <p>Positive Pathways Coach highly involved with students in need.</p> <hr/> <p>Motion to move meeting to start time to 6:30pm- Passed</p>
Meeting Ended:	8:52 pm

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Sept 16th, 2024

In attendance

Parent Members	Administration/staff	Regrets
Katie Bosse Alex Stepanenko Kayathry Kathakaran Alice Souvannakhily Zalema Mavor Kris Maye Nasil Ali Chris Duggan Niruban Nakeehthiran	Seiji Ishiguro Deborah Austring Jemva Morgan Rebecca Baker Debby Morgan Nishad Ramjit	Chris Duggan Lina Sing

Agenda Item	Discussion and Action Item
Introductions and Welcome (Hybrid) Land Acknowledgement	
Nominations	<p>No nominations submitted prior to this meeting. Goal to build School Council and engage more parents/guardians</p> <p>Open Positions: School Council Chair School Council Secretary School Council Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Duggan and Lina Sing offered to Principal Ishiguro that they are willing to remain in the roles of Chair and X? If no nominations are brought forward. Attendees agreed to this arrangement</p> <p>Treasurer - Parent Zalema Mavor offered to be treasurer. Carried and approved. Principal Ishiguro explained general information of PRO Grant and how was spent in the past.</p> <p>Secretary - Principal Ishiguro explained the role and</p>

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	<p>transparency of Council notes. Parent Katie Bosse offered to be secretary. Carried and approved. Ms. Bosse is also a YRDSB employee.</p> <p>Other attendees to be members at large.</p>
Student Report	<p>Debby Morgan and Nishad Ramjit introduced themselves and their roles.</p> <p>Club Fair next week (September 26) to introduce clubs, meeting dates, times to students. All clubs will have a space at the fair with interactive displays. Students will participate in a scavenger hunt to explore the displays and learn about the clubs.</p> <p>Truth and Reconciliation event October 30 to recognize Indigenous people of Canada. A poster with students' handprints will be displayed to demonstrate students' care for Indigenous peoples of Canada.</p> <p>Spirit Days - First Spirit Day is Twin Day on September 18.</p> <p>Student Council Elections will occur this month - Executive positions and committees (Relay for Life, Semi-Formal, Internal Affairs). Being a Grade Representative is a great way to share a student's voice without taking on a leadership role. More information to be shared at the Student Council meeting on September 17th, after school. Grade Representatives share the voice of their grade peers as to what events they would like to see at school. Committee leaders will work as part of a team to organise and run events. Communication to and amongst Student Council will be verbal, social media platforms.</p> <p>Promotions - House Events and House Meetings - Students organized into House colours for competitive activities to win points for their House colors. Internal Affairs and Grade Reps will promote and plan these events. Exploring new ways to promote events and engage students through social media reels. The members of the promotion committee will generate ideas of how to promote events and engage students.</p> <p>Student Council leadership is exploring ways to train leaders (skill building, leadership training). Financial barriers exist due to the cost of transportation. There is no source of funding at this time.</p> <p>With grade specific lunches, grade representatives will promote and host events during their lunch periods.</p>

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	<p>Parent involvement is welcome. Zalema Mavor volunteered to support with promotion.</p> <p>Zalema Mavor inquired as to the promotion of events, clubs on social media. Debby Morgan shared information about social media accounts. Nishad shared that a news channel is in development.</p> <p>Principal Ishiguro shared that there is a new club proposal this year via a Google Form. Club information will be posted on the school website. School tv's will display club/sport information.</p>
Staff Report	<p>Jemva Morgan - Spring Market April 24, 2025. Will apply for a grant. Will invite the Town of Newmarket, community partners and guest speakers to participate and promote the event. The School Council is invited to help plan and have a booth at the Spring Market to promote Council and engage parents. Grade 8 Night is coming up. The School Council is invited to have a booth at Grade 8 Night and Meet the Teacher Night to invite parent involvement. The School Council is invited to share feedback with the Student Council.</p> <p>Rebecca Baker - Terry Fox Run on September 25. Night School registration is open. Athletic tryouts are ongoing. Athletic events will commence in October.</p>
Admin Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School Council Fall Forum Registration - Wednesday Oct 30th - Newmarket HS - 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM - Thoughtful Thursdays - games, student- wellness initiatives, Thursday evening activities. Start date Thursday, September 18. - Picture Day today, September 16. - International Certificate Program (ICP) - A certificate program focussed on international experiences and studies. More information to be shared at a later date. - Re-building Denison as a destination high school - through safety, learning and engagement. Ongoing efforts to engage community partners. School administration and staff have implemented cell phone policy. Students have complied well. Grade 9 enrollment has decreased (below 200). School goal to raise the profile of school and attract students.

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- Parent shared that other schools such as Huron Heights SS have other programs that attract students (ie. trades programs). Suggested developing programs that make Denison stand out and/or offers similar programs as other schools.
- Parent question regarding safety related to bathrooms. Principal Ishiguro and Baker, Morgan explained safety measures in place - increased supervision, administrator and staff presence in halls and monitoring washrooms, students only allowed out of class one at a time, Report It tool. Attendees shared strategies such as speaking to a trusted adult, informing administrators of concerns, recognizing that with a larger student such as that in a high school, students will be exposed to a greater variety of identities.
- Student Engagement Fee - This money supports clubs, school events such as Denison Day.
- Social Media - Instagram drdenisonss
- School Improvement Plan - All staff working toward a common goal of equitable assessment that is responsive to the needs of all students.
- School Council Start Up video played for attendees; link in slide deck. Principal Ishiguro identified the goal of increasing participation in the School Council. The School Council handbook is a great resource.
- School Council meeting dates discussed. Minimum of four meetings is required. Low participation/attendance in December and March.
- Meeting Dates: October 8, November 18, January 13, February 10, April 14, May 12

Meeting ended 8:31

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2024-2025 Meeting Minutes Template

In attendance

Parent Members	Administration/staff	Regrets
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Land Acknowledgement	
Nominations	
Student Report	

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Staff Report	
Admin Report	
Meeting Ended:	