

West Dover School Council

February 11, 2026

In attendance: Lana Christmas, Christine Cahoon, Ariana Kippers, Andy Shannon, Michelle Rothwell, Sarah Nauss, Roy Strum, Clara Devos, Prem Randhawa, Bobbie Schmidt, Bobbie Rogers

1. **Call meeting to order** by Ariana @ 6:00pm
2. **Approval of agenda:** Approved by Chris; second by Ariana
3. **Approval of minutes:** Approved by Chris; second by Ariana
4. **Review of School Council Norms:** Printed copies of meeting norms are provided to the group and reviewed. Copies will be available at each meeting.
5. **Reports**
 - a. **Teacher Report**
 - i. Ms. Bobbie presents her class' field trip experience to Fish Creek Park last Fall. Her slideshow showcases the sights, sounds, smells, etc. her students got to enjoy. They saw a white weasel and used magnifying glasses to explore. It was a perfect day, and she hopes they will return this Spring. Ms W. from Kindergarten has applied again for this free field trip for the k-1/2 classes.
 - ii. Bobbie shows the group some of the science bins the school put together with past Parent Association support, and includes material such as flashlights, scales, lab sheets and other items. She also received a replacement rug for her classroom and invites everyone to have a look after the meeting.
 - iii. Bobbie's students have also participated in a book club with Mr Strum, where some students get to spend time reading great books. Mr Strum took extra time to make sure they finished a book before a student was to leave the school to ensure they knew how it ended.
 - b. **Chair Report**
 - i. Meeting norms already discussed
 - ii. ACSC \$500 grant - Ariana asks if anyone wants to form a committee to find places to spend this before the end of the year. Chris is asked if she is interested since she has some experience with this grant from last year. Chris says she does not want to make any decisions, but mentions that Jo Outloud is a great speaker and qualifies for the grant. The group agrees to discuss this as a group on our Facebook Messenger chat. Roy will also reach out to other schools to see what they have put the grant towards.
 - c. **Principal Report**
 - i. Playground Update: Roy presents a slideshow about the playground and its eventual need for a replacement. Roy has been in contact with Alex Zhang, Facility Team Lead, and Dean McTavish, Playground Inspector Foreman, who have shared the history, current state and remaining life of the playground:

1. It was installed in 2001, sits on municipal reserve land but is owned and maintained by the CBE. Replacement is a School Council led project with Facilities and Environmental Services for the removal, planning, purchase and installation. Yearly safety inspections have occurred and it is deemed safe, but beyond its 20 year life expectancy. Dean recommends that we begin planning for a replacement and the current playground can remain until then.
 2. The next steps are: 1) Form a Playground Renewal Committee; 2) Research recent replacements including Abbeydale (underway), Hautain Memorial (similar shared space with comm. ctr) and Valleyview (newly installed); 3) Contact approved vendors; 4) Fundraise and apply for grants; 5) Create a replacement plan; 6) Purchase and install.
 3. Roy shares an approximate timeline which is to begin right away with a call for Playground Renewal Committee members between now and March 10th, start the research phase from March 12-May 12 and present the findings at the Council AGM on May 13th. May 14-Sep 8 research vendors, design and costs and present these findings at the Sept 9th Council meeting. Sep 10-Oct 13 share plan with FES and revise as needed, and update Council on Oct 14. Oct 15-Nov 17 create a fundraising plan and share with Council on Nov 18. Nov 19-May 11 fundraising activities with updates shared with Council. May 12-Jun 8 await approval from FES, Jul 1-Aug 28 2027 playground is installed. If we are not ready for installation by the summer of 2027 then it will be done by the summer of 2028.
 4. Other points of discussion: we can work/fundraise with the Dover Community Association since it is shared space; Education Matters can be targeted fundraising for this project; the approximate cost is \$450,000-\$575,000; call for committee members to go out on the Sunday messages and flyers.
- ii. March Community Engagement Survey: At our March School Council meeting, Roy will share the parent engagement presentation followed by a survey. This includes thoughts on fees and school priorities. This presentation and survey will then be sent to all parents/guardians.

d. AP Report

i. Upcoming Events:

1. Hitmen Game on Feb 24. Many volunteers signed up and may be shared with other classes. The tickets and t-shirts have been picked up and permission forms will go home the week before.
2. Flames Crew will be doing a residency at the school the first week of June and play flag football with our students. This is also gr6 PAT week but will work around that.
3. Gr6 Outdoor school is in the planning stage.

4. Arts Commons will be doing a residency at the school for our grade 3 & 4 students on Feb 20th.
5. Cross Country skiing is scheduled for the first week of March so long as there is snow.
6. Alien Inline booked for the first two weeks of May ending with a family skate night.
7. Mr Holland applied and received a grant for \$5000 to update the sensory room by the office.
8. Gr 6 graduation planning to begin soon.

e. Parent Association Report

- i. Christine reports the Association has not met and does not have a recent treasury update. We are scheduled to meet on Feb 25th and so should have this information for March.
- ii. Chris shares the Kernels fundraiser was the biggest one yet, with 621 bags sold. The school dance made a profit and the next fundraiser will be a pizza one in March.

6. New Business:

- a. Ariana shares Susan Vukadinovic, Board Trustee, has been invited to our next meeting.

7. Next Meeting: March 11, 2026 @ 6:00pm, West Dover Learning Commons

8. Meeting Adjourned by Ariana @ 7:11pm

Notes prepared by Lana Christmas, West Dover School Council Secretary