DR S J PHILLIPS PUBLIC SCHOOL
625 SIMCOE STREET NORTH
OSHAWA, ONTARIO
L1G 4V5

SCC Meeting Minutes September 28, 2026

Present: Molly Doyle, Amanda Kinna, Ben Wright, Lydia Wright, Fiona McDowell, Jenn Powell, Ashley Alton, Sonia Fudge, Dianne Marsh, Vanessa Ferguson, Judit Sikora, Jenn Green, Ashley Keirstead, Victoria Ferguson, Stephanie Manvilla-Edge, Kim Foreman, Tyler Gmyrek, Ang Hoard, Jocelyn Rudd.
Student Rep: n/a

Land Acknowledgement: Ashley Keirstead

Welcome:
- Principal welcomed everyone
- Attendees introduced themselves

Principal's Report:

School EQAO Results
- Grade 3 students scored above the DDSB board average overall.
- Grade 6 students performed well in reading and writing but experienced challenges in mathematics.
- Noted that many students rushed through the computer-based math assessment and guessed at answers.
- A key school goal this year is to teach students effective test-taking strategies and how to properly use available digital tools.

Construction update
- Structural jacks are currently supporting portions of the building.
- The existing 1924 columns near the future elevator shaft will be replaced with beams over the winter holiday period.
- Electrical work throughout the building is being replaced to bring the system up to current code.
- Heating is expected to be operational before winter.
- The principal meets with the construction team every two weeks.
- City permit delays have been a significant factor in the construction schedule.

House Colour Program
- Students in Grades 1–8 are being reorganized into the six house colours.
- New house assignments are being made this year to improve balance among the houses.
- Grade 7/8 students participated in a leadership workshop.
- Four captains will be selected for each house.
- House assignments are expected to be finalized by the end of the week.
- A mini October house challenge is planned.
- The first house recognition assembly will take place at the end of October.

Attendance Recognition

- The school is introducing a fifth "A" alongside:
  - Attitude
  - Arts
  - Athletics
  - Academics
  - Attendance
- Attendance recognition is part of a board-wide initiative.
- This is not a perfect-attendance award. Recognition will focus on significant improvement and student engagement.
- Special attendance-related classroom initiatives are planned for Grades 6–8.

Spirit Wear and Grad Sweaters

- A new spirit-wear vendor will be introduced within the next few days.
- Options will range from basic T-shirts to Under Armour apparel.
- Name embroidery will be available.
- "Parent" apparel options will also be offered.
- Graduation sweaters available earlier, will feature '27 and student names on the back can be worn throughout the school year.

School Budget

- The school's block budget has decreased from approximately **$62,000 to $29,000**.
- $29,000 is used for supply teachers, furniture, salt (seasonal), etc.
- The reduction is connected to ministry-level changes, including:
  - $750 teacher gift cards;
  - Introduction of the "Edwin" online curriculum without associated training;
  - Paper costs being shifted to teachers.
- The school previously spent approximately **$16,000–$17,000 annually on paper**.

Orange Shirt Day

- Orange Shirt Day will take place Wednesday.
- Truth and reconciliation learning activities will be incorporated throughout the school.

Sensory Garden / Outdoor Classroom

- Following the removal of the tree from the outdoor classroom area, plans are underway to develop a sensory garden and shaded outdoor space.
- Planned improvements include:
  - Four beams with red shade sail;
  - Two picnic tables;
  - Additional gardens;
  - Relocating the front edible gardens to the back area;
  - A "take a book, leave a book" children's library box;
  - Kid-painted rocks.
- The Little library box has already been built and requires painting.
- Parents will receive information about volunteer and sign-up opportunities.

SCC Elections and Executives

- Ten SCC voting-member forms were collected, no vote required.
  - Voting member include: Molly Doyle, Ashley Keirstead, Jessica Streich, Dianne Marsh, Tyler Gmyrek, Stephanie Mavilla-Edge, Jennifer Green, Jocelyn Rudd, Fiona McDowell, Kim Foreman

The following executive positions were confirmed:

- **Co-Chairs:** Molly and Ashley
- **Secretary:** Dianne Marsh
- **Treasurer:** Jessica Streich

Fall Festival

Seeking

- Folding tables; Drop-off Friday from 3:00–6:00 p.m.; Saturday after 9:00 a.m.
- Halloween decorations for the haunted hallway
- Small boxes for raffle-ticket drops
- Additional jazzy jars

Haunted hallway

- Located in the north wing.
- Decorating will begin at approximately 4:00 p.m. Friday.

Attractions

Free hourly attractions include:

- Fire trucks, Magician, Student performer as Elsa, Hydrogen balloon science demonstration

Festival Logistics

- "Pie the Principal" will return; there will be no direct contact.
- Festival ticket pre-sales will take place Thursday and Friday at dismissal.
- Approximately **$404** in tickets have already been sold.
- Approximately 30 high-school volunteers are expected to assist and receive volunteer hours.
- There are currently 26 raffle prizes.

Sponsors

Current sponsors/supporters include:

- Ashley's employer — coffee table;
- Michelle Rowland, realtor —$200 in support of food for volunteer;
- The Greenways.

Food for Volunteers

$200 has been allocated for volunteer food, $100 for Pizza, $100 for Costco purchases

- Dianne will arrange pizza delivery.
- Jocelyn will purchase and prepare Costco sandwiches and purchase:
  - Two cases of water, One case of pop, Granola bars, Apples, Bananas.
- Receipts should be submitted to the treasurer.
- Receipts should contain only festival-related purchases.
- Volunteers will use Maliks room - room near the north-wing doors as their rest area.

Upcoming Events and Decisions

Movie Night

- Proposed date: **Thursday, October 29**
- Hocus Pocus
- Proposed start time: doors 5:30pm, start movie approximately 6:00 p.m.
- Estimated movie rental cost: approximately $100.
- Snack Shack or popcorn, proposed.
- Gym availability must be confirmed with school staff before the event is finalized.

Snack Shack

- First Snack Shack: **Friday, November 6**
- Next proposed date: **Friday, December 4**, ahead of the busy concert season.

Treasurer's Report

2025/2026 Fundraising profits

- Fall festival $6257.48
- Staff raffle $1575.60
- Dance a thon $2809.14
- Snack shack $812.25

Funds were used to:

- Fund two picnic tables for the yard
- Holiday gift cards with Phillips cares $1500
- Holiday Christmas cards
- Winter dance for the entire school including a treat for each student
- School wellness night ($543.49)
- $237.67 towards World Cup of soccer day
- $4226.05 (already paid) and $2268.65 pending to be paid out towards the school classrooms —> contributing to class trips, scientist in the school, school supplies, new electronics and more!

Currently sitting at roughly **$2186.24**

Fundraising Ideas

The following ideas were discussed for future fundraising:

- Local "Coffin Creek" coffee sales, with approximately **$5 returned to the school per $18 bag**.
- TSSA-approved inflatable rentals as a possible future large fundraiser.
  - Inflatables had previously been ruled out because of insurance concerns.
  - Additional information regarding TSSA approval and insurance requirements will be shared.

Upcoming Dates

- **Wednesday:** Orange Shirt Day
- **Saturday:** 23rd Annual Fall Festival
- **Thursday, October 22:** Next SCC Meeting
- **Thursday, October 29:** Proposed Halloween Movie Night
- **Friday, November 6:** First Snack Shack
- **Friday, December 4:** Proposed second Snack Shack

Adjournment – 7:16pm