

## IPS School Council Meeting December 3, 2025

**Location:** Virtual via MS Teams

**Type of meeting:** Open meeting for council members, TDSB staff and public

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Parent Council Members, and community members</b>	<p><b>Executive:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jennie Lai, Co-Chair</li> <li>2. Nikou Ghalebegui, Treasurer</li> <li>3. Erica Lamanna, Secretary</li> </ol> <p><b>Members:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Jason Applebaum</li> <li>5. Tracey Baker</li> <li>6. Hanna Bondar</li> <li>7. Airlie Heung</li> <li>8. Arij Javed</li> <li>9. Irina Mishchenko</li> <li>10. Jeff Kearns</li> <li>11. Judee Yarmolinsky</li> </ol> <p><b>Public: (4)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Abby Khalil</li> <li>2. Tanya Francis</li> <li>3. Khushi Khushi</li> <li>4. Daniel Botero</li> </ol>
	<b>Toronto District School Board Staff</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12. Kiera Vanderlugt, Principal</li> </ol>
<b>Regrets</b>	<b>Parent Council Members</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kami Shabahang, Co-Chair</li> <li>2. Marseda Shtylla</li> <li>3. Samira Zarghami</li> </ol>

### 1. Quorum and call to order

Kiera Vanderlugt (IPS Principal) was present for the meeting and 11 out of 14 parent council members were present. Quorum and the school principal was achieved. There was also 4 community members present. Co-Chair Jennie called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

### 2. Approval of previous minutes from November 5, 2025

VOTE: Council to approve the previous November 5, 2025, meeting minutes draft, previously distributed.

Motioned by Judee; seconded by Airlie. All in favour. Minutes approved.

### **3. Update on IPS Bake Sale**

Kiera provided an update on the IPS bake sale with the total amount of money raised at \$1,570.60! The money raised has been deposited into the IPS school council bank account. At this time Fiona can transfer it to buy the outdoor equipment needed. For next steps Kiera advised of two options for the parent council's consideration:

1. Hold onto the funds until the next fundraiser; or
2. Allocate \$200 per class for grades 1-6 for individual bags for recess equipment. For the kindergarten students it would go towards their outdoor playground.

The parent council agreed to proceed with option two.

VOTE: Council to allocate \$200 per class for grades 1-6 for individual bags for recess equipment. For JK/SK students proceeds will go towards their outdoor playground.

Motioned by Jennie; seconded by Hanna. All in favour. Motion approved.

### **4. Principal's Report**

#### **IPS Bake Sale**

Principal Kiera Vanderlugt presented her Principal's Report by sharing several updates from November.

Kiera expressed her sincere thank you to the parent council on behalf of the IPS staff and students for all of their hard work towards the IPS bake sale with the highest funds raised for an IPS bake sale!

#### **Kindergarten Visit – December 3, 2025**

Kiera provided an update on today's kindergarten visit where the goal was to increase parent engagement with the school. The visit went very well, and the morning timeslot worked best for everyone as parents visited the school and headed to work afterwards. Moving forward all events will take place during the morning hours as the afternoon can be quite hectic to catch the bus and ferry. Kiera thanked the Secretary for bringing over all items for both events and thanked those who donated baked goods. Kiera advised that tomorrow's event for grades 1-6 will be the talent show and book fair.

#### **Sports**

Kiera advised that various sports activities are taking place such as girls' basketball and boys' volleyball.

#### **Field Trip**

Kiera advised that IPS staff are working very hard to coordinate a free field trip to watch a special dress rehearsal of Bloom! Winter Stories, a magical family-friendly circus and dance show presented by Artists' Play Dance and Circus Arts. Details to follow for parents of students in grades 1-6 next week.

## Scholastic Book Fair

Kiera thanked all those who volunteered for the Scholastic book fair. Kiera expressed some students were sad of items selling out, but there were other items for purchase. Today's book fair went very well with tomorrow's book fair to follow.

## IPS Student Council

Kiera provided an update on the hard work of the IPS Student Council. The IPS Student Council is a small group of students in grades 5-6 who are working on promoting activities that focus on four different areas:

1. FUN RAISING
2. Fundraising
3. Equity and Environment
4. Caring and Safe Schools

The IPS Student Council is working very hard on IPS Spirit Week, taking place from December 15-19, 2025. For the last week of school there will be different activities for each day:

Monday December 15<sup>th</sup>: Kindness and Gratitude Wall  
Tuesday December 16<sup>th</sup>: Just Dance and singing in the gym  
Wednesday December 17<sup>th</sup>: Passion Day and Cookie Delivery  
Thursday December 18<sup>th</sup>: Extra Recess!  
Friday December 19<sup>th</sup>: PJ Stuffedies and Movie Day

Staff and students will deliver cookies on December 17<sup>th</sup> to island residents (mostly seniors) with students making handmade cards attached to the cookies. Brooke's class will wrap up packages of packed goods that are divided up amongst the students for delivery. Ms. Ali and Brooke work very hard to find certain residences for students to deliver cookies to. Students deliver the cookies one hour before catching the ferry home.

## Candy Cane Sales: December 16-17, 2025

Kiera provided an update on the candy cane sales. This same event took place last year and went so well they decided to do it again for this year. Students in grades 5-6 sell candy canes to raise funds for their field trip to Pinecrest Camp. For 2027 students will go to Ottawa because during in-between years they go to camp instead.

## Inclement Weather

Kiera advised that in the latest IPS Friday e-blast she included information for parents on what takes place during a school closure due to bad weather as buses cannot run if the school is closed. If this instance takes place parents need to think about childcare if the school is closed. In 2024-25 IPS was only closed for one day due to increment weather. If a major event occurs, student will relocate to Nelson Mandela Park Public School.

## IPS Thrift Shop

Kiera mentioned the IPS School Council will host their first ever thrift shop in January. Items for sale will include books, toys, and board games only and will be collected the last week of school before the winter break. All items will be priced between \$1 - \$5 with all proceeds going towards the grades 5/6 field trip to Pinecrest Camp.

## Algonquin Island Association (AIA) Holiday Boutique

Kiera advised the AIA is hosting their annual Holiday Boutique on December 5-6, 2025. On December 6<sup>th</sup> students in grades 5/6 will be working in the kitchen selling chili, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate with all money raised going towards next year's field trip. For grades 5/6 Chantal is still looking for student volunteers to assist during the boutique sale. Further information on the boutique can be found on their website: <https://www.algonquinislandassociation.ca/>

Kiera opened the floor to questions from the parent council. Secretary Erica thanked Kiera and the IPS staff for hosting a separate kindergarten holiday event. A parent council member asked about how parents can donate cookies and next steps; Kiera advised that a letter will be sent out to parents with all details shortly.

A parent council member remarked on the safety issue of the trucks coming in and out from the ferry terminal and noted how construction material has been left along the walkway. Another parent council member asked if the temporary walkway to the ferry will be shortened as the path is quite long. Kiera advised that the path to the ferry cannot be shortened as it is the only dock that the Ongiara parks at so there is no other option.

In terms of the trucks, Kiera talked to the Parks, Forestry and Recreation division yesterday. Kiera stopped the trucks from leaving yesterday and today after school the trucks were not there at all. Kiera expressed the safety issues of the trucks departing at the same time as the students. The issue is the construction workers are unionized workers who leave work at 4:00 p.m. Kiera asked if they could try to leave earlier or later, however today they were not there when the students arrived. IPS staff are taking safety measures on the walk out at the ferry terminal. Kiera advised that the division did warn Kiera about this issue. However, if it continues Kiera will propose students depart out of ticket booth two near the Westin Hotel. For now, Kiera and the IPS staff will continue to monitor the situation.

A parent council member asked a question about the items to donate for the thrift shop. Kiera advised that the only items they are accepting are toys, books, and board games. They will not accept clothes at this time as this is the first year they are doing the thrift store and worry there will be too many items to transport over to the island.

A parent council member raised two comments, with the first relating to the success of separating the kindergarten event and grades 1-6 talent show to two days as last year there were too many people. The second comment was the ask for additional volunteers to assist at the book fair as it was very hard for parents to divide their time between their child's event and the book fair.

A parent council member asked for clarification on the age/grade students are allowed to join floor hockey. Kiera advised it is for grades 5/6, however IPS has difficulty doing intramurals due to lunch being served/eaten in the gym.

### **IPS Spirit Wear**

Co-chair Jennie provided an update on the IPS Spirit Wear, with samples of t-shirts and hoodies at the school for parents to see prior to ordering. Lighter colours are being offered such as white, light grey and light pink for t-shirts with sizes ranging from XS (ages 4-5) to Adult XXXL. For zippered and pullover hoodies and sweatshirts they are being offered in light grey in sizes XS to Adult XXXL. All clothing items have the small IPS logo over the heart at the front and "Island" on the back.

Parent council member Irina created a website for selling the IPS Spirit Wear and is working together with Co-chair Jennie to link the payment transactions from the website to the bank account. They completed a test transaction today and are waiting until December 10<sup>th</sup> to see if the payout takes place. If the payout is successful, then the website can go live. The website link can be found here: <https://irinapictures.com/store/>

### **Family Skate Night**

Co-chair Jennie raised the upcoming 2026 Family Skate night with next steps involving setting a date and getting a list of parent council member volunteers to oversee the logistics of the event. Co-chair Jennie advised this is solely a family skate night and not a fundraising event. The event takes place at the Harbourfront Centre skating rink after school from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. with hot beverages (hot chocolate) being provided only (no food).

Kiera mentioned last year they made hot chocolate on the spot; however, it was a lot of effort to execute. For this event Kiera recommended we get the hot chocolate donated. Treasurer Nikou advised if we give Tim Hortons ten weeks notice they can sponsor the hot chocolate for this event. A parent council member expressed that we should try to offer hot chocolate during this event as it was very nice to have during the cold weather with a rotation of parents to assist with the distribution of hot chocolate. If hot chocolate cannot be secured other types of beverages can be provided.

Proposed dates were discussed and it was decided to proceed with the skating event on February 11, 2026. Secretary Erica offered to volunteer with the distribution of hot chocolate.

**Action Items: Treasurer Nikou to reach out to Tim Hortons to secure the donation of hot chocolate for the February 11<sup>th</sup> skate event. Co-chair Jennie to reach out to Harbourfront Centre to provide notice of the date of the event.**

## **5. Other Business**

Co-chair Jennie opened up the floor to other business and a question was asked from a member of the public on whether Kiera reviewed the EQAO assessment results. Kiera advised she had a very quick

look, but with the events this week she did not have time to investigate the key measures. Kiera advised there are two versions of the EQAO results:

1. Results viewable by members of the public; and
2. Results tailored for staff at IPS with additional detailed information.

Kiera advised IPS staff will review the report and they will share the results at the next IPS parent council meeting. Kiera noted the EQAO results are usually provided earlier in the year, but there was a delay due to the trustees taking over. Kiera advised the EQAO results are only for students in grades 3 and 6 and it is not noted on each student's report card. It is more of a holistic view of the children with the next test to take place at the beginning of June 2026.

**Action Item: Kiera will share the EQAO results at the January 7, 2026, parent council meeting in a presentation format.**

## **6. Adjournment**

Jeff motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Airlie.  
Meeting Adjourned at 7:55PM.

Minutes prepared by: Erica Lamanna, Secretary