

IPS School Council Meeting February 4, 2026

Location: Virtual via MS Teams

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

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

1. Quorum and call to order

Kiera Vanderlugt (IPS Principal) was present for the meeting and 9 out of 14 parent council members were present. Quorum and the school principal was achieved. There was also 5 community members present. Co-Chair Jennie called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

2. Approval of previous minutes from January 7, 2026

VOTE: Council to approve the previous January 7, 2026, meeting minutes draft, previously distributed.

Motioned by Jennie; seconded by Arij. All in favour. Minutes approved.

3. Update on Skate Night

Co-chair Kami provided an update on the upcoming IPS skate night on February 11, 2026. Hot chocolate will be provided free of cost and pizza will be provided at \$3 per slice. The actual cost of the pizza is \$1 per slice, however by charging more we can recoup the costs for the hot chocolate. Jennie asked for further volunteers to help collect money and to serve pizza. The pizza will arrive at 4:10 p.m. Currently there are two volunteers down for pizza and one for hot chocolate. Co-chair Jennie advised that she will repost the sign-up sheet.

C-chair Jennie flagged a question from a council member on whether tables will be provided by Harbourfront Centre. She advised no tables will be provided and we will use the benches to serve the pizza and hot chocolate from. The hot chocolate and pizza will be first come, first serve. Joel, Kiera, and Fiona can also assist to volunteer if required.

4. Principal's Report

Thrift Sale

Kiera provided an update on the IPS Thrift Sale, which raised \$429.75! Kiera thanked the IPS parents for all of the donations. The sale went seamlessly and the student council did a great job running the sale with the older students helping out the younger students. Funds raised from the thrift sale will be deposited into the parent council account and go towards the school.

Cold Weather – Ice Schedule

Kiera provided an update on the cold weather by reminding parents to dress their child(ren) accordingly. Kiera advised we are on the ice schedule until further notice.

Ball Hockey and Girls Volleyball Teams

Kiera provided an update on the ball hockey and girls volleyball. Students in grades 1-6 no longer eat lunch in the gym on Wednesdays and Thursdays to accommodate space for these two teams to practice.

Restorative Practice

Kiera provided an update on staff learning where the IPS teaching staff are examining the science of reading and new language curriculum. The Toronto District School Board has endorsed take-home sheets for students to complete at home. For example, JK teachers Joel and Maggie have been sending home sheets on phonic awareness and students have advised they are enjoying completing them.

IPS teaching staff went to Market Lane Junior and Senior Public School over two days for learning on restorative practice (RP), with all IPS staff receiving training by spring 2026. Kiera provided the below definition for RP:

A proactive, relational approach to community building and conflict resolution that focuses on repairing harm rather than relying solely on punishment. Integrated into progressive discipline, this approach uses tools like circles and restorative conversations to foster empathy, accountability, and stronger relationships.

Kiera provided an example where RP was incorporated, which involved a situation with a student drawing on the seat of a bus with a marker. Everyone participated by asking the question of how can we fix this and then provided solutions on how to rectify it, which resulted in the seat being washed and cleaned up.

Report Cards

Kiera advised report cards are coming out on Tuesday February 10, 2026. Parent-teacher interviews will follow and teachers will reach out to parent(s) to schedule an interview.

Student Council Updates

Kiera advised for the week of February 10th Student Council organized the celebration of Friendship Week with a Winter Olympics-inspired focus on inclusion, fair play, and the power of friendship at IPS. Student Council has been working hard to organize a week filled with hearts, kindness, gratitude, and school spirit, and we are excited to present the following activities:

- **Monday February 9th:** Heart Art at recess and skating (Grades 3/4-6) and shinny (Grades 1-6) at Wards (students must have proper equipment and gear to participate)
- **Tuesday February 10th:** Outdoor Winter Obstacle Course for all students
- **Tuesday February 10th and Wednesday February 11th:** Friendship Bracelet making at recess
- **Wednesday February 11th:** Skate Night at Harbourfront-all are welcome!
- **Thursday February 12th:** Friendship Valentine's Dance x2 (one small dance for younger students and one big dance for older students)

Kiera advised throughout the week we will also be counting Canada's medals and giving daily announcements about friendship and Olympic updates. Students will be reminded that while friendly competition can be fun, it is kindness, respect, and belonging that truly matters most.

Kiera asked council if there were any questions and a parent council member asked for further safety information about the reported sighting of coyotes. Kiera advised students would stay inside the school if there was a coyote sighting on school property, however it has been noted the coyotes were only on the ice at Wards Island. Kiera clarified the coyotes were nowhere near the docks where the students board the ferry as they were all running on the ice and nowhere near the children. Kiera noted the science staff are very knowledgeable about coyotes and would report if there was any type of impact to students' safety.

Kiera mentioned the money proceeds raised from the IPS thrift store and requested \$100 to use to purchase materials for friendship bracelets and treats for the dance for Friendship Week.

VOTE: Council to approve using \$100 from the proceeds of the IPS Thrift Sale towards the purchase of materials for friendship bracelets and treats for the dance. The remaining \$329.75 will be deposited into the parent council account and go towards the school.

Motioned by Erica; seconded by Arij. All in favour. Motion approved.

Kiera provided further background on monies raised and next steps. She advised a printout of the parent council account can be printed at the end of each month to account for all purchases. When funds are raised Kiera counts the money with the children and it gets deposited into the proper accounts. Fiona has all of the different bank accounts and is happy to provide a copy prior to each IPS Student Council meeting. Treasurer Nikou approved this new process.

A parent council member asked a question on activities that take place for kindergarten students in honour of Valentine's Day on February 14th. Joel advised each student makes a brown paper bag and all Valentine's Day cards students receive go into the bag and are taken home with them at the end of the day.

Kiera asked Joel if he had any additional commentary on RP. Joel commented on how beneficial the training was and appreciated the focus on common language. With the current clubs and activities now taking place, the Student Council is running with lots of ideas and activities on how to promote RP moving forward.

A parent council member inquired if there is a system in place at afternoon pick up to ensure all children are sent off with a parent/guardian. Kiera advised none of the IPS staff leave until every child has been picked up and accounted for and same goes for all of the kindergarten students. The parent council member inquired if a request can be made for parent volunteers to assist with drop off and pick up and Kiera advised this is not necessary as IPS staff do not leave the ferry dock until every child is accounted for. Kiera mentioned the large mountain of snow is causing a problem in terms of visual sight lines and with the students playing on it.

A parent council member asked if there are suggested protocols for students to learn in the event they require assistance at pick up. Kiera advised they will implement this moving forward by teaching students who to go to for help if they require it. They will teach students by asking the question "if you find yourself" go to ticket booth #2 and teach students who to seek for assistance if required.

Staff Appreciation Lunch

Co-chair Kami provided an update on the staff appreciation lunch and to proceed with catering the lunch from Longos. Kiera will reply back with dietary restrictions and any other information required. Co-chair Kami asked the council how we can collect funds for parents to contribute towards the lunch. Potential options were raised such as e-transfers, cash, or apps to collect the money. It was noted that fundraising apps may incur additional funds due to administrative fees. Co-chair Jennie asked if we can use School Cash Online and Kiera advised that was not an option as there would not be a way to pay

Longos or to cut them a cheque. Co-chairs Jennie and Kami and Treasurer Nikou will look into this further and provide an update at the March Student Council meeting.

A parent council member noted Ramadan starts February 17th and ends March 19th. Kiera will discuss this with the bus drivers tomorrow and provide an update in changing the current date of March 11th to a later date to accommodate for Ramadan.

Co-chair Kami asked if there is interest in doing the spring bake sale and the council suggested to proceed. Kiera suggested to hold the bake sale during mid-April when all of the ferries are opened.

Action Items: Co-chairs Kami and Jennie and Treasurer Nikou to confirm the monetary payment method for parents to use for the staff appreciation lunch and Kiera to confirm the new proposed date at the March council meeting. Date for the next spring bake sale to be discussed at the March council meeting along with a request for volunteers.

Annual Summer Fun Fair

Co-chair Kami provided an update on the annual summer fun fair. A parent council member advised they will secure the TDSB approved vendor for the bouncy castle as it is highly recommended to stick with a TDSB approved vendor due to insurance and legal requirements. The vendor is Main Event Fun who also has an agreement with Centreville and they have experience with operating on the Toronto Islands in comparison with other vendors. The parent council member suggested to go back and use this same vendor or to revisit the TDSB approved vendor list and reach out to each vendor.

VOTE: Council to approve securing Main Event Fun for the bouncy castle for the annual fun fair held on Thursday June 4, 2026.

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

A member of the public asked for the price differences between the bouncy castle vendors in the past. The parent council member advised that the cost of two bouncy castles (one for bigger children and one for smaller children) cost \$2,600.00, inclusive of labour and the cost of the ferry ticket with a car to Wards Island. The lowest cost vendor quoted \$2,000.00 (\$600 less), but the decision to proceed with the higher cost vendor was due to their extensive experience operating on Toronto Islands.

Action Item: Parent council member Judee to provide an update at the March 4th council meeting on the status of securing Main Event Fun for the bouncy castle.

Co-chair Kami provided an update on the venue and that it needs to be secured for June 4, 2026. In terms of securing the venue Co-chair Kami spoke with Samira for the contact information at Queen City Yacht Club (QCYC) and parent council member Jeff Kearns will reach out to QCYC to secure the venue.

Action Item: Jeff Kearns to reach out to QCYC and secure the date for June 4, 2026. Jeff to provide an update at the March 4th council meeting.

Co-chair Kami advised the council needs to start acquiring food and drink donations for the fair. Parent council member Airlie will reach out to Loblaws to secure the donation for food and drinks. Airlie inquired what types of food and beverages were offered at last year's event and Co-chair Kami advised the food and drink options were hot dogs (vegetarian and halal options provided), buns, dressings, condiments, freezies, iced tea, lemonade, juice, small bags of Halloween chips, and chocolate chip cookies. Kiera advised Loblaws attended last year's event for photo opportunities and we should offer them this opportunity for this year's event.

A parent council member asked how tickets were issued for raffle, beverage and food items. Kiera advised that each item offered was associated with a different coloured raffle ticket (no two items had the same-coloured ticket to avoid confusion). It was recommended we proceed with the same process for having different coloured tickets for each item and to proceed with the dream baskets as raffle prizes.

Co-chair Kami also flagged that a volunteer is required to reach out to Amsterdam Brewery for securing non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages for this year's event.

Action Item: Airlie to reach out to Jen Yueng for all information pertaining to securing food and beverages from the 2025 annual fun fair to utilize for this year's event.

Co-chair Kami raised the silent auction and provided a summary of this process, which involved volunteers reaching out to various vendors to secure items for parents to bid on. Paper sheets and pens were provided for parents to place their bid and winners were announced prior to the end of the event. An idea was proposed to do a 50/50 cash raffle as well for this year's event. A member from the public Sneha Gupta advised she will assist with the silent auction.

A parent council member suggested we extend the invite again to the Gibraltar Point Day Nursery and all council members were in agreement. Further questions were asked about the fun fair and Kiera suggested due to time restrictions the committee could conduct a separate meeting on their own to review all details of the fun fair. Kiera advised she would be happy to join and Co-chair Kami was in agreement.

5. Other Business

Co-chair Kami opened up the floor to other business and there was none.

6. Adjournment

Kami motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jennie.
Meeting Adjourned at 8:11PM.

Minutes prepared by: Erica Lamanna, Secretary