

IPS School Council Meeting March 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. Jason Applebaum 6. Hanna Bondar 7. Airlie Heung 8. Arij Javed 9. Irina Mishchenko 10. Judee Yarmolinsky 11. Jeff Kearns <p>Public: (2)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jenn Hume 2. Amirali Nasser
	Toronto District School Board Staff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Kiera Vanderlugt, Principal 13. Joel Seaman
Regrets	Parent Council Members	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marseda Shtylla 2. Samira Zarghami 3. Tracey Baker

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 were also two (2) community members present. Co-Chair Jennie called the meeting to order at 7:04PM.

2. Approval of previous minutes from February 4, 2026

VOTE: Council to approve the previous February 4, 2026, meeting minutes draft, previously distributed.

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

3. Principal's Report

Maple Syrup

Kiera opened the principal's report by showing a picture of the kindergarten class tapping maple syrup outside on the school yard.

Skate Night

Kiera extended a sincere thank you to the IPS parent council for all of their assistance with the IPS skate night on February 11, 2026.

Playground Equipment

Kiera advised all of the playground equipment arrived and the students are very appreciative. Each class has various sporting balls, gardening tools, and other types of equipment. To ensure items do not go missing and remain well cared for, IPS staff advised students that the class who keeps all of their equipment intact will get an ice cream treat at the end of the school year.

Ferry Naming Fun!

Kiera provided an update on the public naming process for the two new electric ferries. Kiera advised council that she is on the naming committee and was able to submit six names from IPS. Originally it was five nominations, but Kiera was able to get one additional nomination for a total of six nominations. Kiera will attend a meeting to shortlist the names, which will then be revealed for public voting. At this point in time Kiera is unaware of the timeline when members of the public are made aware of the final shortlist, but will provide updates accordingly.

Grade 5/6 Trip

Kiera provided an update on the grade 5/6 trip to Pinecrest Camp, which was a great success. The students engaged in numerous activities such as tubing, broomball, cross-country skiing, and many others. Students and staff had a fantastic time.

Floor Hockey, Volleyball, and Basketball

Kiera advised that students are participating in floor hockey, volleyball and basketball starting this Friday.

Student Council

Kiera provided an update on activities that student council are planning for the month of April, which include Earth Day, Wellness Week, and Bike to School Week.

Clubs at Lunch

Kiera advised students are engaged in creating new clubs, with the newest being the newspaper club who meet over recess.

Ice Schedule

Kiera advised we are still on the ice schedule until further notice due to remaining ice on the lake. All ferries to all three islands should open after Easter weekend bearing no bad weather. Kiera is hopeful we can return to the normal ferry schedule soon. Kiera expressed the difficulty this winter season has been for supply teachers and students in getting back and forth cityside to the island due to cancelled ferries.

Spring is in the air

Kiera advised spring is in the air on the island with cherry blossoms blooming, Far Enough Farm, walking to the beach, and so much more with all of the beautiful nature the island provides to IPS. With this change in season the schoolyard is very wet and parents are reminded to have students come to school with an extra change of clothing, outerwear, and footwear.

Scientists in School

Kiera provided an update on bringing Scientists to the IPS School. Scientists in School is a leading Canadian science education charity, which has been delivering high quality, rich, investigative STEM workshops since 1989. Workshops are inquiry-based, curriculum aligned, and fun, helping propel Canada's young people to bright futures. Curiosity and discovery are at the heart of every workshop!

Kiera advised this was originally piloted with the Waterfront Business Improvement Area where they offered free scientists in the school. The scientists came in and brought all supplies to conduct experiments for the students in each classroom. Kiera mentioned the experiments involved supplies and items that the IPS teachers do not have access to.

The cost is \$250 per workshop, for a total of six workshops per class (JK/SK classes would come together as one class), which would equal a grand total of \$1,500.00. Kiera reminded the parent council this was on the wish list at the beginning of the year and she would bring the scientists in for May.

Kiera asked the parent council if they have any questions and Co-Chair Kami asked the council if they wanted to vote on this now.

Treasurer Nikou advised there is just over \$1,000 in the school account and we would need to supplement the additional \$500 elsewhere such as pizza sales, IPS Spirit Wear, bake sale, etc. Co-Chair Jennie advised there is an additional \$380 from the last IPS Spirit Wear sale net of all fees we could use for the scientists and there will be a second printing in April.

VOTE: Council to approve securing Scientists in School for six workshops at \$250 per workshop, for a grand total of \$1,500.00 for May.

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

Pizza Fundraising Event

Co-chair Jennie asked the Council if there was interest in a pizza fundraising event at the IPS School. Kiera advised we have limitations with transporting the pizza from cityside to the school as this would involve several volunteers to assist in bringing the pizzas from the ferry dock to the school. This also conflicts with the student hot lunch program. However, Kiera thinks it is possible, but to bring over pizza for 160 students would require a minimum of eight volunteers.

Co-chair Jennie advised Pizza Pizza can cut an extra-large pizza into ten slices and students could pick a maximum of two slices.

A parent council member mentioned parents have boats to assist with transporting the pizzas from the city to the island, but it would need to be in the spring. The boat would go to the moor at Harbourfront Centre and pick up the pizza from that location. Kiera mentioned the beginning of May would be the best option as the weather in April is still not the best.

Co-Chair Jennie advised that for the 2026-2027 school year there will be three pizza lunches coming for the students.

Action Item: Co-chair Jennie to reach out to council member Jeff Kearns to secure boats and organize.

Treasurer Update

Treasurer Nikou provided a Treasurer Update and after taking into account the costs for hot chocolate and pizza sales from the IPS Skate night, a total of \$158 was made and can go towards securing Scientists in School. Treasurer Nikou advised they opened a digital RBC digital account that accepts an unlimited number of e-transfers at a cost of \$6/month. Treasurer Nikou advised they will see how this RBC plan works until the end of June and determine whether to proceed with RBC or look into other options.

Treasurer Nikou advised they are also looking into credit card payment portals to use for future IPS events such as Square and Moneris. For the upcoming staff appreciation lunch parents can email donations to ipsschoolcouncil.bbq@gmail.com.

4. Staff Appreciation Lunch

Co-Chair Kami provided an update on the upcoming staff appreciation lunch. The below visual was shared during the meeting:

Goal: *\$1,000 for 32 staff at \$35.00/person*

Includes: Full lunch from Longos
Salad, soup, sandwiches, and dessert
Vegetarian and halal options

Donations: Open now until March 22, 2026

Method: E-transfer to ipsschoolcouncil.bbq@gmail.com

Plan: If we exceed goal – extra funds support Fun Fair and future school initiatives
If under goal – covered by Parent Council funds

Updates: Weekly progress updates to be shared

Kiera interjected and advised that Council cannot take money out of the parent council funds and contribute anything towards TDSB staff. Kiera advised to reword the sentence to state if they are under the goal, Council will get creative in raising additional funds to meet the target. Co-chair Kami advised she will change the wording on that sentence.

A parent council member asked if the staff appreciation lunch also includes science and nursery staff and Kiera advised they are also included.

Action Items: Co-Chair Kami to draft email for Friday e-blast on staff appreciation lunch and to remove reference to “covered by Parent Council funds”. Co-Chair Kami to provide council with weekly updates on funds raised.

Fun Fair

Co-Chair Kami provided the below updates on the June 4, 2026, Fun Fair:

- The Queen City Yacht Club has been secured for June 4th
- Loblaws has tentatively agreed to help with providing food and drinks but is still needs to be formally approved. Co-Chair Kami and council member Airlie to work to receive formal agreement from Loblaws. Co-Chair Kami to work on obtaining Freezies.
- Co-Chair Jennie and council member Jeff to reach out to Great Lakes Brewery and Amsterdam Brewery to secure beverages.
- Sneha Gupta to oversee silent auction and will work together with Co-Chair Kami on obtaining documents.
- Kiera to think of another method for communicating the winners of the dream baskets, for example communicating the winners in the Friday e-blast.

Council member Judee provided an update on obtaining the bouncy castle. Unfortunately, Judee reached out to all TDSB vendors and they are all booked for June 4th. Currently, we are very limited with options as other vendors are not comfortable going to the island.

However, since we are not hosting the fun fair on TDSB property, we are not tied to a TDSB vendor. As such we could proceed with an insured vendor that is not on the TDSB list. Another entertainment option is exploring obstacle courses. If we secure a private vendor, they want upfront payment so if we are using council funds to secure the deposit, we would need these funds ahead of time.

A parent council member provided a summary of what was done for the last three years with the bouncy castle. A vendor was used that was approved in a different school board. One parent picked up the bouncy castle and obstacle course and delivered it to the island. Parent volunteers set up the bouncy castle and volunteers ran it the day of.

Kiera advised if we are not proceeding with a TDSB vendor, we won't have parent council insurance for it. With approved vendors they would come with generators on their truck and with staff to enforce safety. For staff volunteers, they could get distracted and someone could get hurt. Kiera suggested we have staff from the hired company to oversee the bouncy castle the day of with the proper insurance coverage.

Council members agreed with Kiera's note above as last year the bouncy castle started to deflate and this could have posed a safety risk. A council member asked if a non TDSB vendor could bring staff to oversee it. Judee advised she would investigate this. Co-Chair Jennie suggested IPS Alumni could oversee the bouncy castle if a non TDSB vendor cannot bring staff the day of.

Judee suggested to take the above away and discuss within a small group assisting with securing entertainment for the fun fair. There are other entertainment options from the TDSB list available such as carnival games, entertainers, etc.

Action Item: Judee to work on securing an entertainment vendor and providing an update at the April 8, 2026, council meeting.

May 20, 2026, Bake Sale

Co-Chair Kami advised volunteers are still required for the May 20th bake sale and due to time constraints, this can be discussed at the April 8th council meeting. Council member Hanna volunteered to be the lead organizer along with Treasurer Nikou and Airlie.

Action Item: May 20th Bake Sale to be discussed at the April 8, 2026, council meeting.

Scholastic Book Fair

A parent council member asked when the Scholastic Book Fair was taking place, and Kiera advised it was early May and will proceed to send out information to parents shortly. A council member asked if a callout for volunteers can also be made.

Action Item: Kiera to provide update on the Scholastic Book Fair at the April 8, 2026, council meeting.

Grade Six Graduation Event

Co-Chair Jennie provided an update on the grade six graduation event. On behalf of council member Samira Co-Chair Jennie advised that only parents of the grade six graduating students will oversee organizing the graduation event and not the Council. As such the Council will not be involved in organizing this event. The Council decided to provide funds for juice and cake for the grade 6 graduation ceremony.

Council member Airlie advised if she could request from Loblaws their assistance in donating cake and juice and Kiera advised to proceed in requesting napkins, plates, cutlery, juice and cake.

5. Other Business

Co-chair Kami opened the floor to other business and Secretary Erica requested for visual documentation of the Treasurer's Report to be shared for future meetings for minute taking purposes. The council agreed to proceed and Treasurer Nikou and Kiera to action for all future council meetings.

Kiera thanked Joel for attending and asked if he had anything to add that she may have missed. Joel advised he did not have anything further to share.

6. Adjournment

Co-Chair Jennie motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Arij.
Meeting Adjourned at 7:59PM.

Minutes prepared by: Erica Lamanna, Secretary

APPROVED