

IPS School Council Meeting January 8, 2025

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. Jennifer Yeung, Co-Chair 2. Samira Zarghami, Co-Chair 3. Hanna Bondar, Secretary 4. Kami Shabahang, Treasurer <p>Members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Abigail Wren 6. Judee Yarmolinsky 7. Jason Applebaum 8. Jennie Lai 9. Tracey Baker 10. Maria Khan <p>Public:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Sasha Sheybani 12. Robert 13. Winnie 14. Tendai
	Toronto District School Board Staff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Kiera Vanderlugt , Principal
Regrets	Parent Council Members	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jeff Kearns 2. Jenn Hume 3. Lindsay Stephens 4. Sana Ibrahim 5. Tara Peterson

1. Quorum and call to order

Kiera Vanderlugt (IPS Principal) was present for the meeting.

10 out of 15 parent council members were present. Quorum, >50% of council, and the school Principal was achieved. Samira called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

2. Approval of previous minutes from November 28, 2024

VOTE: Council approved the previous November 28, 2024 meeting minutes

Motioned by Kami Shabahang; seconded by Tracey Baker

3. Principal report

Kiera started the meeting by wishing everyone a Happy New Year and moved to the recap of December events and winter plans.

Talent Show and Scholastic Bookfair

Kiera provided an update on the Talent Show and the Bookfair event mentioning that the Talent show was successful and well-received by attendees and the 2024 Bookfair brought record-breaking results with positive feedback.

Cookie delivery at the Island

The cookie delivery to island residents was a real hit, with positive feedback from the Islanders. On behalf of staff and teachers Kiera thanked the parents for their contribution and participation in the event. It reinstated the tradition with significant community appreciation for the cookies and baked goods delivered to Island residents.

Partnering with Science School

Kiera expressed the excitement over upcoming partnership with the Science School that will bring lots of activities including fire building, outdoor art, and salt dough figurines for all classes, fostering engagement and hands-on learning.

Fundraising updates: 3D print project and Candy Cane sale for Ottawa

Kiera mentioned that Grade 5 and 6 students raised \$121 by creating and selling 3D-printed items such as Pokémon figures, fidget cubes, and Rubik's cube models. Orders are ongoing so final amount raised most likely will be slightly higher.

The Candy Cane Sales raised \$343 before the holidays with plans for a Flash Friday sale on January 10 to reach the \$500 goal.

Equity Committee

The Equity Committee (teachers and staff) is continuously looking at possible improvements at different areas in the school and working on increasing inclusion, belonging and understanding of one another through various projects.

A word cloud was created with adjectives from students and staff, showcasing the school's identity. The upcoming project will be Reading a shared book in every class and at school wide poetry events that are planned for February and March to explore self-expressions and spark discussions on identity.

Winter clothing

Kiera draws the attention to the winter clothing issues. She's asking for donations of hats, mitts, and snow pants to the school in case students' own are missing or wet or other.

Basketball, Volleyball and Floor hockey

Sports are starting again and will run with adjustments to lunch schedules for better coordination (e.g., eating lunch in classrooms one day a week for the next 4–5 weeks).

The plan is that the floor hockey players will be practicing for the full lunch hour in the gym once a week.

The boy's basketball will be happening on Wednesdays before school.

Girls' volleyball will be happening on Tuesday after school.

Kiera expressed a lot of excitement to be able to offer before and after school sports to grade five and six students.

Kindergarten Yard Improvements

Kiera shared that the kinder yard (the fenced area beside the main school entrance) has been cleaned and equipped with logs, shovels, and other small play items. Temporary activities like a "lily pad hop" setup are in place, with help from Grade 5 and 6 students.

Kiera also mentioned Gibraltar has a new play structure coming to be installed. As it will be installed in the shared yard with our kinders, TDSB facilities is involved and coming for inspection next week.

Updates to follow.

Planned activities and future projects

Upcoming events include Skate Night FUN-raiser (Feb 5), Valentine's Day candy grams and a popcorn and movie afternoon before March Break

Next Steps

Execute fundraising events (Flash Friday Sale, Valentine's Day candy grams).

Continue Equity Committee projects and science school collaborations.

Organize logistics for upcoming sports sessions.

4. Treasurer's Report

Kami presented the treasurer's report, detailing income and pending items.

The remaining balance after all expected transactions is \$2,754.

5. Fun Fair

Council requests volunteers for the Fun Fair, emphasizing the need for planning and preparation and asks Kiera to include a message to Friday email blast asking for volunteers.

The Fun Fair is confirmed for June 5, with a call for specific roles and responsibilities for volunteers. There are 4 people who responded to volunteer through the web-form but that's not enough.

Venue Options for Upcoming Event

Preferred Venue

Based on the council discussion the preferred venue is: QCYC (Queen City Yacht Club)

Pros: Positive experience, beautiful location, successful fundraising, and strong support from the club (e.g., free space, donations, barbecues). Supplies can be transported to QCYC by van but no passengers.

Cons: Limited indoor shelter (fits ~50 people), reliance on favorable weather, transportation logistics challenges (buses drop off at the bridge).

Rain Plan: School as a backup. Limited space indoors for full activities but can accommodate food and provide shelter.

Council suggests organizing guided walks led by Grade 6 students and volunteers stationed at key points to assist participants.

Alternative Venues

School:

Pros: Proximity to students, bathroom availability.

Cons: Alcohol sales prohibited (a significant income source), longer walking distance for participants, bussing/staffing logistics.

AIA (Algonquin Island Association):

Pros: Accessible bathrooms and space availability.

Cons: Potential restrictions on alcohol sales and limited outdoor space.

Church on Central Island:

Mentioned as a potential backup closer to the ferry, but requires confirmation of availability and suitability.

WIA (Ward's Island Association):

No longer has a building; limited facilities make it less viable.

Cityside Venues:

No longer viable due to safety concerns (e.g., past incidents at Sugar Commons).

ACTION:

Confirm QCYC availability and support as the primary venue.

Explore feasibility and costs for alternative venues (school, AIA, church) as backups.

Address transportation logistics and finalize volunteer assignments for guidance and assistance.

6. Miscellaneous

Planned Fundraisers

February fundraiser: Awaiting details; tentative venue at WaterPark Place

Spring Bake sale: Dates and schedule to be confirmed.

Talent Show Feedback

Positive feedback on the recent winter concert was received from the parent suggesting for future events to include hosting evening concerts or talent shows at venues like Young People's Theatre or Market Lane to increase accessibility for parents and use as fundraiser.

7. Adjournment

Samira motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Abigail

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Minutes prepared by: Hanna Bondar