

Lord Roberts School Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Date: November 19, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m. onwards

Location: Lord Roberts Public School

Recorded by: Anamica Mithila, Secretary

Attendees:

Nadia Mohammed, Anamica Mithila, Sujitha Pavananthan, Shaista Tahir, Dolores Turley, Christopher Jacob, Ena Vaughan, Kevin Russell, Dew Murray, Jamie Murray, Crystal Capalbo, Cristina Polidoro, Dawn Wickham, Sharmin Sharif, Cherul Wickham

Not in Attendance:

Council Member: Khadijah Alrais

Community Representative: Thanuja Sankar

Meeting Opening

The meeting commenced with the election of Parent Council positions for the 2025–2026 year.

- **Chair:** Nadia Mohammed
- **Secretary:** Anamica Mithila
- **Treasurer:** Sujitha Pavananthan
- **Teacher Representative:** Ms. Vaughan

Principal's Updates

A. Remembrance Day Assembly

- Assembly held last week.
- Well received by students and staff.

B. Working Night Event

- The event saw strong attendance.
- Families appreciated the social connection opportunity.
- Positive feedback shared by both students and parents.

C. Upcoming Events & Student Clubs

- Planning committee established immediately after Remembrance Day.
- **Theme:** *Gingerbread*
- Whole-school participation (songs, artwork, performances).
- Schedule (afternoon or evening) to be confirmed.
- Family Art Night planned as an upcoming community event.
- Black Heritage Club launching end of November.
- Student Council: 30+ students expressed interest.
- Girls Leadership Club: upcoming launch.
- Boys Club: upcoming launch.
- Winter Concert: participation from Kindergarten to Grade 6.

Library & Resource Updates

A. Library Space Usage

- The library teacher delivering prep focused mainly on Visual Arts this year.
- Library space used flexibly for teaching and class activities.
- Library painting and light fixture updates are pending.
- Significant backlog of unsorted books from previous years noted.
- Teacher-librarian and Co-op student currently organizing, cataloguing, and removing outdated materials.
- Temporary book exchange available for classes upon request.
- Volunteer opportunities for library organization will be announced in upcoming school updates.

B. Parent Volunteer Inquiry

- Parents expressed interest in helping with book sorting.
- The principal will confirm with the library teacher regarding volunteer involvement.

C. Book Purchases

- The Scholastic Book Fair was successful.
- Coupon credits available for new book purchases.
- Planned focus:
 - Graphic novels for junior grades
 - Diverse and inclusive titles for primary grades

D. Police Record Check

- **Criminal Record & Judicial Matters Check (CRJMC) is mandatory** for anyone volunteering in school.
- Parents may submit their Vulnerable Sector Certificate to the school email or office.

Pizza Lunch & Nutrition Program

- Pizza Lunch is currently coordinated mainly by **Ms. Sankar** with support from Grade 6 helpers.
- Teachers assisted during the last lunch due to limited parent volunteers.
- Council emphasized the need for a consistent parent volunteer team.
- Recommendation: Form a **Pizza Lunch Committee** with 4–5 rotating parent volunteers each month.
- Improved communication needed regarding process and volunteer expectations.
- A monthly volunteer sign-up form will be shared via school newsletter.

Parent Engagement & Communication

Parents requested clearer communication around volunteer opportunities.

Suggestions Included:

- Morning/afternoon presence of council members for visibility.
- A **Parent Council suggestion box** placed near the school entrance.
- Clearer explanations of programs such as Pizza Lunch and other initiatives.

Principal confirmed:

- Council may meet independently at any time.
- Space can be requested through the office as needed.

Equity & Inclusion Concerns

A. Student Interaction Concerns

- Parents raised concerns about hurtful and racially insensitive language among students.
- Issues noted to be recurring over multiple years.

B. Proposed Approaches

- Role-play or scenario-based assemblies to build empathy and respect.
- School-wide initiatives aligned with **TDSB Equity & Anti-Racism** guidelines.
- Clear, simple communication to help parents reinforce lessons at home.

C. Principal Notes

- Emphasized need for a partnership between school and families.
- Staff continuously incorporate conflict resolution and social-emotional learning strategies.
- A brief discussion was held on equity and inclusion.
- **Ms. Vaughan** is developing a program focused on:
 - Teaching students about equity
 - Supporting new students
 - Creating awareness around racism and inclusion

On behalf of the Parent Council, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the families, teachers, staff, and volunteers who continue to support our school's growth and spirit. Your participation, feedback, and collaboration make a tremendous difference in creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for every student.

We look forward to working together throughout the school year and appreciate your continuous support and partnership.

Warm regards,
Lord Roberts School Parent Council