

Sunnylea Junior School Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Voting Member Attendees: Alex Smith, Melissa McCready, Jenni Sirenko, Samantha Wilson, Hajni Bowers, Erin Trout, Diana Alviani, Christine Howe, Loriann Halliday, Sophie Connor, Anna Maxfield, Darren Berger, Julie Boeckmann-Milton, Nirre Pinto

Non-Voting Attendees: Emily Sisnett, Michelle Toomey Vocella, Julia Szwec Leroux, Christine Ilczynski, Jaclyn Lyons, Brit Huber

Voting Members Absent: Raveen Kalra, Kate Mathany, Leisha Vanderkooy, Misia Machnowski, Somayeh Sadat, Joanna Downs, Danielle Nichol

Staff Attendees: Bev Tratnik, Val Fordyce, Christina Alviani

Meeting Start Time: 6:35 pm

Meeting End Time: 7:45 pm

Minutes:

Land Acknowledgment & Approval of Minutes/Agenda

We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and the Inuit peoples.

- Motion to Approve May 2026 minutes Christine Howe - 1st, Anna Maxfield - 2nd. All vote to approve.
- Motion to Approve June 2026 agenda Jenni Sirenko - 1st, Julie Boeckmann-Milton - 2nd. All vote to approve.

Staff Updates

2025–2026 School Year Priorities

Literacy

- Staff successfully implemented the UFLI (University of Florida Literacy Institute) program this year, with a strong focus on foundational phonics skills.
- Although several Kindergarten and Primary students began the year below literacy benchmarks, data now shows they have reached the expected benchmark.
- Staff are very pleased with the program and its results.

Math

- Last year's Grade 3 EQAO math results were 100%, with all students achieving Level 3 or 4.

- This year's Grade 3 students recently completed the assessment.
- Staff have been discussing how to better monitor and track student math progress.
- The TDSB has released a new three-year plan that places renewed emphasis on numeracy skills.
- Staff will review this plan during the June 26 PA Day and will implement improved tracking next year to better identify students requiring additional support.
- While previous curriculum expectations were organized into strands without clear guidance on instructional time, the current direction provides stronger focus on foundational numeracy skills, recognizing that these are essential for future success.

Well-Being

- Every classroom now has a calming area where students can regulate emotions before returning to learning.
- Common Compass visited in the fall to provide Grade 3 students with self-regulation tools and strategies.
- School Beat (formerly MooZoom) continues to be used across all grades for social-emotional learning, with plans to continue next year.

Indigenous Education

- Programs including CookSmart and Sprout Circus supported Indigenous education initiatives.
- Students participated in planting the Three Sisters garden, making Indigenous learning more tangible, particularly for younger students, and encouraging discussion about what students can do within the Sunnylea community.

Thank You

Principal Tratnik thanked School Council members and all parents for their continued support.

The public education system continues to face significant challenges, including TDSB oversight, staffing changes, and budget pressures. Parent volunteers make an enormous difference through volunteering at school, driving on field trips, and fundraising. Without this support, many of the school's programs and opportunities would not be possible, as the school budget alone does not provide sufficient funding.

Class Placements for September 2026

- Principals are no longer permitted to share class placements or class compositions before the school year begins.
- Families will learn their child's class placement on Friday, September 4.
- This directive comes from the Ministry of Education and aligns TDSB with other Ontario school boards.

- The change recognizes that enrolment can shift over the summer as families move into or out of the school community.
- Staff have also been instructed not to share class placement information, and families are asked not to request this information from teachers or staff.

Enrolment

- The school will have two Kindergarten classes, down from three.
- This reduction had already been projected during January/February registration and has now been confirmed through staffing.
- Overall enrolment is expected to decrease from 236 students to approximately 230 students.
- Approximately 40% of Grade 5 students (31 students total) will not continue with the TDSB, instead moving to Catholic or private schools.

Kindergarten Yard Request

The school has been researching affordable improvements after previous quotes for larger upgrades proved prohibitively expensive.

Proposed purchases:

Outdoor Mud Kitchen \$869.00
 Outdoor Drama Centre \$489
 Picnic Table/Benches \$1,489.00
 Soccer Nets \$60.00

Estimated Total: \$3,097.90 + tax + shipping

Upcoming Events

- Kindergarten Dance Show — Tomorrow, 9:30–10:00 a.m.
- Kindergarten Graduation & Grade 5 Graduation — Friday, June 19
- Pride Walk — June 23 (same route as the Terry Fox Walk; each class will wear an assigned colour)
- Play Day (Grades 1–5) — June 24
- Grade 4 Swim to Survive program continues next week.
- Grade 3 and Grade 4 (Copeland) Stomp presentation.
- Grade 4 Salmon Release at Albion (tomorrow).
- Girls' Softball — June 18.
- ESA Grade 11 dance troupe performed last week; students were highly engaged and inspired.
- Kindergarten Play Day took place this morning, with Grade 5 students serving as activity leaders and demonstrating excellent leadership.

- Ultimate Frisbee team finished 2nd place. Many students were new to the sport and performed exceptionally well.
- AED machine has been installed, and staff have completed training.
- Two remaining Freezie Fridays: this Friday and the final day of school.
- Final Pizza Lunch takes place this Friday.

Monetary Request (Current School Year)

Grade 5 Graduation Photos — \$525.45

Photo costs have increased. Council continues to provide each Grade 5 student with a printed copy of their graduation photograph. This is the only remaining funding request for the current school year.

2026–2027 Budget Commitments

Program Commitments

School Sewing Programs (Sewing Studio)

- \$3,680
- Whole school (Kindergarten–Grade 5)
- Program provides sewing machines, instruction, and each student takes home a completed project.
- School receives one sewing machine to keep.
- Scheduled for September 14–15 during National Sewing Month.

CookSmart / Sprout Circus – Three Sisters Harvest Event

- \$1,475
- Whole school (Kindergarten–Grade 5)
- Community event where students and families harvest vegetables and prepare soup together.

Requested Expenditures:

- Kindergarten Yard (up to) \$4,000.00
- Sewing (estimate with tax) \$4,200.00
- Grade 5 Photos \$525.45
- Harvest Event \$1,475.00
- MooZoom \$2,247.57
- Agendas \$1,026.63
- Classroom Budgets \$350 per home room
- Non-home room teachers \$175 per teacher

- Office \$200
- Clubs \$200
- Buses for cross-country and trips (pre-approved) Up to \$4,500.00
- Teacher Interview Platform \$250.00
- Donation to School in Need \$2,000.00

Motion

Approval of Grad Photos, Donation to School in Need and \$25,000 in commitments for the 2026–2027 school year.

Result: Motion carried unanimously (13 votes in favour).

Items Tabled Until Fall

- Sports Jerseys (pending quote)
- Chromebooks

Air Conditioning Discussion

Bev investigated whether parents could purchase window air conditioning units for classrooms.

The request is not feasible because:

- The school's electrical system cannot support the additional load.
- Existing circuits already trip breakers regularly.
- Window units create safety concerns.
- Condensation and drainage requirements cannot be adequately managed.
- Extension cords would not be permitted.
- Equipment used in schools must be purchased through the TDSB purchasing department.

It is therefore unlikely that the school would receive approval to install temporary window air conditioners.

Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance: \$53,650.05

Additional Funds: \$13,349.64

Available Funds: \$50,840.69

Council was reminded that fundraising proceeds are expected to be spent within a rolling two-year period.

Financial Updates

- The commitment previously set aside for Scientists in the Schools/Mad Science has no outstanding payments and will be released back into available funds, along with the previously approved 10% contingency buffer from June 2025.
- Bev will remind teachers to submit any outstanding reimbursement requests.
- Council typically donates approximately 10% of available funds to a school in need. A donation of \$1,500–\$2,000 was discussed, with Bev to identify a recipient school.

Fundraising Updates

Spirit Wear

- Sales have closed.
- Delivery timeline is still to be confirmed (Misia to provide an update).
- Sales were lower than anticipated, but the initiative broke even financially.

Silent Auction

- Fundraising goal: \$4,000
- Current total: \$3,940
- Several items remain without bids, and families are encouraged to participate before the auction closes.

Executive Positions (2026–2027)

- Proposed that Alex assume the role of Treasurer.
- Proposed that Sam assume the role of Secretary.
- Formal voting will occur at the first School Council meeting of the new school year in October.

Council also recognized that Darren and Diana are moving on from School Council.

A community feedback form will be developed to gather ideas and priorities for future Council initiatives.

Next Meeting

September 16, 2026