



May 2026 Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 6:30 pm

ATTENDANCE

In Person: Domitillah Antoinette, Lovenia Gorman, Andy Coe, Kim Welton, Alfredo Cabeza, Jessica Mason, Heather Morgan, Eugenia Rosenblun-B, Natalie DeLuca, and Shauna Rempel.

Virtual: Angela Grabham, Ms. Ivana Simunic, Brit, and Emily.

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Motion to Approve the minutes of the April 2026 meeting—APPROVED

Principal's Update

- It is a very busy time of year; please read **the Friday updates and any information coming home from classrooms to stay up to date on everything** happening.
- **Howard Hawks Values**—please revisit with your children at home. Look to Lovenia's updates for these values. It is important to connect home and school.
- **Ms Adeline has been working with Recreate Place.** They offered to put in a grant for Green Communities to improve outdoor spaces. Funding has been successful for tree cages to protect the playground trees! There will be another collaboration with Green Communities, Ms Adeline, and another class beginning in the fall.
- **Gardens are growing at Howard!** Memorial and Indigenous Recognition gardens are being planted. The Gardens are intended for:
 - Helping local birds and pollinators.
 - Peaceful space for our community.
 - Living learning spot.
 - Tied to stewardship.
- Thanks to parents from areas 22, 26, and 38 for coming to the most recent **assembly**. The topic was all about bees and how they are important.
- **Tomorrow is the Kindy Welcome Night (May 21):** suggestions from the council have been added to the welcome documents from the school and school council. Things updated were how to use School Cash Online, how to log attendance for school and HPCC, and how to stay connected with your classroom. Lovenia has also included the TDSB 26/27 calendar.
- Over the past few years, the **Kindy Welcome Coffee in the Library** has happened on the first day of Kindy. **Kim, Angela, and Andy have volunteered to run the next one.**
- Class placements for next year will begin soon. The deadline for requests for consideration has passed - no more will be accepted. **September 4 classes will be announced.**
- **Howard's swag is now available.** May 27 deadline. Samples beside the office. A small portion goes to funding events for Howard Hawks.
- The Howard Logo student vote went to the traditional logo, which has been used on the swag.
- **Donations to date from School Cash Online** = \$14445.05 for the library updates. \$4000 for the Fall Fete was also collected.
- **Screen time at lunchtime:** There is concern from parents wanting screen-free lunch times. The school is in agreement with the Paediatrics Alliance of Ontario recommendations for screen-free breaks.
 - Lunch Time: Lovenia is out circulating through the classrooms. Staff is aware of what is

- acceptable. Individual screens are not allowed ever, as per TDSB policy.
- Lunch Break for JK 1 hr 15 min 1-6 1 hr. Some of the classrooms have TDSB-approved programs while eating, approximately 10-15 minutes.
- How often? Some regularly, some not regularly, some never.
- Staff use their professional judgment to set students up for success.
- Staff are aware they can only use TDSB-approved shows. Focus on education and increasing the French language, science, and nature. Group discussions.
- Students have access to learning centres and outdoor play or extracurricular activities. 45 mins 1-6 outside.
- Since the fall, only 1 family has reached out regarding this.
- Please follow the parent concern protocol—always start with the teacher. If you have any remaining questions, you can reach out to Lovenia. If you still have concerns after talking to Lovenia, you can reach out to the superintendent. This is outlined in Lovenia's Friday update email.

Financial Update

- **Things are looking good.** \$21,000 in the bank to last until the fall. Spring Social is happening with money coming in. Going into next year with the right amount of cushion.
- **Family Square Dance** brought in \$1266 for music teachers specifically.
- **Scientists in the school** are \$600 over budget. **Alfredo will follow up with Lovenia/Nancy regarding this.**
- **Teacher supplies** have been spent with approximately \$1000 for September.
- **\$300 credit with busing**, and will look again after the sports are done.
- **Movie Night** didn't make much money, so the next license hasn't been bought. Lovenia suggests not having another one this year. Once the next is scheduled, Alfredo can renew the license.
- **STEM Night hasn't been organized**—at the last meeting, it was decided not to have it this year. Will have one next year with more teachers involved and a longer lead time. **We now have \$500 from this.**
- The instrument repair budget is \$250. Lovenia has some money in her budget for repairs, so council money hasn't been used. **Shawna has volunteered to help work with the music teacher to maintain the instruments.**
- Lost and found laundry fund—parent has already been reimbursed. **For next year, Alfredo will be adding a line item to the budget.** For the end of the school year, asking for a \$300 final clean—APPROVED
- **Ms. Suminic: Play Day:** run during the last week or last day of school. Grade 6 and two teachers organize an outdoor event with different stations for fun and a freezie station. Asking for \$500. **APPROVED from STEM and Movie Night.**

Committee and Club Updates

- **Musical:** no updates.
- **Movie Night:** not happening this year.
- **STEM Night:** not happening this year.
- **Fall Fete update:** Last year, the food went quickly. Reassess for the next one. Nicole Noble chaired last year—can we connect with her? Put in the School Council WhatsApp. **Andy will connect with her.**
- **Learning Commons Renovation:** Working with vendors, finalizing quotes, and spending every penny.
- **Spring Social Fundraiser:** June 4 at Henderson Brewing. 90 tickets have been sold. Last year, 165 tickets. Remind families that the event is happening. \$25000 last year. Lovenia helped,, and fundraising will go to classrooms for a refresh of basics and STEM. Everyone will benefit from this fundraiser. Donations for the Silent Auction are welcome. Roncy businesses have been generous. **Looking for volunteers.**
- **Tech:** Approx. \$2000 left over. **Lovenia and Nancy are to connect with Alfredo about this.**
- **Equity & Garden:** Earth buddies have been spending their allocated garden funds to build out the garden outside the library. Pride materials funding will be spent shortly, and the remaining

- funding is typically spent in the fall for Orange Shirt Day activities.
- **Mental Health & Well-Being:** Mental Health Week—Mindfulness Expert came in to do mindfulness and movement workshops.
 - Grades 1-6 in both English and French, with teachers participating.
 - Teachers learned strategies and techniques for their classrooms.
 - The TDSB Mental Health grant helped pay for this, but everyone thought she was amazing. Lovenia would like workshops with schools throughout the year to work with all grades. **Budgeting?**
 - **For next year**, HP is looking to make a Hawks Nest on the ground floor for the Kindergarten classes. If you want to donate items/rugs, etc., for Hawks Nest, please contact your child's teacher directly, and they can get the donations to the right place. Looking for durable mats that can be wiped/cleaned easily.
 - **Literacy/Reading Event (Forest of Reading):** May 15, very successful. Down to the Harbourfront.
 - **Scientists in the Schools—very** well received. Over budget now.
 - **Art:** All money has been used. A lot of collaboration. Recently, teachers purchased blank canvases for students.
 - **Sports:** Mrs. Ringler advised me last week that she is cancelling the bus order for the May track meet due to event/bus timing and numbers. Instead, they will rely on parent volunteer drivers, families organizing their own transportation, and potentially taxis, if needed.
 - We earmarked approximately \$332 to use for busing to this event, but Catherine is asking to redirect the funds to cover potential taxi costs. Catherine and Lovenia have discussed the matter and feel it makes sense to proceed this way, so long as the council is comfortable with it. **APPROVED**
 - **Puzzle club:** Ms. Kwiecinski wants to get this started and is looking for funds for puzzle mats and frames, etc. Asking for \$300—special opportunities fund—APPROVED. **Asking for donations from families. Domitillah will connect with her through Lovenia.**
 - **Graduation:** seems to be going well. No one at the meeting from this committee.
 - **Parent Engagement:** in the Fall for the New Parent Welcome Coffee morning. Angela and Kim are going to volunteer. Please share the info with Lovenia once decided.
 - **Special Opportunities—Alfredo will use the money from here for the Puzzle Club.**
 - **Equity Access** - Should the Howard Park swag have this funding? **Lovenia to look into it with Nancy.**

Other Business

- Looking to submit a letter of recommendation regarding screen-free lunch times using [this template](#) from the Pediatricians Alliance of Ontario as a guide. Once the form is signed, then to Lovenia.
- Motion to approve the updated [Parent Feedback form](#) so we can send it out at the beginning of June—LINK **IS NOW ACTIVE. APPROVED.**
- Ask for a blurb on how the council uses money. Send information condensed to Lovenia. Twice a year to the families—October and June. **Alfredo to do this.**
- Communication from the School Council to Class Representatives. Domitillah shared the email list with Andy, and she will share minutes and other important updates.
 - Lovenia and teachers communicated it as a liaison with the School Council and teachers, but some of the reps had old information and were asking for a lot of details from families. Moving forward, the School Council recommends an updated information document—Domitillah **to connect with Lovenia and Nancy about this.**
- **Update of “Free to Play” Program grant application:** not successful.
- **Update on Davina's Swim House:** received a \$150 gift card—this will go in the Spring Social Silent Auction.
- **Update on AI Workshop** - **revisit next year.**
- **Howard Hawk Swag**—\$20 t-shirts and \$40 hoodies. **Thanks, Natalie!** A small portion goes to school events.

- **If anyone knows grants, please pass the information on to Domitillah.**

The next meeting is **June 17, 2026**

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Spring Social is looking for volunteers. Email thehowardsocial2026@gmail.com to sign up → Andy to highlight this to Class Reps.**
- Scientists in the school are \$600 over budget → Alfredo will follow up with Lovenia & Nancy regarding this.
- Tech: Approx. \$2000 left over → Lovenia and Nancy to connect with Alfredo about this.
- Next year, Lovenia would like mental health workshops for the whole school throughout the year → Increase budget.
- Puzzle Club → Alfredo to use the Special Opportunities budget for this.
- Puzzle donations for Puzzle Club: Domitillah will connect with Ms. Kwiecinski through Lovenia
- Equity Access budget: Should the Howard Park swag have some of this funding? → Lovenia to look into it with Nancy.
- Fall Fete → Andy will connect with Nicole Noble → The School Council will create a subcommittee to organize the next one.
- [Parent Feedback form](#) → Andy to send this to Class Reps. Will be sent out on June 10. Review feedback in the next meeting.
- Write a blurb for how the council uses money. Send information condensed to Lovenia. Twice a year, to the families—October and June: Alfredo to do this.
- Andy, Kim, and Angela to start Kindy Welcome Coffee group chat → start to organize for Sep 8
- Class Representative information—for the beginning of the year—needs to be updated → Domitillah is to follow up with Lovenia about the information given and how some parents received old documents. May Shauna be able to help clarify.
 - Domitillah to connect with Class Reps through email to ask about their experience this year.

Please help us and the administration better understand your concerns by adding your thoughts [here](#). Explore the [blog](#) for examples of past activities.