

Lanor Junior Middle School School Council

Minutes from the Meeting on November 27, 2025

Place: Lanor JMS Library, 450 Lanor Avenue, Etobicoke, ON

Time: 6:30pm Meet and Greet, 7pm Meeting

Attendees:

**Voting members
present (14/17):**

Andrea M
Seema P
Leah P
Candice Z
Nakul K
Andrea C
Brandi D
Terri F
Rebekah W
Tonya B
Steven B
Steve F
Amreen A (non-teacher rep)
Sarah Saskin (teacher rep)
Amy deVerteuil (teacher rep)

Staff/Admin:

Bill Mah (principal)
Jenn Varden
Mike Samotowka
Deborah Girvin

Parents:

Marden R
Thuy N

**Voting members
regrets (3/17):**

Karmen P
Jaclyn C
Katie C

1) Welcome, Attendance & Land Acknowledgment (Andrea M)

- The land acknowledgment was read by Andrea.

2) Approval of Oct 2, 2025, meeting minutes (All)

- Passed

3) Principals Report (Bill M)

- The principal reported improvements in supply teacher availability, reducing class cancellations. Upcoming events include a spring/summer concert on May 27th featuring band, strings, dance, and drama. A recent city inspection led to plans for gym repainting, potentially causing a temporary shutdown affecting programming.
- The school budget totals \$62,609, allocated approximately as follows:
 - i) 27% to classroom subjects (French, music, Phys Ed, etc.)
 - ii) 9% to teams, clubs, and assemblies

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- iii) 5.5% to technology (including smart boards and repairs)
- iv) 20% to supply teachers for staff training coverage and sports teams
- v) 35% to office, photocopying, paper, phones, and miscellaneous expenses
- The budget reflects careful adjustments, such as reducing photocopying costs and balancing priorities with staff input.
- School tent update:
 - i) Mr. Heim and Ms. Haniff did put in the order for a new school tent in/around the 2nd week of school in September. We followed up with the necessary steps on the school's side of things (ordering, releasing funds to the TDSB etc.).
 - ii) The delay is centrally, the TDSB accounting department must release the funds to the vendor (School Specialty I believe), and that didn't happen. Ms. Haniff has followed up with multiple emails and phone calls, but for some reason, it's still paused with TDSB accounting. Ms. Haniff also contacted the Vendor directly, and they confirmed they're waiting on accounts payable (not us, here at the school).
 - iii) Ms. Haniff said she will reach out again to AP and try and get this going.

4) Chair Report (Andrea M)

- Two teachers - Ms. Saskin and Ms. de Verteuil - and a non-teaching staff - Ms. Alam - joined the council, increasing voting members to 17. Ms. Saskin and Ms. de Verteuil share one voting position.
- The possibility of adding a community representative was discussed.
- These positions are all listed in the council by-laws but have not been filled in recent years.

5) School Council Innovation Grant Application Update (Andrea M/Jaclyn)

- A proposed math night targeting grade 7-8 girls to enhance math skills and parental support was submitted as a School Council Innovation grant application, with a tentative date in February. The grant outcome was pending.

6) Treasurer Report (Terri + All)

- Fundraising efforts have raised approximately \$7,500 from pizza sales, with additional income from curriculum night (\$355), Halloween dance (\$1,610),

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Lunch Lady (\$212), and Mabel's Labels (\$52.94). Outstanding bills from the previous year were settled. A parent donated a whiteboard for a classroom.

- Several spending proposals were reviewed and voted on individually:
 - i) **Band and Strings Equipment Replacement:** Request for two new clarinets and replacement cases totaling \$2,500 to maintain aging instruments, which have long-term use (20-40 years). The program supports around 50 students, and the importance of sustaining the music program was emphasized.
 - ii) **Whiteboard for Room 7:** A magnetic, double-sided whiteboard on wheels was requested for \$450 to support special needs students and flexible classroom use, complementing an approved but undelivered projector.
 - iii) **Kids Lit Club:** Funding of \$250 to support two teams in a reading competition that promotes literacy and engagement for grades 4-8, with growing participation.
 - iv) **Eco Recycling Challenge:** \$150 to incentivize recycling efforts with rewards like ice cream parties, supporting the school's environmental goals.
 - v) **All-Gender Flag Football Tournament:** \$100 to cover entry fees for participation in a local tournament, providing additional opportunities for grade 7-8 students .
 - vi) **Kindergarten Alphabet Teaching Tubs:** \$469.90 requested multi-sensory literacy resources to support early learners across kindergarten classes, aligned with the School Improvement Plan.
- **Library Refresh Project:** An additional \$5,160 requested for year two of a multi-year plan to brighten and enhance the library space with murals and new furnishings. This follows a previous investment and is part of a long-term commitment.
- **Smart Board Purchase:** A proposal for a \$3,173 interactive smart board with software and warranty was discussed as part of a 5-10 year plan to equip classrooms. Due to budget constraints, the purchase was deferred to a future meeting.
- All proposals except the smart board were approved unanimously, with the library refresh funding earmarked to be supplemented by future fundraising proceeds.

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7) Grade 8 Grad Sub Committee (All)

- The grad committee was confirmed as a subcommittee with a separate account for fundraising. Efforts to organize grade 8 events and welcome activities for new families were discussed, with volunteers stepping forward to lead these initiatives.

8) FDK Sub Committee (Andrea + All)

- Council discussed the idea of having a FDK Sub Committee to engage with new and existing FDK families and to lead the fall and spring events (i.e. Friends and Freezies, FDK Open House).
- The FDK committee was confirmed as a subcommittee with Brandi, Candice, and Katie.

9) Amber Morley Office & Outdoor Space Proposal Update (Tonya)

- Updates on the Amber Morley office project and outdoor space proposal were provided, with documentation submitted to the TDSB for site visits and further progress.

10) Art Auction Proposal (Andrea C)

- Deferred to next meeting

11) Corporate Fundraising Update (Steven B)

- A corporate fundraising initiative was launched targeting local businesses, including community honor roll and donation links on the school's website, aiming to support priorities like morning snacks, the library, and technology.

12) Fundraising and Events Discussion (All)

- The Halloween dance was a record-breaking success with 203 attendees and a net profit of over \$1,600. The curriculum night also raised \$355.
- Pizza lunch volunteers are sufficient, and a new promotion with Gino's pizza was approved to run for two months, offering \$5 per large pizza sold back to the council
- Discussion of future events included a family skate, concession stands for mini musicals, and staff appreciation activities, with volunteers being sought for these initiatives.

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- The movie night license expires at the end of January, and a potential double showing was proposed for fundraising, with coordination between council and grade 8 parents.

13) Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

- February 5th, 2026, 7pm hybrid
- April 23rd, 2026, 7pm hybrid
- June 11th, 2026, 7pm hybrid