

**John Darling Public School
School Council Meeting**

Thursday June 12, 2025

In Attendance: Holly Fuhr, Laurie Davison, Cassandra Muhblock, Sophie Zivku, Waylan Grin, Danielle O'Connor, Danielle Vines, James Bond,

Getting Started (6:30pm)

Motion to approve the **Agenda** for June : Cassandra, second Holly

Motion to approve the **Minutes** from October Holly, second Cassandra

Principal Report

- EQAO is complete and went well
- Outdoor enhancements
 - Creative Play Structures have been reviewed by WRDSB Facilities and will be repaired by the board.
 - James presents a list of outdoor enhancements planned for 2025/2026. Improvements include new basketball nets, soccer posts, volleyball nets and outdoor classroom. [CLICK HERE FOR MAP.](#)
 - School funds will cover some costs and Parent Council funds will cover the difference.
 - The Outdoor Classroom, set up close to the Monarch Way Station, will use armour stones to make benches for outdoor learning.
 - Repainting the lines & games on the tarmac can be done from the school budget in the fall.

Teacher Report:

- Presentations to students included Enova Power Presentation, Author visits and Fire Department
- The Monarch Butterfly Way Station has been replanted
- Track & Field went well - congrats to all our John Darling athletes!

- Dogman Movie Field Trip to the KPL - Grades 1-3 all attending
- Kindie classes have their field trip next week
- PlayDay & End-of-Year Assembly - dates are set and planning is underway

Initiatives

- **DarlingFest - Review**
 - o All Council Members are invited to add their feedback and suggestions to the DarlingFest Review document shared by Cassandra.
 - o Below is a recap of feedback collected at the meeting:
 - Photobooth - arrived late, started late. No props for the photos which made the line move faster but was missed by the students. Mixed reviews on the new format (4x6 size vs. long strip). Price was higher than the previous vendor. Discussion of going back to the previous vendor for 2026. Like to keep it free - the students love it and it makes ticket sales easier.
 - Raffle - Have learned we will need to have a raffle license next year. This brings some different rules about how the raffle must be carried out and will change the timelines for getting the prizes as they need to be confirmed before applying for the license. Will require printed / numbered tickets. Would like to bring back giving each student one free ticket (not allowed with a raffle license). Discussion needed on what the rules are and how we can work within them. Next year: Advance organize a poster board with prizes to add the winning ticket numbers. Need a better process for winners to collect baskets.
 - Chalk - Needs a sign and some pre-drawn games like tic tac toe.
 - Hair Tinsels - Great success **(Thank you Holly and Shear Amazement)** - enjoyed by both boys and girls. Suggest moving it out into the hallway or into a more protected corner of the gym next year as the wind was a problem.
 - Art Wall / Dance Party - Having the sound system extended outside was a big help! **(Thank you Waylan & Just Grin)**. Dance party didn't really happen as a set activity, it was just an ongoing music area, created a lively environment for the stations. Artwall went

well, the kids engaged and it was low maintenance. Suggest a colouring station next year with Drake Colouring pages.

- Popcorn & Cotton Candy - Big Success! **(Thank you Danielle & Family!)**. Total cost was roughly \$150. Danielle needs more helpers next year.
- Food - Discussion of having other food trucks. They need to be booked early, want to be the only ones. Ice Cream Truck was popular - but it was pricey. The line up was long even though they served quickly. If it was available the entire event timeline up may not have been so bad. Discussion of reaching out to other ice cream trucks early for next year. Free Ice Cream tickets for the classrooms - only a small number were redeemed. If all had been redeemed we would not have received any funds back from the sales. Limit freebies next year. Pizza was late for delivery times. Discussion of connecting with other suppliers for next year, limiting to two delivery times. Pizza distribution seemed to work well. Separating the lists and the lines between Whole Pizza Combos and Slice combos worked well. **Thank you to the teachers for helping to serve and thank you Sonya for organizing!**
- Activity Stations - much easier to manage, required fewer volunteers and set up was easier. Some stations ran out of prizes early (LollyPops), most stations did not have prizes and kids were respectful about letting others have turns. Council members share feedback from their kids that the prizes were missed by many kids. Discussion of bringing back limited prizes on a few stations next year - pending a review of the School Board purchasing policy. If we can source cheaper prizes, then possibly bring back activity ticket sales. Suggest selling tickets for \$1 each and adjusting how many tickets are needed for each station based on the cost of the prizes. Many stations could remain free (e.g. basketball) but some of the missing stations could be brought back (e.g. Duck Flip). Pros: More prizes and more to do. Cons: More cost, more complicated communications for parents, less inclusive, more volunteers required.
- Set Up & Site Plan - Table-gate! We learned a different follow up is needed to confirm the table delivery. Discussion of whether the tables are needed and if we can use what we have or source rentals differently. While it required some quick changes - the set up

we had worked well and it didn't seem like we were too short on seating. **Grade Six volunteer helpers for set up was great! Thank you!**

- Overall Feedback - Posters and signage was improved this year. Discussion of dates for next year. Discussion of fundraising vs. give back. Goals for next year:
 - Financially self-sustaining - the event covers its own costs
 - Combines free stations (e.g. photobooth) and paid stations with prizes
 - Balance between keeping the size of the event manageable for the size of the Parent Council team - but also having enough activities for the kids.
 - More set & forget stations (colouring table)
- **Kindie Night - Thursday, June 19th** - Parent Council assists with handing out bags. Holly volunteers to help at the table (**Thank you Holly!**). Sophie has updated the Parent Council recruitment flyer - Laurie will print and deliver to school. (UPDATE: Flyers were inserted directly into the gift bags, Parent Council volunteer role was cancelled)
- **Meet the Teacher Night 2025** - Likely held on Thursday, September 4 - Second Day of School. This is a quick intro to the teacher and the classroom - not an update on how the students are doing. Council requests a reminder to go to parents the 1-2 weeks before to allow parents to plan work schedules. Parent Council will have a table like last year to recruit committee members.
- **Council Planning for 2025/2026** - Overall this year was more manageable for council members. As a group we need to remember to keep the activities we plan small enough for this group to manage. As council grows our activities can also grow.
 - Will continue with Movie Nights, Book Fair and limited fund raisers.
 - Discussion of setting a full year schedule of events and fundraisers and sharing it with parents at the beginning of the year.
 - Bring back John Darling Spirit-wear sales next year (typically do them every-other-year).
 - Suggestion to have Parent Council t-shirts.
 - Cassandra is stepping down as Council Chair. Danielle Vines is stepping

down as Staff Liaison. New volunteers are needed for both roles.
Co-Chairs is fine. **THANK YOU CASSANDRA AND DANIELLE!**

Treasurer's Report ([LINK TO BUDGET](#))

- DarlingFest raised approximately \$1299
- \$14,264.44 balance in Parent Council Account

Next Meetings (Subject to change)

- **Thursday, September 11 at 6:30**

Meeting Adjourned:

- 8:10 PM