



GFESS School Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 23, 2026

Location: GFESS Learning Commons

Time Started: 6:00 p.m.

Time Ended: 7:00 p.m.

Who	Item	Notes
Chair - Rayomand	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome to all members for coming out.
	Approval of Previous Minutes – Nov 17, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give everyone a few minutes to Read the Minutes Ask for Adoption of Minutes Jim & Kristin
	Any new agenda items to be added/discussed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccine Clinic English Curriculum School Safety EQUAO
Principal Louws	Welcome Message	
Student Rep – Ms. Kalli Gailpeau for Ms. Avery)	Student Council Webpage Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Checkout the GFESS Student Council Webpage, to see <i>What’s Happening</i> at GFESS! https://sites.google.com/dsbn.org/gfessstudentcouncil/home
	Upcoming Student Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jan – Cozy Week 21st - 27th Feb – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athletic Council Spirit Week for Super Bowl Theme Days - Winter vs Summer, Canadian Teams, Black out vs White out Super Bowl Squares – Free Lunch in Cafeteria Valentin’s Day – Heart’s put up around school with everyone’s name on them, Athletic Council – intramurals Drama Festival

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Startup Grade 9 Council ○ Lunch Game – 28th ○ Positive Notes for Pink Shirt Day • Suggestion Bags – Getting feedback on school events
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Teacher Rep – Mr. Lowes <i>for Mr. Gilmore</i>	Update Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ski Club trip to Blue Mountain
Principal's Update - <i>Principal Louws</i>	Report Cards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress Reports coming out Friday, Mar 6th • Parent Teacher Interviews Thursday, Mar 12th
	Engagement with Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can contact (email) your student's teacher's directly through the school's website
	Teacher PD Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy Strategies • Point, Evidence and Justification • Integration of SSTC students – “<i>Successful Integration</i>”
	Grade 8 Open House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very Successful Event • All Fort Erie Elementary Schools participating • <i>Future Gryphons</i> and their Parents attended! • 35 Parents signed up to learn more about GFESS Parent Council for next year • Visited 3 of the 4 elementary schools in Fort Erie to answer ay questions and encourage enrollment
	Celebration of Cultures Evening (<i>Thursday, Feb 19th</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third Annual Event • An exciting evening of Fun, Food and Learning about the different Cultures at GFESS and our Community. • Strength in our Commonalities • Highly Successful and Very Well Attended event
	Final/Progress Reports Semester 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Report Cards distributed on Thursday, March 12th
	Student Support & Intervention Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on tutoring, credit recovery, or academic support initiatives.

	English Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English books picked by Board Consultants and English Language Team Students have Choice of books they can read if they are not comfortable reading a certain book Possible to have additional books, but need to be vetted and given appropriate time frame for review
	Vaccination Clinic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently taking place tomorrow (Tuesday, Feb 24th) Message sent out is from DSBN (message from - Niagara Public Health) If there is any issues, student can ask school to contact their parents for clarification
	School Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Precautions taken by DSBN and GFESS to be cognizant of any student being upset Open communication with students Counselling available to students or parents Practice Lockdowns have been completed and are on going School can be evaluated within 3 Minutes – FEFD happy with results Lock and Learn also have occurred Everyone made aware of Practice Drills
	EQAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marks coming out soon Grade 9 – 10% of Final Grade For Grade 12 English (OSSLT) grades have been given out Followed up with communication and opportunities for next steps and support sessions ASPEN file will only indicate if student had successfully completed the test
	Support for Student Achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Counsellor available Students encouraged to speak with their teacher or Guidance Counsellor (or administration) if having any concerns and these will be shared with administration
	Graduation Requirements & Postsecondary Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 12 Students and Parents, start planning for OSAP and Scholarships (New Rules and Guidelines – Students & Parents encouraged to investigate as Early as Possible) Credit tracking, community involvement hours (40Hrs), post-secondary preparation.
	Mental Health Supports – School counsellor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Worker fulltime (Mr. Doug Borowski)

	services, partnerships with local health agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student’s given strategies to use and help them develop their own tools in dealing with issues. • School Nurse available for health-related matters (Mondays & Wednesdays) • Students are encouraged to reach out to Guidance Department for support.
	Upcoming Events & Key Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama Festival taking place tonight at GFESS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schools from around the Niagara Region participating in 45-minute productions ○ All Written, Directed and Acted by students • Intramurals for Semester 2 have Started – Come on out! • Gryphon Guides – Keep an ear out for next school year Sign-Up
All	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSBN’s Math EQAO Results were above the provincial averages.
	Adjourned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00 pm
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

- **Next Meeting:** Monday, April 27, 2026 (changed from original meeting May 11th)