



# GFESS School Council Minutes

Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Attendance:** Kristen Heximer-Pisaric, Jim Marshall, Kashmira Darukhanawalla, Doug Gilmore, Rayomand D., Fred Louws, E. Dorinzi

**Location:** GFESS Learning Commons

**Time Started:** 6:00 pm

**Time Ended:** 6:35 pm

## DRAFT - A

Who	Item	Notes
<i>Chair - Rayomand</i>	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome to all members for coming out.</li> </ul>
	Approval of Previous Minutes – Feb 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give everyone a few minutes to Read the Minutes</li> <li>Ask for Adoption of Minutes <u>Kristen</u> &amp; <u>Jim</u></li> </ul>
	Any new agenda items to be added/discussed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
Principal Louws	Welcome Message	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student Representative Avery was unable to attend due to work commitments.</li> </ul>
Student Rep – Ms. Avery	Student Council Webpage Updates	Checkout the GFESS Student Council Webpage, to see <b><i>What's Happening</i></b> at GFESS !  <a href="https://sites.google.com/dsbn.org/gfessstudentcouncil/home">https://sites.google.com/dsbn.org/gfessstudentcouncil/home</a>

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Teacher Rep – Mr. Gilmour	Update Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Retirement Announcement:</b> Mr. Doug Gilmour provided his final update as the Teacher Representative, as he will be retiring at the end of June. He will be dearly missed by all GFESS staff and especially his students!</li> </ul>
Principal's Update - Principal Louws	Principal's Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principal Louws provided a comprehensive update on school activities, academics, and upcoming structural changes.</li> </ul>
	Student Support & Credit Accumulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school is actively monitoring credit accumulation to ensure students remain on track to graduate. Transition meetings for incoming Grade 8 students are scheduled for mid-May. Additional support and interventions are being directed toward Grade 12 students who are currently in jeopardy of not graduating.</li> </ul>
	Report Cards for Semester 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-term progress reports for Semester 2 were distributed the previous week. Final report cards will be distributed to students during the first week of July.</li> </ul>
	Standardized Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The spring OSSLT (Literacy Test) has concluded, and the school is awaiting results.</li> <li>• The Grade 9 EQAO Math snapshot was successfully completed with 116 students participating.</li> </ul>
	School Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A mandated practice lockdown drill is scheduled for Thursday, May 7th during Period 4. Three practice fire drills will also be completed this spring.</li> </ul>
	Graduation & Postsecondary Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principal Louws noted upcoming changes to OSAP funding. He highlighted that the grant-to-loan ratio has shifted to 25% grants and 75% loans but emphasized that the federal loan portion is zero-interest rate during payback after post-secondary school graduation spread out over ten years.</li> </ul>
	Four Pillars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spring sports are underway, with a strong turnout of roughly 25 students for Ultimate Frisbee.</li> <li>• The Arts department has a busy week, featuring an Art Showcase on Thursday and the DSBN Art Competition on Wednesday.</li> <li>• GFESS recently performed at the regional level for the NTS Drama Festival, where a GFESS student won "Best Actor" and will be advancing to regionals.</li> </ul>

	<b>Skills Ontario</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four GFESS students will be competing at the Skills Ontario competition in Toronto on May 5th and 6th.</li> </ul>
	<b>Graduation Ceremony</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirmed for June 25th at 6:00 PM at the Leisureplex.</li> </ul>
	<b>Major School Changes &amp; Administration Transitions</b>	
	<b>Elimination of MSIP</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Starting next school year, GFESS will no longer utilize the Multi-Subject Instructional Period (MSIP) model. The school will transition to a standard four-period day, with each class running for 75 minutes. To accommodate this, one break will be eliminated, but the five minutes from this break will be added to the lunch period.</li> </ul>
	<b>Administration Changes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principal Fred Louws is officially retiring at the end of January 2027. Additionally, Vice Principals Erica Dorinzi and Norbert Kubic will be transferring to West Niagara and Stamford, respectively.</li> </ul>
	<b>Incoming Administration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eastdale Secondary School Principal Josh Conner will replace Fred Louws upon his retirement. The two new Vice-Principal in September will be Naomi Taylor and Chad Whittington. They are currently Vice-Principals at AN Myer and WNSS respectively.</li> </ul>
<b>All</b>	<b>Any Other Business (AOB)</b>	
	<b>Next Year's Council:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forms for joining the 2026-2027 school council will be distributed to parents in September.</li> </ul>
	<b>Year-End Celebration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair Rayomand proposed an informal dinner for the outgoing council at a Fort Erie restaurant in June to celebrate the year's work.</li> </ul>
	Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September 2026</li> </ul>
	<b>Adjournment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting was officially adjourned at <b><u>6:35 PM</u></b></li> </ul>

**Next Meeting: September, 2026**