



MINUTES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

School Library | 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Attendance

Elected Officers & Members-at-Large (Voting)

Amanda Formentini, Amanda Young, Beth Brooks - Fundraising Chair, Chantal Elward, Elizabeth Hyland, Katie Eley - Co-Chair, Haley MacDonald - Secretary, Jake Urbanek, Melissa So, Robin Bluestein, Raluca Kostovski, Sabrina Hayden, Stuart Rogers

Regrets: Erin Coughlin, Jennifer Masters, Kate McIntosh - Co-Chair, Megan Fitzpatrick - Treasurer, Michael Munshaw, Tammy Hewitt

Members-at-Large & Rep's (Non-Voting)

Effie Tsioutsoulas - Teacher Rep, Kim Rogers - Sunshine Childcare Supervisor, Ruth Coulter - School Principal (ex officio)

Regrets: Nidhi Abbi

Other Attendees

Adrianna Pilkington

1. Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

- The TDSB Land Acknowledgement was read: *We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and the Inuit peoples.*
- Clarification/correction was made regarding the name of our Council –i.e., we are a “School Council,” not a “Parent Council” –as per the statement in [Appendix A](#).

Katie Eley
Haley
MacDonald

2. Approval of Minutes

- Amanda Formentin moved to approve the [January 18, 2024 Minutes](#), seconded by Sabrina Hayden, thereby passing the motion.

Haley
MacDonald

3. Principal's Report

Ruth Coulter



- Throughout February, there was a flurry of activity including report card submissions, parent-teacher interviews, individual education plan assessments, and various events such as pancake breakfasts, African Heritage Month, Chinese Heritage Month, presentations, boys' basketball, girls' volleyball, and a Lego club. However, the school faced daily challenges due to staffing shortages, with Ruth teaching double shifts occasionally to cover prep periods. Despite this, the school managed to ensure adequate coverage, although the issue of understaffing persists statewide within the TDSB. Looking forward, Ms. Tsioutsoulas is organizing a diversity talent show for all grades, to be held during regular school hours.
- Ms. Tsioutsoulas and Ms. Mark attended a Lego robotics workshop in Orillia, facilitated by a grant written by Ruth and approved by the board that will also provide \$1,000 worth of LEGO robotics equipment for classroom use. A representative from Studica, a board-approved LEGO robotics vendor, has offered free training sessions for teachers.
- In service of school improvement goals, Simcoe teachers are hoping to organize a math night in April for parents to highlight among other things important aspects of the province's math curriculum. A LEGO robotics demonstration could be included.

4. Sunshine Childcare Report

Kim Rogers

- There are two available spaces for school-age children and seven spaces for kindergarten. There have been some minor staffing challenges, including one staff member on medical leave since January and a new Early Childhood Educator starting in the kindergarten space.
- During the upcoming March break, preschoolers will be relocated to the Kindergarten outdoor play area to allow soil samples to be taken as part of the school expansion project.
- Summer care services will be offered first to current parents, with remaining spaces made available to non-registered families. Interested families should contact Kim, though space confirmation won't be possible until June. There have been changes to optional attendance rules, now operating on a 100% lottery system, with applications due on February 10th. Previously, attendance could be secured through the childcare route.

5. Treasurer's Report

Katie Eley (on



- As of February 28, 2024, our bank balance was \$22,855.21 (see [Appendix B](#) for full financial report).
- A cheque has been issued to Cedar Drive, and they have a plan for the funds allocation (see [Appendix C](#) for details). To avoid bank administrative fees, a fund within the school will be established. Suggestions for furthering our School Council's relationship with Cedar Drive were made, including student exchanges. The TDSB is exploring the creation of parameters for supporting schools in need.
- All teachers have now signed for the Scientist in the School program (see [Appendix D](#) for further details).
- Eight teachers have submitted receipts or funding requests for classroom enrichment support (see [Appendix E](#) for further details).
- **VOTE #1: Eligible voting members approved the decision to extend the \$250 classroom enrichment support to the four Simcoe resource teachers who do not have full-time classrooms by a vote of 13 Yes, 0 No, and 0 Abstain.**
- **VOTE #2: Eligible voting members approved the decision to provide \$1,800 to replace a broken lunchroom table by a vote of 13 Yes, 0 No, and 0 Abstain.**

behalf of
Megan
Fitzpatrick)

6. Fundraising Report

Beth Brooks
Katie Eley

- Second term pizza lunch ordering closed on March 4th.
- Regarding the Scholastic Book Fair, Ms. Moss recently returned and confirmed there are unspent funds from last year's book fair. It was agreed that the next book fair will be held during the next school year, in conjunction with the December 2024 winter concert or Fall 2024 progress report interviews.
- A number of fundraising goals were discussed and voted on. These were voted on after the 2023/2024 events and activities votes were completed.
- **VOTE #7: Eligible voting members approved the decision to set a long-term School Council fundraising goal of \$13,550 for the cost of 7 external security cameras by a vote of 8 Yes, 4 No, and 0 Abstain.**
 - It was agreed that the cameras should not be installed until the school expansion project is complete. Schools do not have direct access to the footage; it can only be obtained through a request to the Caring and Safe Schools office.
- **VOTE #8: Eligible voting members approved the decision to set a short-term School Council fundraising goal of \$8,000 for LEGO robotics kits for use by all Simcoe classrooms by a vote of 11 Yes, 0 No, and 1**



Abstain.

- An updated quote of \$4,500 had been received just prior to the School Council meeting. This would purchase 10 kits suitable for Gr. 7/8, which would allow one class to use at any given time. An additional quote would be obtained for 10 kits suitable for Gr. 3-5.
- **VOTE #9: Eligible voting members approved a non-binding decision to set a long-term School Council fundraising goal of \$100,000 for enhancements to the Kindergarten play area at the front of the school by a vote of 6 Yes, 5 No, and 1 Abstain.**
 - Given the number of unknowns and size of investment for this project, it was decided that the vote would be non-binding and instead used to gauge School Council's degree of interest. It was suggested that we frame the goal
- **VOTE #10: Eligible voting members approved the decision to accept the "Option 2" proposed 2024 Fun Fair budget (as per [Appendix F](#)) by a vote of 12 Yes, 0 No, and 0 Abstain.**
- **VOTE #11: Eligible voting members approved the decision to donate a small portion of the 2024 Fun Fair proceeds to our sister school, Cedar Drive JPS, if the event's fundraising goals are exceeded by a vote of 11 Yes, 0 No, and 1 Abstain.**
 - It was agreed that the specific %/\$ amount of the donation would be discussed at a later date. It was suggested that a School Council mission and values statement could be useful for grounding future discussions about our support of other schools (Conestoga Public School [example](#))

7. 2023-2024 Events & Activities Updates

Katie Eley

- Amanda Beecham paid for a bullying workshop that will be held on April 4th.
- The following expenditures for 2023/2024 events and activities were voted on.
- **VOTE #3: Eligible voting members approved the decision to fund a [Roseneath Threatre](#) presentation for all Simcoe students this spring, at a cost of \$825 (plus HST) by a vote of 13 Yes, 0 No, and 0 Abstain.**
- **VOTE #4: Eligible voting members approved the decision to fund repairs to school instruments at a cost of \$1,000 by a vote of 13 Yes, 0 No, and 0 Abstain.**
- **VOTE #5: Eligible voting members approved the decision to purchase new school instruments –incl. flute, clarinet, baritone, bass drum**



mallet, etc.– at a cost of \$2,250 by a vote of 12 Yes, 1 No, and 0 Abstain.

- Movie Night preparations are underway, including the purchasing of the license, confirming the return of pro-bono equipment support from G&G Electronics, and volunteer support from a Gr. 6 student parent. Two additional parent volunteers are needed to help organize (Raluca and Katie volunteered) as well as more parent volunteers during the event. About four weeks are needed to advertise/sell tickets using Cash Online (tickets will be \$7 for popcorn, candy and drink; tickets only needed for children, not parents). Parents will also need to complete a supervision/permission form. Parents will be polled to help select the K-Gr. 3 and Gr. 4-6 films. The event date still needs to be confirmed with consideration from the math night event and Ruth's availability.
- The Pancake Breakfast was a great success with a total cost of \$120 and lovely [thank-you letters](#) created by students in Ms. Noble's class.
- As a follow-up from last meeting, Nitwits confirmed that 6 cases of lice were found during their Fall 2023 school visit. Their Spring 2024 visit is scheduled for April 18th.
- The ice rink, which was open for ten days, is now closed. Many thanks to Michael for his leadership. It was questioned whether this initiative should remain a School Council endeavour given it is a community rink.
- **VOTE #6: Eligible voting members approved the decision to fund [Junglesport](#) for 1 week in the 2024/2025 school year by a vote of 10 Yes, 2 No, and 1 Abstain.**
- Teacher Appreciation Day will be held on May 9th, co-led by Amanada Young with additional support requested from School Council and others to help prepare and serve food for the teachers. In years past, the event had become quite elaborate/involved, and there are plans to thoughtfully scale back this year.

8. Other Business

All/Open

- There was no other meeting business.

Meeting Action Items

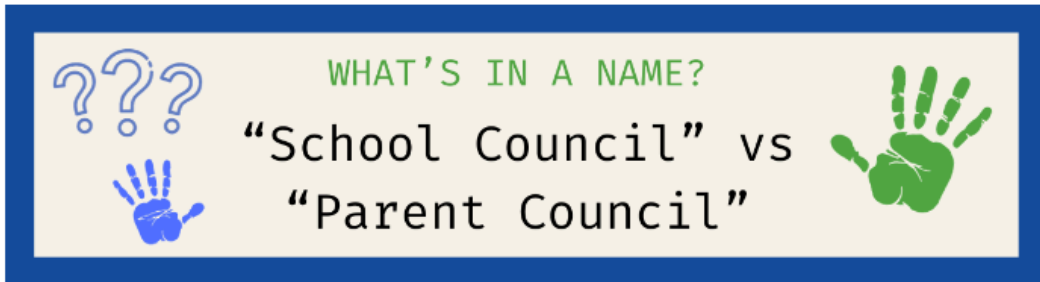
| LEAD | TASK | DUE BY |
|------|---|---------------|
| Ruth | School Ground Lights: Ruth will look into extending the hours that the school ground lights are left on in the evening | March 21 mtng |



| | | |
|---------|--|------------------|
| Ruth | LEGO Robotics Quote: Ruth will look into extending the LEGO robotics quote to include 10 kits suitable for younger grades. | March 21 mtng |
| Sabrina | Movie Night Date & Movie: Sabrina, with help from organizing volunteers Raluca and Katie, will work to confirm an event date and movie selections (supported by a parent poll). | March 21 mtng |

Next Meetings: 7:00 pm | Thursday, March 21, 2024 | School Library

Appendix A: Difference between School Council vs. Parent Council



"School Council" vs "Parent Council"

What's in a name? School Council is the official name given by O. Reg. 612. Consider this thoughtful comment from Parent & Family Engagement specialist Nancy Angevine-Sands of [With Equal Step](#).

A little comment re the use of "parent council" instead of "school council". I know many use the former name to emphasize that the group is for parents/caregivers. But it ignores the original intention of the legislation and the mandate for all Councils. They were created to bring parent/caregivers, teachers, non-teaching staff, students and community together to support, and provide advice on, "pupil achievement" and the make the system "accountable to parents". It's important to remember this - everyone working together with a common purpose. Collaboration.

While it's vital to ensure parents/caregivers feel included in a meaningful way, it's also important that they realize there is a broader purpose than parents gathering to raise money for the school. It's way beyond that. Naming these groups as "School Councils" also lets the school, the community and the Board know that this amalgamation of all involved parties is important and must be respected.



Appendix B: School Council financials as of February 28, 2024



| Elizabeth Simcoe School Council Income/Expenses YTD Prepared on February 28, 2024 by Megan Fitzpatrick | | | | |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---|
| | Income | Expenses | Profit / Loss | NOTES |
| Pizza Lunches | \$ 8,540.00 | \$ (3,239.29) | \$ 5,300.71 | |
| Lunch Lady | \$ 179.50 | | \$ 179.50 | |
| BBQ | \$ 3,034.50 | \$ (2,844.95) | \$ 189.55 | * does not include \$250 deposit from June 2023 |
| Tech Purchase Balance | | \$ (541.85) | \$ (541.85) | |
| Spirit Wear | \$ 287.83 | | \$ 287.83 | |
| Mabels Labels | \$ 64.24 | | \$ 64.24 | |
| Classroom Enrichment | | \$ (1,206.78) | \$ (1,206.78) | 5/13 teachers have been reimbursed |
| Nitwits | | \$ (549.18) | \$ (549.18) | |
| Website | | \$ (149.12) | \$ (149.12) | |
| Pancake Breakfast | | \$ (119.70) | \$ (119.70) | |
| Donation to Cedar Drive JPS | | \$ (2,000.00) | \$ (2,000.00) | |
| Other | | \$ (26.72) | \$ (26.72) | |
| Bank Charges | | \$ (105.00) | \$ (105.00) | |
| | | | \$ - | |
| | \$ 12,106.07 | \$ (10,782.59) | \$ 1,323.48 | |
| Starting Bank Balance \$21,531.73 August 1 2023 | | | | |
| Total In YTD \$12,106.07 | | | | |
| Total Paid out YTD -\$10,782.59 | | | | |
| Current Bank Balance \$22,855.21 | | | | |

| Elizabeth Simcoe School Council APPROVED PLANNED/PROJECTED Income/Expenses YTD | | | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| | Income | Expenses | Profit / Loss | NOTES |
| Pizza Lunches | \$ 8,500.00 | \$ (3,300.00) | \$ 5,200.00 | PROJECTED |
| NitWits | | \$ (600.00) | \$ (600.00) | |
| Website | | \$ (350.00) | \$ (350.00) | |
| Classroom Enrichment | | \$ (2,000.00) | \$ (2,000.00) | 8 @ \$250 |
| Scientist in the School | | \$ (3,250.00) | \$ (3,250.00) | 13 @ \$250 |
| Dance/DJ | | \$ (1,000.00) | \$ (1,000.00) | |
| EcoClub | | \$ (500.00) | \$ (500.00) | |
| Grade 6 Grad Expenses | | \$ (2,500.00) | \$ (2,500.00) | |
| Parent Workshops | | \$ (1,000.00) | \$ (1,000.00) | |
| Bank Charges | | \$ (105.00) | \$ (105.00) | March to September Fees |
| | | | \$ - | |
| | \$ 8,500.00 | \$ (14,605.00) | \$ (6,105.00) | |
| Current Bank Balance \$22,855.21 | | | | |
| Projected Total In YTD \$8,500.00 | | | | |
| Projected Total Paid out YTD -\$14,605.00 | | | | |
| Projected Bank Balance \$16,750.21 | | | | |



Appendix C: Cedar Drive allocation of donation received from Elizabeth Simcoe School Council

Donation Funds Allocation: Proposed Initiatives of School Council

| Priority | Activity | Description | Cost | Date of Activity |
|----------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| FUNDING THROUGH DONATIONS | | | | |
| 1. | Pizza Days | <p>Currently only 35 – 40% of parents are registered with School Cash Online. We will use pizza day to increase the cash online adoption rate. “Class with the most registrations will get next Pizza lunch free”.</p> <p>Pizza day includes free pizza lunch for class with the most School Cash Online registrations. This will be used as a fundraiser event.</p> <p>Parents will have the option to purchase 1, 2 or 3 slices of pepperoni or cheese pizza for their children during pizza day.</p> <p>Costs of Pizza from Pizza Pizza Pepperoni pizza 10 slices @ \$12.50 +tax Cheese pizza 10 slices @ \$11.00 +tax These are 16" pizzas divided into 10 slices.</p> <p>Proposed Cost to Parents per slice Pepperoni \$2.50 / slice Cheese \$2.50 / slice</p> | <p>\$43 prize</p> <p>\$30 napkins</p> | <p>April 16, 2024</p> <p>Pending based on acquiring 10 volunteers minimum.</p> |
| 2. | Graduation Ceremony for Grade 6 | <p>School Council to gift graduation photos for graduation ceremony. There are 80 grade 6 graduates this year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vinyl composite class photo is \$25+tax if purchased as a group. • Paper composite photo is \$16+tax if purchased as a group. | \$1,000 | <u>June 2024</u> |
| 3. | Funding School Library | Provide library with funds to purchase books and resources to aid with literacy initiatives. | \$327 | ASAP |
| 4. | Teacher Initiatives | Provide teachers with funds to pursue initiatives for children's education. | \$600 | April/May |


Appendix D: Scientist in the School programs, 2023/2024 school year

| Class | Program | Date |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Ms. Subryan | As a Matter of Fact | 2024-03-27 |
| Ms. Kanagasabi | Our World of Energy | 2024-03-05 |
| Mr. Milburn | Get in Gear! | 2024-03-27 |
| Ms. Mark | SIS – Electricity: Close the Circuit | 2024-02-14 |
| Ms. Bhola | Light and Sound | 2024-01-26 |
| Ms. Noble | As a Matter of Fact | 2024-02-02 |
| Ms. Tsioutsoulas | Electricity | 2024-02-14 |
| Ms. Pauling | Properties Really Matter | 2024-01-10 |
| Ms. Mete | Energy | 2024-03-05 |
| Ms. Russell | On the Move! | 2024-04-17 |
| Mr. Acoba | On the Move! | 2024-04-17 |
| Ms. Davey | Energy | 2024-03-05 |

**Appendix E: Classroom enrichment expenditures as of Feb 29, 2024**

| Classroom | Expenses | Notes |
|------------------|---|-----------------|
| Ms. Subryan | Reading centre enhancement, supplies for classroom | Purchased |
| Ms. Kanagasabi | Enrichment toys for classroom. | Purchased |
| Ms. Mete | Supplies for classrooms and specific, learning resources and materials. | Purchased |
| Mr. Acoba | Math manipulatives, interactive play carpet. | To be purchased |
| Ms. Bhola | Mathematics and literacy tools. | Purchased |
| Ms. Russell | Toys, puzzles, craft supplies and speaker. | To be purchased |
| Mr. Milburn | Arts and physical education learning supplies. | Purchased |
| Ms. Davey | Headphones, resources, art supplies. | Purchased |



Appendix F: Proposed budgets for 2024 Fun Fair

| 2024 Proposed Budget - Fun Fair Option 1 | | |
|--|-------------------|--|
| Expense | Estimated | Notes |
| The Main Event Inflatables | \$4,800.00 | Due to inflation and upgraded items the cost has increased from 2023 (\$4,400) |
| DJ Mike | \$625.00 | \$550 + HST - Jen M reached out and date secured |
| Face Painting/Tattoo Supplies | \$400.00 | Increase from 2023 due to long lines and wanting to purchase more supplies |
| Signage | \$500.00 | Larger banner needed, date stickers, printing of maps, other signage, additional budget added incase we can't get free printing from Sabrina this year |
| Volunteer Identification | \$125.00 | Cost of stickers from 2023 was \$100 |
| Silent Auction | \$100.00 | To purchase baskets, celophane wrap for classroom baskets, tissue paper, foam core for signs, pens |
| Mini Makers | \$150.00 | Craft supplies for grade 6 students to run |
| Pizza | \$1,000.00 | Cost of pizza for 2023 was \$800 |
| Drinks | \$400.00 | Cost of drinks for 2023 was \$270, however it ran out |
| Green Thumbs | \$50.00 | Soil, seeds |
| Cotton Candy | \$100.00 | Supplies to make cotton candy, can borrow a machine from Jen M |
| Miscellaneous | \$250.00 | To cover any addition supplies not anticipated here that we may need to purchase |
| Estimated Total | \$8,500.00 | |
| 2024 Proposed Budget - Fun Fair Option 2 | | |
| | Estimated | Notes |
| The Main Event Inflatables | \$5,170.00 | Due to inflation and upgraded items the cost has increased from 2023 (\$4,400) |
| DJ Mike | \$625.00 | \$550 + HST - Jen M reached out and date secured |
| Face Painting/Tattoo Supplies | \$400.00 | Increase from 2023 due to long lines and wanting to purchase more supplies |
| Signage | \$500.00 | Larger banner needed, date stickers, printing of maps, other signage |
| Volunteer Identification | \$125.00 | Cost of stickers from 2023 was \$100 |
| Silent Auction | \$100.00 | To purchase baskets, celophane wrap for classroom baskets, tissue paper, foam core for signs, pens |
| Mini Makers | \$150.00 | Craft supplies for grade 6 students to run |
| Pizza | \$1,000.00 | Cost of pizza for 2023 was \$800 |
| Drinks | \$400.00 | Cost of drinks for 2023 was \$270, however it ran out |
| Green Thumbs | \$50.00 | Soil, seeds |
| Miscellaneous | \$500.00 | To cover any addition supplies not anticipated here that we may need to purchase |
| Estimated Total | \$9,020.00 | |