



MINUTES

Thursday, January 18, 2023

School Library | 6:30 pm – 8:00 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, Jennifer Law, Megan Fitzpatrick - Treasurer, Melissa So, Michael Munshaw, Robin Bluestein, Raluca Kostovski, Sabrina Hayden, Stuart Rogers, Tammy Hewitt

Regrets: Erin Coughlin, Kate McIntosh - Co-Chair

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

Ruth Coulter - School Principal (ex officio)

Regrets: Effie Tsioutsoulas - Teacher Rep, Kim Rogers - Sunshine Childcare Supervisor, Nidhi Abbi

Other Attendees

Lornah Mark, Natalie Syrmopoulos, Simone Assad

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.*
- Simcoe's new principal, Ruth Coulter, introduced herself, followed by roundtable introductions from all other meeting attendees.

Katie Eley
Haley
MacDonald

2. Approval of Minutes

- Amanda Formentini moved to approve the [November 9, 2023 Minutes](#), seconded by Elizabeth Hyland, thereby passing the motion.

Haley
MacDonald

3. Principal's Introduction & Report

Ruth Coulter



- A recent TDSB workshop provided more information on Ontario's [new language curriculum](#), including:
 - The adoption of a single language grade on report cards (compared to 4 distinct grades), which will come into effect for February's report cards. Parents are encouraged to read report card comments closely to understand their child's progress and reach out to their child's teacher where more information is required.
 - The new language curriculum addresses recommendations detailed in the Ontario Human Rights Commission's 2022 Right to Read report, emphasizing [evidence-based instructional approaches](#) for developing language skills.
- School activities are underway, including boys' basketball and girls' volleyball, a diversity showcase that many students are excited about the week before March Break (auditions to be held after Valentine's Day).
- More stable front-office help is coming while Ms. Taccone's leave continues.
- Simcoe's school improvement goals were shared (see [Appendix A](#) for full report) with additional observations from Ruth and questions from meeting attendees.
 - Writing is the achievement focus for primary grades, with strategies focused partly on increasing student engagement with writing tasks. Math is the achievement focus for junior grades, with strategies focused on encouraging mathematical reasoning, financial literacy, building "thinking classrooms," and using wipebooks. A general theme across all focus areas is equity, inclusion, and socio-emotional support for students, and continuing to expand recognition and responsiveness to better support the full spectrum of lived experiences, barriers, and privileges represented across Simcoe's student body.
 - More detail was requested regarding success indicators. Administrators used to have access to a student success dashboard that provided high-quality performance data. Unfortunately, this no longer exists, so EQAO scores, report card data, and qualitative data (e.g., student surveys) will be used.

4. Sunshine Childcare Report

- Sunshine has continued to grow since the pandemic. The preschool program is at capacity, and spaces are available for before/aftercare for

Katie Eley (on
behalf of Kim
Rogers)



kindergarten and school-aged children. Tomorrow is also the deadline to submit fee confirmation forms.

- Colour Day is the theme for the PD Day tomorrow, with many activities planned.

5. Treasurer's Report

Megan
Fitzpatrick

- As of January 18, 2024, our bank balance is \$26,807.63 (see [Appendix B](#) for full financial report).
- New revenue includes \$287.83 in proceeds from spiritwear and \$64.24 in proceeds from a passive fundraising campaign with [Mabels Labels](#) (no cost for our participation; we earn 20% commission).
- New expenditures include reimbursement for classroom enrichment (\$250/class) from 3 teachers, \$549.18 for Nitwits, and payment for the new website domain.
- Approved/planned expenses for this year will leave an EOY balance of \$14,584.90, which means Council needs to continue its project planning to ensure adequate spending and EOY balance position (i.e., ideally, no more than \$5K emergency fund + \$3K for September bbq = \$8K balance).
- Project suggestions from teachers include permanent cubbies for coats/shoes for primary grades, school instrument tuning/replacement, and new sports equipment. Meeting participants discussed Lego robotics as an investment option to complement the new Lego lunch club and [Dash and Dot coding robots](#) already in use.
- Regarding the approved \$2K Cedar Drive JPS donation, a parent council has just been formed at the school and is well-supported by the school's two vice principals. Kate and Katie will meet with the new chair tomorrow to discuss the donation and continue building a relationship with the school. Our council will ensure that this relationship is communicated proactively to our larger parent community.

6. Fundraising Report

Beth Brooks

- The next pizza lunch will be held next Friday, with a call for volunteers coming shortly. Ordering for the remaining five pizza lunches of the school year will open.
- A Fun Fair planning chair is still being sought, with interest expressed by Chantal should a co-chair option be possible. The 2024 Fun Fair is slated for Friday, May 24th.



7. 2023-2024 Events & Activities Updates

Katie Eley

- Classroom enrichment and Scientists in School were covered earlier in the meeting.
- Sabrina discussed planning needs to revive the popular Movie Night event, which had previously generated more than \$600 in profit. Tickets should include a nominal fee to encourage follow-through on registration (\$7/ticket charged in the past, which included concessions). A license to stream the movie legally will be needed. Student preferences will be polled with the help of teachers. G&G Electronics will likely provide in-kind technology support. Other requirements include a more thorough sign-in/sign-out system (K-Grade 3 parents stay with their child during the movie) and the need for event volunteers. Once fully costed, Council will vote to approve the event budget. A suggestion was made to consider accommodations for bussed students (e.g., an afternoon viewing instead of during the evening).
- Sabrina shared updates on the upcoming Pancake Tuesday Breakfast to be held the morning Tuesday, February 13th for all Simcoe students and Sunshine children. The total anticipated cost is \$200 for pancake mix (with school-safe alternatives for students with allergies), syrup, butter, plates and cutlery. Approximately 10 parent volunteers are needed for preparing the pancakes, cutting/serving pancakes, and oversight/coordination between the 'kitchen' (5 griddles) and gym, where the pancakes will be served to several groups of classes at a time.
 - **VOTE:** Eligible members approved the plan and budget for the February 13th Pancake Tuesday Breakfast by a vote of: 16 Yes, 0 No, and 0 Abstain.
- Michael provided an update on the skating rink, including operating hours of 7am to dusk as set by the City of Toronto, that the rink may need to close for a few days following rain, and rink updates will continue to be shared via Simcoe and Guildwood social channels. Simcoe teachers may use the rink during school hours, and it was suggested that we let other schools in the community know about the rink.
- Katie shared that the second Nitt Wits visit will be April 18th.
- Kate was going to provide an update about parent workshops at the meeting. The person she had been talking to about a potential workshop topic was not a good fit, so she is continuing to look for a speaker, so more research will be required.

8. Other Business

All/Open



- The Scholastic Book Fair is usually held in November, though due to Ms. Moss' absence, Janna was comfortable deferring until the spring. Proceeds from the last book fair haven't been fully spent either. There is continued interest in a 2024 book fair event.
- The new Council website – www.elizabethsimcoeschoolcouncil.ca – is up and running. Many thanks to Meghan for her work on this project. She will continue populating the site with Council information.
- As part of the school expansion project, soil samples will be taken from the Sunshine playground area.
- Feedback was shared regarding the school's lunch hour format, which some students find very stressful/overstimulating. Ruth is aware of the issue and is actively brainstorming alternative approaches, though supervisory capacity is an ongoing constraint (e.g., two lunchroom supervisors available; teachers contractually obligated to a lunch break). It was suggested that more lunch-hour programming could also help the situation.

Meeting Action Items

LEAD	TASK	DUE BY
All	Call for 2024 Fun Fair Planning Committee volunteers: Anyone who wants to participate in the Fun Fair planning committee is encouraged to attend the January 23 kick-off call hosted by Katie.	By Jan 23rd kick-off
All	Call for February 13th Pancake Breakfast volunteers: Any parents interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact Sabrina (approx. 10 volunteers sought).	Before Feb 13th event
All	Call for Council project ideas: Parents (using this e-form) and teachers are asked to submit their project/investment suggestions before our February Council meeting, where projects will be prioritized and approved.	Mid-Feb
Chairs / Treasurer	Classroom enrichment & Scientists in School utilization: Council Chairs and Treasurer will share more information about the utilization of these programming opportunities at the February Council meeting.	Feb 29th meeting
Ruth	Lego League programming: Ruth will follow up with a contact for more information.	Feb 29th meeting
Ruth / Sabrina	Movie Night next steps: Ruth will investigate an existing movie screening licence, while Sabrina will continue efforts to confirm in-kind tech support,	Feb 29th meeting



	movie licensing and selection, ticket and concessions, and volunteer recruitment. To be revisited at the February Council meeting, including volunteers to help Sabrina.	
Beth	Scholastic Book Fair next steps: Beth will log into our Scholastic Book Fair account to confirm current account balance. To be revisited at the February Council meeting.	Feb 29th meeting
Katie	Lice prevalence inquiry: Katie to connect with the 'Chief Nitwit' about the school's lice rates following the fall event. To be revisited at the February Council meeting.	Feb 29th meeting
Ruth / All	Lunchtime format and programming: Ruth will continue to explore different options for the school's lunch hour to accommodate students who are finding it stressful, while all parents are encouraged to think of lunch hour programming ideas that Council could support. This item will be revisited at the February Council meeting.	Feb 29th meeting

Next Meeting: 6:30 pm | Thursday, February 29, 2024 | School Library

Appendix A: Elizabeth Simcoe JPS School Improvement Plan Goals, 2023-24**Primary Division School Improvement Plan 2023-2024****Achievement integrated with Equity**

In the primary division, ensure all students have equal opportunities to improve their communication in writing. This will include writing samples, moderated marking, creating individual writing portfolios, targeted interventions, professional development, parental engagement, curriculum instruction and regular evaluation. Our indicators of success will include Ontario provincial testing, report card data, student portfolios and student/ staff surveys.

Actions:	Resources:	Indicators of Success:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -targeted interventions -PD -Parent community engagement -curriculum instruction -Monitor student progress -Word work -student portfolios -moderated marking/ creation of rubrics together -printing program -focus on word families -student conferences -create school exemplars -primary team meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -report cards -EQAO scores -specialized instruction -interventions to address social-emotional needs -regular communication with community partnership -feedback/ observations -tactile learning/ fine motor activities -parent council literacy night 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -EQAO -report card data -student/ teacher feedback -writing samples

Joy/ Belonging Integrated with Equity

This plan focuses on creating a safe environment whereby students who feel a sense of joy and belonging will have more academic success. This will include ensuring that students have equal opportunities to be represented in the classroom and classroom materials. Our school will encourage student leadership to promote diversity, health, wellness, and emotional well-being among our student population.

Actions:	Resources:	Indicators of Success:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -create safe spaces -PD -promote diversity -parent community engagement -monitor/ evaluate -fostering positive relationships -incorporate student interests into the curriculum -growth mindset activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Monthly Unlearn -Whole school collaborative initiatives (display boards, group art activities, encourage student voice) -Social Justice Initiatives (Walk for Wenjack, Terry Fox) -leadership opportunities (assemblies food drive, fundraising initiatives) -mindfulness activities -daily affirmations -seasonal active living rotation -character assemblies -whole school DPA (seasonal) -diversity/ winter/ spring assembly/ concerts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -teacher feedback -parent feedback -observations -student achievement -student interactions -conflict resolution improvements

Indigenous Education:

Ongoing throughout the year we will continue to expose educators to a variety of teaching resources (text, media, community connections) related to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action associated with education. Our focus this year will be to increase knowledge of Indigenous heritage, culture, and innovations. Achievement will be measured during classroom observations, student engagement, and teacher surveys.



Junior Division School Improvement Plan 2023-2024

Achievement integrated with Equity

In the Junior division we will ensure all students have equal opportunities to succeed academically in all areas of the math curriculum. This will include data analysis, targeted interventions, professional development, parental engagement, curriculum instruction and regular evaluation. Our indicators of success will include Ontario provincial testing, report card data, and student/ staff surveys.

Actions:	Resources:	Indicators of Success:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -data analysis -targeted interventions -PD Parent community engagement -curriculum instruction -Monitor student progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -report cards -EQAO scores -specialized instruction -Interventions to address social-emotional needs -regular communication with community partnership -feedback/ observations -tactile learning -parent/ child math night geared towards primary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -EQAO -report card data -student/ teacher surveys

Joy/ Belonging Integrated with Equity

This plan focuses on creating a safe environment whereby students who feel a sense of joy and belonging will have more academic success. This will include ensuring that students have equal opportunities to be represented in the classroom and classroom materials. Our school will encourage student leadership to promote diversity, health, wellness, and emotional well-being among our student population.

Actions:	Resources:	Indicators of Success:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -create safe spaces -PD -promote diversity -parent community engagement -monitor/ evaluate -positive relationships -incorporate student interests into the curriculum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Monthly Unlearn -Whole school collaborative initiatives (display boards, group art activities, encourage student voice) -Social justice initiatives (Walk for Wenjack, Terry Fox) -leadership opportunities (assemblies food drive, fundraising initiatives) -seasonal active living rotation -Indicators of Success: -whole school DPA (seasonal) -diversity/ winter/ spring assembly/ concerts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -teacher surveys -parent feedback -observations -student achievement -student interactions -conflict resolution improvements

Indigenous Education:

Ongoing throughout the year we will continue to expose educators to a variety of teaching resources (text, media, community connections) related to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action associated with education. Our focus this year will be to increase knowledge of Indigenous heritage, culture, and innovations. Achievement will be measured during classroom observations, student engagement, and teacher surveys.



Appendix B: Financial report as of January 18th, 2024

Elizabeth Simcoe School Council Income/Expenses YTD				
Prepared on November 9, 2023 by Megan Fitzpatrick Jan 18/24				
	Income	Expenses	Profit / Loss	NOTES
Pizza Lunches	\$ 8,540.00	\$ (1,941.70)	\$ 6,598.30	
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		\$ (728.17)	\$ (728.17)	
Nitwits		\$ (549.18)	\$ (549.18)	
Website		\$ (149.12)	\$ (149.12)	
Other			\$ -	
Bank Charges		\$ (75.00)	\$ (75.00)	
			\$ -	
	\$ 12,106.07	\$ (6,829.97)	\$ 5,276.10	
Starting Bank Balance \$21,531.73 August 1 2023 \$21,531.73				
Total In YTD \$12,106.07				
Total Paid out YTD -\$6,829.97				
Current Bank Balance \$20,007.83 \$20,007.83				

Elizabeth Simcoe School Council APPROVED PLANNED/PROJECTED Income/Expenses YTD				
	Income	Expenses	Profit / Loss	NOTES
Pizza Lunches	\$ 8,500.00	\$ (2,000.00)	\$ 6,500.00	PROJECTED
NitWits		\$ (600.00)	\$ (600.00)	
Donation		\$ (2,000.00)	\$ (2,000.00)	
Website		\$ (350.00)	\$ (350.00)	
Classroom Enrichment		\$ (2,521.83)	\$ (2,521.83)	
Scientist in the School		\$ (3,250.00)	\$ (3,250.00)	
Dance/DJ		\$ (1,000.00)	\$ (1,000.00)	
EcoClub		\$ (500.00)	\$ (500.00)	
Grade 6 Grad Expenses		\$ (2,000.00)	\$ (2,000.00)	
Parent Workshops		\$ (1,000.00)	\$ (1,000.00)	
Bank Charges		\$ (225.00)	\$ (225.00)	
			\$ -	
	\$ 8,500.00	\$ (15,446.83)	\$ (6,946.83)	
Starting Bank Balance \$21,531.73 August 1 2023 \$21,531.73				
Projected Total In YTD \$8,500.00				
Projected Total Paid out YTD -\$15,446.83				
Projected Bank Balance \$14,584.90 \$14,584.90				