

**Elizabeth Simcoe Jr. Public School
School Council Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, November 7, 2024 - School Library | 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Attendance: Beth Brooks (Fundraising Chair), Kelly Caddel (Interim Principal), Jesse Chao, Jon Cheevers, Molly Christie, Katie Eley (Chair), Megan Fitzpatrick (Treasurer), Tammy Hewitt, Rebecca Ho, Elizabeth Hyland, Raluca Kostovski, Julia Lakats, Colleen Leung, Natalie Lostritto, Lornah Mark, Melanie McLeod, Stephan Psarros, Kim Rogers, Sharmila Sivasankaran, Carolyn Tyson, Yana Verbitskaia, Rebecca Viapiana, and Amanda Young

Regrets: Robyn Bluestein, Chantal Elward, Amanda Formentini, Stuart Rogers (Vice-Chair) and Shradha Sareen

1. Welcome & Land Acknowledgement **- Katie**

- 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.*

2. Approval of the Minutes **-Katie**

- Elizabeth moved to approve the October 10, 2024 Minutes, seconded by Tammy, thereby passing the motion.

3. Principal's Report **-Kelly**

- **Staffing:**
 - Ms. Russel is back; Ms. McIntosh is now covering Mr. Acoba's class
 - Ms. Vitelis is an LTO covering Ms. Bhola's 4/5 class
 - Ms. Tsiotsiolas is off right now; Mr. Page is helping there instead of Ms. Mark and Kelly
 - TDSB is in crisis-mode trying to find occasional teachers; even more so for LTO not just daily coverage
 - Kelly's last day is Nov 15; Last two weeks of November will be Mr. Sellenkowitsch; Ms. Coulter returns December 2nd
- **Facilities:**
 - Outdoor lights around the school- work order has been put in to have these serviced
 - Work order submitted for access card entry for staff; doors are currently being propped open with chairs which is a major safety concern; staff will now have access cards for 2 back doors.
- **Curriculum:**
 - CAT3 has been completed in October
 - Grade K-2 reading assessment being completed this week; teachers were trained in October, testing begins this week

- EQAO results will be distributed when Ms. Coulter returns
- 1:1 devices- currently being distributed
- **Other:**
 - Girls' basketball for grade 6 has begun
 - Boys' volleyball is being coached by Ms. Sass and MS. Tanouye
 - Phys-ed teacher, Ms. Navratil, is going to do a curling program with students
 - Ms. Noble put on a dance workshop for students
 - Character assembly today hosted by Ms. Hope's class; Trait this month was *Empathy*
 - A parent spoke about previous school awarding students with a certificate each month.
 - Remembrance Day assembly scheduled on Monday November 11th; Kindergarten students will have a separate assembly in the library in the morning; Grade 1-6 will be held in the west gym at 10:40am.
 - Book Fair is scheduled for December 9th to 13th.
 - Parent suggestion- teachers can make a wish list for their classroom and parents/students can purchase the book
 - Christmas concert dates: December 17th for K to grade 3, and December 19th for Grad 4-6
 - Ms. Marks and Ms. Davey are both POR's (Position of Responsibility); they oversee leaderships around the school; Ms. Davey leads the primary division; Ms. Marks leads grade. 4-6; they review what resources are needed within those grades; Wish list will be compiled and presented at next meeting; list will be prioritized.

4. Sunshine Report

-Kim

- New ECE started, Ms. Nyema, in school age room.
- Holiday forms have been sent out; sign up for Christmas break; trips are planned for K to school age; Jump City is no longer a planned, so another indoor playground, Treehouse Clubhouse instead.
- School age space is available.
- PA day care is available to sunshine families
- School age group love LEGO: Sunshine is looking for donations

5. Treasurer's Report

-Megan

- See Appendix A for full report
- Most notably, Pizza lunch sales from online are \$15,653; teachers are beginning to submit for their classroom enrichment reimbursements.

6. Cedar Drive Donation

-Katie

- Final amount to be voted on; profit of Fun Fair was \$17,000, as previously communicated, up to 10% would be donated.
 - voting options were 5%, 7% and 10%; **Voting Results: 5% donation passed**

7. Review of Council Bylaws

-Katie

- Katie reviewed the positions of council as outlined in the bylaws
- Reviewed committees
- Conflict of interest reviewed
- What to do if a vote ended in a tie? No current information about this is in the bylaws.
- Discussion that bylaws should be updated and is something we will pursue later this school year

8. Event Activities Update

- Caring Adult Workshop by YouthSpeak- Wrap up (Katie)
 - Poor turnout: it was switched to online
 - Cost was \$300 for online; \$500 for in person
 - Suggestion was made if a survey could be sent out to gauge interest about future events/speakers for parents
 - We can try to connect with other schools to consider doing a joint event- whether in person or online.
 - Only 12 signed up for in-person; 20 were present for online
- Little Yogis (Raluca)
 - Yoga and mindfulness- 30 minutes per class- calm minds, build resilience, age-appropriate poses, breathing exercises.
 - Cost is \$678 for the entire school, decent availability
 - Feedback from Kelly- who coordinates all of this? does the work fall on staff? Should avoid any extra workload for teachers which will contribute to burnout.
 - **Voting results: Passed in favour**
- Puppets Cool (Rebecca)
 - Kids make sock puppets- no sew/no glue; learn about storytelling; 75-minute program per class
 - \$20 per student; any age is recommended but younger kids may not understand what a puppet is.
 - Could we get another quote? Something similar? This is a unique offering so it is likely that there is no one else offering this type of program but Rebecca will look into it.
 - Discussion came up if council could subsidize the cost; Does council support families who couldn't pay? No current policy in place regarding supplementing costs for families
- Rocks and Rings (Katie)
 - 2-day event that will be available for all students; 13 classes- 40-minute sessions
 - Will likely take place after March Break, date TBD
 - Will work with Ms. Navratil to co-ordinate
 - **Voting results: Passed in favour**

- News and Views GVCA (Robyn)
 - Dec 15th deadline for winter submission– update about LEGO kits.
 - Talk about school events, book fair, moving nights, helping sister school. SIS, Cross country; maybe we mention what we are doing for the holiday initiative? We could mention Cedar Drive donation.
 - Possibly launch Fun Fair earlier. Issue comes out in Feb.
- Holiday Initiative (Katie)
 - Amanda and Julia volunteered.
 - Healthy Communities was the agency for Angel Tree that Simcoe previously connected with in previous years
 - General discussion seemed many in favour to continue the yearly tradition of Simcoe participating in some form of holiday initiative that benefits the community

9. Fundraising Updates

- Pizza Lunch (Beth)
 - Successful overall; great support with volunteers.
- Book Fair (Beth)
 - Cash float and cash boxes will be needed, Megan to co-ordinate
 - There will be a morning planned for parents to come in and shop
- Spirit Wear (Megan/Beth)
 - No update currently
- 2025 Fun Fair (Robyn/Chantal)
 - Discussion between two possible dates: May 23rd and May 30th
 - May 23rd has cheaper rates for inflatables with more availability
 - May 30th has more expensive rates for inflatables, less availability, more volunteers
 - **Voting results: Passed in favour of May 30th date**
 - Volunteer list circulated
 - A fundraising goal needs to be determined. Some ideas mentioned: Kindergarten yard repairs, AC units, cubbies; tech; Cultural events and celebrations; can we contribute to field trips or events of diversity within the school; plan will be to vote next meeting so letters for sponsorship can go out ASAP
- Krispy Kreme (Robyn)
 - January 16th tentatively held as possible date; next day is a PA Day
 - Form would be sent home before holidays
 - \$8 box at cost; suggested selling between \$12-18

10. 2024/2025 Meeting Schedule

-Katie

- Possible conflict of February date with parent/teacher interviews

11. Other Business

- Eastview does a Powwow in September with many neighbouring schools invited; usually hosted the 2nd week of September before Orange Shirt Day; can we look into having Simcoe be a part of this in the future?
- Can we distribute the council members info so we can reach out to each other privately?
- Concern raised regarding ice in the school yard last year not being cleared or salted properly; parents were slipping
- Concern raised regarding technology in classrooms and free time; Kelly chimed in; now with 1:1 devices, kids are on computers all the time; no parameters within the curriculum with what is deemed appropriate for usage within classroom time; encouraged parent to reach out to teacher to express concern; no regulation from board perspective

Next Meeting: December 5, 2024

Appendix A

Elizabeth Simcoe School Council Income/Expenses YTD				
Prepared on November 7, 2024 by Megan Fitzpatrick				
	Income	Expenses	Profit / Loss	NOTES
Welcome BBQ	\$ 3,076.50	\$ (3,333.97)	\$ (257.47)	PENDING- no invoice received, SCO funds not released;
Nitwits		\$ (791.00)	\$ (791.00)	Cheque issued
LEGO Robotics Purchase		\$ (11,046.88)	\$ (11,046.88)	Invoiced Amount- pending new invoice split with school
Youthspeak		\$ (300.00)	\$ (300.00)	Cheque issued
Cross Country Bus		\$ (333.35)	\$ (333.35)	Approved amount per September vote
Cross Country Fees		\$ (100.00)	\$ (100.00)	Approved amount per September vote
Simcoe Tshirts		\$ (130.00)	\$ (130.00)	Approved amount per September vote
Cedar Drive Donation		\$ (1,500.00)	\$ (1,500.00)	AMOUNT TO BE VOTED ON
Cheque Re-issue		\$ (271.83)	\$ (271.83)	Carry over from previous budget- cheques from old account not cashed
Bank Fees		\$ (32.00)	\$ (32.00)	Alterna fee \$15 x2 (Aug/Sept), CIBC fee \$6 (Sept-reversed), \$2 transfer fee.
Classroom Enrichment		\$ (803.37)	\$ (803.37)	3 teachers (Pauling, Subryan, Acoba/Mete)
Pizza Lunch	\$ 15,653.00	\$ (1,955.83)	\$ 13,697.17	Does not include pending EMT; expense for first 3 lunches
TOTAL	\$ 18,729.50	\$ (20,598.23)	\$ (1,868.73)	
<div> <div> Donations Funds (TDSB) \$4,760.00 Starting Bank Balance \$25,860.02 TOTAL STARTING FUNDS \$30,620.02 </div> <div> August 1 2024 Total In YTD \$18,729.50 Total Paid out YTD -\$20,598.23 </div> </div>				
<div> <div> Donations Funds (TDSB) \$4,760.00 Current Bank Balance \$23,991.29 FUNDS AVAILABLE \$28,751.29 </div> <div> Funds collected from Fun Fair Sponsorships held in school account After all above listed transactions are completed </div> </div>				

Elizabeth Simcoe School Council APPROVED PLANNED/PROJECTED Income/Expenses YTD				
	Income	Expenses	Profit / Loss	NOTES
Scientist in the School		\$ (3,250.00)		13 classes x \$250
Classroom Enrichment		\$ (5,196.63)		20 staff x \$300
Grade 6 Graduation		\$ (2,500.00)		Amount not verified- TBD; historical allotment as placeholder
Admin Expenses		\$ (40.00)		Domain Renewal (\$30) ; postage stamps
	\$ -	\$ (8,446.63)	\$ -	
<div> <div> Current Bank Balance \$23,991.29 Projected Total In YTD \$0.00 Projected Total Paid out YTD -\$8,446.63 Projected Bank Balance \$15,544.66 </div> </div>				