



MINUTES

Thursday, November 9, 2023

School Library | 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Attendance

Executive & Executive Members-at-Large (Voting)

Amanda Formentini, Amanda Young, Chantal Elward, Elizabeth Hyland, Kate McIntosh - Co-Chair, Katie Eley - Co-Chair, Haley MacDonald - Secretary, Jake Urbanek, Jennifer Law, Megan Fitzpatrick - Treasurer, Michael Munshaw, Robin Bluestein, Raluca Kostovski, Sabrina Hayden, Tammy Hewitt

Regrets: Beth Brooks - Fundraising Chair, Erin Coughlin, Melissa So, Stuart Rogers

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

Janna Solman - School Principal

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

Other Attendees

n/a

1. Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

Kate McIntosh

- 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 Minutes

Haley
MacDonald

- Amanda Young moved to approve the [October 12, 2023 Minutes](#), seconded by Amanda Formentini, thereby passing the motion.

3. Principal's Report

Janna Solman

- The most recent '[unlean](#)' poster was shared with examples of reflection questions that teachers and students school-wide explore in relation to the poster (e.g., What do you see, think, feel, and or wonder about this design? What do you think this image represents?), which tied in with school observance of Orange Shirt Day/National Day for Truth & Reconciliation and the [Walk for Wenjack](#). The next poster will be related to conflict/war and



peace.

- General updates on school activities included report cards and parent-teacher interviews, boys' volleyball, girls' basketball, choir, Remembrance Day assembly, school winter concert, as well as a PJ/popcorn day during the final week of school.
- More information was provided about the school's Improvement Plan, an evidence-based plan that every school in the TDSB is required to have. Simcoe's plan centres on three goal areas: joy and belonging, achievement, and learning about Indigenous Peoples. Teachers are working on goals for this year, which will be shared with the parent community, and there may be opportunities for Council to align their activities with these goals. One area under consideration is improving student skills related to self-regulation, anxiety, and emotions.
 - **ACTION:** Janna will return with updates on the School Improvement Plan-related goals for the next Council meeting.

4. Sunshine Childcare Report

Kim Rogers
(absent)

- No report provided this month.

5. Treasurer's Report

Megan
Fitzpatrick

- The current Council; account balance is \$18,821.28, with two pending cheques going out for pizza lunch reimbursement and money owed to the school for the tech purchases funded by last year's Fun Fair. There is an upcoming deposit of \$11,500, so the Council account is in good standing.
- Projections for the year indicate that we will end the year with a positive balance of \$15K, assuming we fulfill our projected income and expense targets (see below) with no

	Income	Expenses	Profit / Loss	NOTES
Pizza Lunches		\$ (1,217.61)	\$ (1,217.61)	
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)	
Other		\$ -	\$ -	
Bank Charges		\$ (45.00)	\$ (45.00)	
	\$ 3,214.00	\$ (4,649.41)	\$ (1,435.41)	
Starting Bank Balance	\$21,517.73			August 1 2023
Total in YTD	\$3,214.00			
Total Paid out YTD		\$4,649.41		
Current Bank Balance				

	Income	Expenses	Profit / Loss	NOTES
Pizza Lunches	\$ 14,000.00	\$ (5,000.00)	\$ 9,000.00	
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)	
Activities		\$ (1,200.00)	\$ (1,200.00)	
Donation		\$ (2,000.00)	\$ (2,000.00)	
Website		\$ (500.00)	\$ (500.00)	
Classroom Enrichment		\$ (3,250.00)	\$ (3,250.00)	
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		\$ (300.00)	\$ (300.00)	
	\$ 17,214.00	\$ (23,396.80)	\$ (6,172.80)	
Starting Bank Balance	\$18,821.28			August 1 2023
Projected Total in YTD	\$17,214.00			
Projected Total Paid out YTD		\$23,396.80		
Projected Bank Balance				



additional fundraising.

- After further investigation, it appears that the terms of our new Alterna account were approved by TDSB and non-negotiable. They include a new \$15/month fee as well as fees for deposits and withdrawals.

6. Fundraising Report

Kate McIntosh
(on behalf of
Beth Brooks)

- Spirit remains open for orders until November 16th.
- New for this year's holiday drive, whereas the school has traditionally held food drives, classes this year will be assigned themes –e.g., dental care, baby needs—for items to donate and draw tickets will be sold for front-row seats at the upcoming holiday concerts. All proceeds will go to the Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities. Interest was also expressed to hold a winter clothing drive with donations given to Oakridge Junior Public School (110 Byng Ave, Toronto).
- There is likely going to be a need for a new Fun Fair Committee lead/chair. A core group of last year's committee will be returning. Planning will kick off in January, building from budget and work plans established through last year's event.
- A question was raised about the Krispy Kreme for fundraising. While we missed the opportunity to book for this year, there are plans to incorporate it into the Fun Fair.
- A date for the Fun Fair is nearly confirmed, tentatively set for Friday, May 24th, 2024 (same weekend as last year). The Poplar Strawberry Festival has confirmed June 14th for their 2024 event.
- Planning for this year's fundraising goals is underway. Kate and Katie attended a recent staff meeting to seek input from teachers. Ideas included replacing or fixing the school's musical instruments (donating older instruments) and upgrades to the Kindergarten playground. A Google Form was shared with teachers to collect more ideas. The School Improvement Plan goals can also help guide the planning.
 - **ACTION:** Anyone interested in participating on the Fun Fair Committee, including serving as Committee Chair, is encouraged to contact Kate and Katie. Janna will explore the winter clothing drive suggestion.

7. 2023-2024 Events & Activities Updates

Katie Eley
Kate McIntosh

- In addition to ideas for major upgrades/investments, Kate and Katie also spoke with the teachers about other Council-funded opportunities, including the \$250/class allowance for teacher-driven purchases and budget for Scientists in the School, both of which were very well-received. Receipts will be submitted in Feb and May for easier administration by Council.
- The first Nitwits visit of the school year is slated for next Thursday. No parent



volunteer is required.

- For parent workshops, investigations continue with one promising option being programming offered by [Boost for Kids](#), which provides training on child/youth safety. In-person and virtual options are available for the parent workshop (\$400/workshop for up to 50 participants), in addition to a 6-week program for students. Online safety (e.g., social media, gaming) was suggested as another training topic, which will be investigated further (including Paul Davis as a possible option).
- The completely redesigned and replatformed School Council website is nearly ready for launch. The decision was made to use a new domain: elizabethsimcoeschoolcouncil.ca. The site will be home to all important Council-related news and resources for parents, including upcoming school events, links to Cash Online, as well as Council bylaws, minutes, members, etc. Hosting for the new site will cost \$250 for 3 years, plus \$15/yr for the domain.
- Preparations for the coming season's community ice rink are well underway, with the application to the City and knowledge/equipment transfer from the rink's former steward, Rodney Hayden. In order to make the rink a more sustainable initiative, we need a community approach and ensure that rink set-up and maintenance knowledge is captured for future use. Volunteers are sought to help with the initial rink set-up (e.g., setting up the boards and liner), night-time flooding once conditions are right (i.e., 3-4 days of -10 weather; 6-8 wk commitment), and promoting rink news with the larger community (e.g., via Guildwood news, social). Council was asked to consider financial aspects of the rink project, including future equipment replacement (e.g., \$500-600 for a liner) and storage. There is no interest from local business owners.
 - **ACTIONS:** Folks interested in contributing to the new Council website are encouraged to speak to Megan, while those able to help with the ice rink should contact Michael.

8. Construction Update

Stuart Rogers
Elizabeth Hyland

- No report provided this month.

9. Other Business

All/Open

- The Pumpkin Parade had a great turnout with ~90 pumpkins. Local realtor, Julia Lakats, paid for hot chocolate and 'monstermallow' treats (about 120 cups of hot chocolate were served). Suggestions for next year's event include finding a new hot chocolate provider (due to issues working with Tim Hortons) and an on-site food truck to increase attendance (e.g., Julia's brother might be interested). Better lighting will also be considered.
- A suggestion was made to explore beautification options for the large



storage unit next to the Kindergarten yard, including mural art from local Scarborough artists.

- The suggestion was made to explore a learning opportunity with the [Legacy of Hope Foundation](#), which educates and raises awareness about the history and existing intergenerational impacts of the Residential School System (RSS) and subsequent Sixties Scoop (SS) on Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis) Survivors, their descendants, and their communities.
- No Book Fair date has been confirmed, but will be discussed again at the January Council meeting.
- Interest and practicalities of reviving the highly successful school movie night event were discussed, including scheduling, licensing, equipment, staff/volunteer support, and food needs. In the past, movie nights were held in March and October, indoor, with popcorn/candy for sale. Junior students can attend on their own, while primary students require parental supervision. Licenses in the past cost \$400/year with pro-bono A/V equipment provided by G&G Electronics. Various ticketing options are possible.
 - **ACTIONS:** Janna will look into improving school ground lighting at night. Megan will explore local mural artist options for the storage unit. A volunteer is sought to coordinate the return of School Movie Nights, while Sabrina will chat with a past event lead (Lucy) and Robin will seek information from a friend who has coordinated a similar event at their school.

Next Meeting: 6:30 pm | Thursday, January 18, 2024