

Elizabeth Simcoe Jr. Public School School Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 23, 2026 – Library | 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Attendance:

Amanda Formentini, Amanda Young, Chantal Elward, Elizabeth Hyland, Julia Lakats Katie Eley, Kim Rogers, Lorna Mark, Megan Fitzpatrick, Molly Christie, Paula Liu, Raluca Kostovski, Robyn Bluestein, Ruth Coulter, Tammy Hewitt, Yana Verbitskana

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 Minutes

- Katie

- One edit noted and will be corrected before posting to the website.
- Julia approved the March 23, 2026 Minutes and Molly second.

3. Principal's Report

- Ruth

Construction & Facilities

- Construction scheduled to begin June 1.
- Storage containers arriving shortly for library furniture and other items.
- Room 5 will serve as a temporary library; music instruction will run from that space.
- Concerns raised about installing new student nutrition equipment in a staff room scheduled for demolition. Ms. Coulter advocating to delay program implementation to September 2027.

Staffing & Classes

- Two teaching vacancies opening; standard vacancy process underway.
- Class formation in progress; class assignments to be communicated September 4.
- Many grades will continue as split grades due to staffing allotment (17 teachers).
- Gifted programs will remain.

Enrollment

- Enrollment steady; currently approx. 297 students, slightly down year over year. No major concerns identified.

Programming & Activities

- Co-ed badminton and volleyball ongoing.
- Track & Field teams forming; first meet expected May 12.
- Dance & Culture program returning in May (hip-hop for primary, reggaeton for junior).
- May celebrations include Asian Heritage Month and Jewish Heritage Month.

Gifted Program Open Houses

- Scheduled for May 4 and May 29 (Fun Fair day). Open to children who received offer of placement – can come and see the school – meet in West gym and take them to classes and show them around.

EQAO

- Grade 3: May 26–28. Grade 6: June 2–4. No EQAO on June 1 (Ontario Day).
- May Asian heritage and Jewish heritage month.

3. Sunshine Childcare Report

– Kim

- Summer registration deadline imminent. September registration due May 1.
- Waitlist movement: 6 preschool. 1 kindergarten. All school-age waitlisted students expected to be placed.
- Staffing change announced: Miss Dominique promoted to supervisor position at a new centre at Kennedy & Finch. Recruitment in progress; overlap planned for transition.

4. Treasurer's Report

– Megan

- April fundraising and expenses reviewed.
- Movie Night revenue: ~\$1,000. About 150 tickets sold so far.
- Current balance temporarily low due to cheque transfers; expected to normalize.
- Approx. \$1,135 anticipated available (excluding Fun Fair funds).

5. Events and Activities Updates

Pancake Breakfast Update

- Elizabeth

- Event successful; positive feedback.
- Note for future: advance notice needed for dietary accommodations (e.g., gluten-free). Extra flippers, knife and pizza cutters

Theatrics Program

- Elizabeth

- Staffing issues; unlikely to proceed this school year.
- Plan to book for Fall. October suggested.

Action Items:

- Elizabeth to reach out to secure for fall.

Nit Wits

- Katie

- Zero cases; no major issues.
- Invoice to be shared and reconciled.

Spring Movie Night

- Katie/Megan

- Scheduled for 7:00–8:30 pm (doors open 6:30).
- Equipment tested; volunteers confirmed.
- Reminder to parents re: student behaviour and cleanliness.
- To secure English version of Zootopia.

Social Media Presentation

- Megan

- Booked for November 24.
- Student daytime session + parent evening session planned.

Action Items:

- Megan to get marketing package and put in community.

Staff Appreciation

- Amanda Y.

- Format shifted to smaller daily tokens instead of large meal.
- Approx. 40 staff members included (teachers, custodial, lunch supervisors, Sunshine staff).
- Themes:
 - Mon: Morning Fuel
 - Tue: Snack Garden
 - Wed: Messages of Thanks
 - Thu: Treat Yourself
 - Fri: Celebration Day (incl. donated pizza)

- Megan to connect with people who is donating pizza and order through school to get discount.
- Donations received: ~\$120 to date.
- Poster to be shared with staff.

End-of-Year Dance

- Julia

- Date: June 15 (tentative)
- Budget request: \$850 (approved).
- DJ secured (also Fun Fair DJ).
- Includes snacks, balloon garland, bubble machine, and inflatable "thunder sticks."
- Classes attend in scheduled rotations.

✓ **Motion Passed:** End-of-Year Dance funding approved.

Freezie Frenzy

- Tammy

- Four boxes of freezies secured.
- If additional funding is required, it will be addressed as needed.

Astronomy in Action

- Katie

- Astronomy in Action booked using the *Orion dome*, as it was the only model that fit safely in the gym.
- Event Date: June 19 (Friday). Coincides with Pizza Lunch Day. Decision made to run a pizza picnic format.

Action Items:

- Explore alternate Astronomy in Action dates if June 19 conflicts with Play Day.

Lunchroom Construction & Supervision Considerations

- No lunchroom tables available for 18 months due to storage constraints. Students expected to eat on the stage due to lack of alternatives.
- Concerns were raised regarding: Safety of younger students eating on the stage. Board restrictions against floor eating.
- Ruth advised: Stage is considered safer than the gym floor. Behaviour expectations will be strictly enforced. Students may be sent home for lunch if behaviour becomes unsafe.
- Suggestions discussed:
 - Classroom eating with parent support → Ruth confirmed that parent volunteers cannot supervise lunch, as this would replace CUPE unionized roles.
 - Storage containers for tables → impractical due to access, movement, and safety constraints.
- Administration to raise concerns with the Board.
- **Post Meeting Update:** Lunch program will run in the West gym with lunchroom tables set up.

Tennis Program

- Elizabeth

- Council discussed whether to continue the annual tennis program.
- Past model: Teachers voluntarily opt in; not school-wide.
- No anticipated cost; tennis club provides equipment.
 - Decision: Program to proceed if teacher interest exists.
 - Target timing: Mid-June onward.

Action Items:

- Elizabeth to reach out to teachers to gauge interest and finalize dates.

Visiting Program – Professor Elmwood Pricklethorne

- Julia

- Proposal reviewed for tree-focused educational presentation.
- Preferred option: 6 sessions in one day = \$900 total. Includes 300 free activity books.
- Suggested for Fall scheduling due to space and timing constraints.

✓ **Motion Passed:** Presentation approved for future booking. (8 yes / 3 no)

News and Views

- Robyn

- Submitting tomorrow for May online issue

6. Fundraising Updates

Pizza Lunch

- Elizabeth

- Ongoing; no major updates.

Fun Fair

- Robyn / Chantal

- Sponsorships: \$7,250 committed and \$3,500 received to date
- Silent auction donations exceed \$7,000.
- Storage & layout planning ongoing due to construction.
- Dunk Tank: Email to be sent to recruit more teacher/parent volunteers.
- Plant Sale Storage:
 - Temporary indoor storage approved (staff room).
 - Outdoor storage options to be confirmed with administration.
- Student Vendor Tables (New Initiative): Limited spots for students selling handmade items.
 - Parent/guardian must be present at all times. Registration via online form; strong interest (11–12 registered). Vendors to be placed in East Gym. Flexibility confirmed to include original student proposer. Final allocations to be managed by organizer.

Cedar Drive Contribution

- Katie

- Follow-ups made; no response received yet.

Action Items:

- Additional outreach to be attempted by Ruth

Other Business

- Bike rack capacity concerns raised; Ruth to check TDSB options for relocation or additional racks.
- Storage containers to be delivered; logistics and safety planning ongoing.
- Confirmation: No summer camp operating on site.
- Request raised to consider auctioning disused assets (noted as restricted by Board policy).

Next Meeting: May 21, 2026