

Elizabeth Simcoe Jr. Public School School Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 26, 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, Melanie McLeod, 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

- Amanda F approved the February 12, 2026 Minutes and Megan second.

3. Principal's Report

- Ruth

Construction Update

- Ruth confirmed that major construction will officially begin June 1, 2026, impacting the library, East Gym and adjacent storage areas (including music instruments and lunch tables).
- May 29 was explicitly rejected as a start date.
- All items in library must be fully removed prior to June 1. Library Services will be engaged to professionally pack and remove books. Coordination will be required with Lorna and school staff
- West Gym roof work and elevator/lift installation will occur later in the summer.
- The logistical challenge of lunchroom furniture storage, compliance with fire code regulations and determining alternative eating arrangements for students in June.
- Fun Fair 2026 will proceed as planned, with explicit confirmation to construction supervisors that it must not be impacted.
- Project timeline: Duration: 18 months. Expected completion: December 2027
- Ruth acknowledged uncertainty around whether timelines will hold but noted this was the first meeting where construction appeared firmly confirmed.

Parking & Site Access

- The East parking lot will be fully hoarded off. No parent parking and no tennis permit parking. Parking pressure expected to increase significantly.
- Ruth requested that construction secure street parking permits for staff, citing: daycare staff, teaching staff, and bus loading zone constraints
- Without permits, staff parking is not feasible within the remaining lot.

Playground Impact

- Temporary fencing at the front playground will become operational.
- Kim's playground will be relocated during the summer.
- Kindergarten classes may temporarily use fenced areas when yards are wet.

Grade Configuration & Student Accommodation

- Current understanding (subject to construction progress): Current Grade 4 students will remain and current Grade 5 students will transition
- Ruth expressed concern over inconsistent messaging from other schools (Guildwood, Poplar).

- No communication to parents will occur until construction is visibly underway.
- First potential cohort to remain through Grade 7 likely September 2028, pending completion.
- Ruth emphasized longstanding uncertainty regarding school closures and expansions historically.

Staffing & Class Organization (Board Directive)

- Board has directed schools not to share staffing models until finalized. No tentative class configurations will be released.
- Teachers have been instructed not to share any information. Staff may face disciplinary action for non-compliance.
- Finalized information will be communicated on Friday, September 4, 2026: teacher names, class placements, grade configurations (e.g., split grades).
- Rationale: Prevent repeated late-summer reorganizations and reduce stress on students, families, and staff
- Ruth noted that enrollment typically stabilizes by late August.

School Programming Highlights

- \$8,000 experiential learning grant awarded: eco-community building project for Grades 4–6. Students designing sustainable homes and communities.
- Civil engineers and architects engaged to speak to students. \$1,000 in consumables purchased.
- Full-day build scheduled for April 2
- City of Toronto Eco Grant (~\$1,000) awarded: supports zoo visit admission costs and participation in League of Green Leaders.
- Additional student activities: Heritage Fair projects and Gifted Grade 6 students attending Toronto Science Fair (U of T Scarborough)

3. Sunshine Childcare Report

– Kim

Summer Program Enrollment

- Summer registration received significant external interest. Priority given to currently enrolled families until April 24, 2026. Final availability for non-registered families dependent on confirmed numbers.
- Fees & Subsidies:
 - Children 6 and under: Eligible for \$10/day childcare subsidy. Monthly fee: \$478.50.
 - Children over 6: Not subsidy-eligible. Weekly summer rate: \$260
- Program Operations: Hours: 7:00 am – 6:00 pm and structured activities begin at 9:00 am
- Fall registration packages to be released within approximately one week.
- Attendance over summer not required to retain fall placement.

External Camps

- Camp TO and other permits cancelled due to construction restrictions. August programs will not proceed.

5. Treasurer's Report

– Megan

- Reviewed all transactions from past 30 days.
- Previously approved: \$2,000 for Simcoe shirts and only \$1,100 spent; remaining \$900 used for jerseys
- Expenses paid:
 - Pizza lunch reimbursements (Feb–Mar)
 - Teacher reimbursements (all but one submitted)
 - Speaker system (~\$1,300)
 - New TV (over budget due to USB cost increases)
 - Rocks and Rings program
- Upcoming: Pancake breakfast (budgeted) and Spring Movie Night (anticipated ~\$700 revenue)
- Projected surplus after all expenses: \$8,350

5. Fundraising Updates

Pizza Lunches

- Elizabeth

- Administrative reconciliation underway.

Fun Fair

- Robyn/Chantal

- Updated contract pending cotton candy pricing adjustment.
- Sponsorships: Over \$7,000 committed. Payment system now active
- Volunteer status: Six volunteers confirmed, outside Council volunteers. Pizza Room Lead urgently needed. Council discussed broader volunteer outreach if needed.
- Lorna and Ruth confirmed for dunk tank.

Action Items:

- Chantal to share specs of dunk tank

7. Events and Activities Updates

Pancake Breakfast

- Elizabeth

- Sufficient volunteers and supplies confirmed.
 - Allergy-safe procedures in place: Gluten-free, egg-free, dairy-free waffles. Separate equipment to avoid cross-contamination.
 - Only 2 teachers have provided notice for gluten allergy. 4 students from 2 teachers.

Theatrics Program

- Elizabeth

- Provider cancelled due to staff shortages. Possible reschedule in May or Fall under review. Priority given to providing at least one workshop for Grade 6.

Rocks and Rings Update

- Katie

- Event successfully completed. Positive student engagement noted. Photos displayed in school entrance.

Nit Wits

- Katie

- NitWits: April 10

Spring Movie Night

- Katie/Megan

- Scheduled for April 24
- Movies selected via parent vote:
 - *Zootopia 2* (JK to 3)
 - *Monsters vs. Aliens* (4-6)
- Sending save the date – cash online.

Action Items:

- Ruth to check to see if permit submitted and caretaking staff

Social Media Presentation

- Megan

- Discussed doing it in the fall.

Staff Appreciation

- Amanda Y

- Staff Appreciation Week: May 4–8
 - Amanda F volunteered to help to co-lead planning
 - Alternative to potluck under consideration due to excess food in prior years

Grade 6 Graduation

- June 23 at 1:30pm at Laurier Collegiate
 - 52 graduates last year
 - Previously supplied: sweatshirts, medals, custom cookies, yearbooks, program
 - Last year spent \$2300. Proposed budget: \$3,000. Vote to be executed on funding.

End of Year Dance Party

- Planning to proceed; budget to be approved later.
- Julia to lead.
- Tentatively scheduled for 3rd week of June

Action Items:

- Chantal to share contact information for Fun Fair DJ.

Freezie Frenzy

- Every Friday in June; Tammy continuing with possible trainee. Elizabeth has offered to support. Freezies may be donated by Metro.

8. New Business

Astronomy in Action

- Inflatable planetarium presented: 5 shows/day, 30 minutes each.
- Cost: \$2,400–\$2,600 (HST exempt with PO)
- Indoor or outdoor setup

Additional Options

- Bee Ambassadors (\$700/day)
- Ontario Tennis Association (no-cost instruction; equipment pending)

Cedar Drive Public School Support

- Request received for assistance.
- Historical support reviewed: \$500 (2025) and \$850 (2023–24)
- Council approved supporting Cedar Drive, with preference for: Funding a school-wide program and avoiding unrestricted cash donation
- Executive to explore aligned programming options and report back.

Facilities & Safety Concern

- Standing water issue in kindergarten yard discussed.
- Parent intervention occurred to pump water.
- Safety risks noted: Slipping and standing water health hazards

Action Items:

- Tennis: Elizabeth to ask head of association.
- Standing Water: Issue escalated to Facilities leadership; further follow-up planned.

9. Motions & Votes

- Grade 6 Graduation budget of \$3K: Approved
- Fun Fair budget of \$10K: Approved
- Astronomy budget: Approved
- Cedar Drive support: Approved (conditional programming approach)
- Bee Ambassador Program support – cost of \$700: Not Approved (to revisit again next year)

Next Meeting: April 23, 2026



Elizabeth Simcoe School Council Income/Expenses YTD

Prepared on March 26, 2026 by Megan Fitzpatrick

	Income	Expenses	Profit / Loss	NOTES
Movie Night (2024/25)		\$ (100.00)	\$ (100.00)	Giftcard given to G&G as a thank you for donating equipment
Welcome Picnic	\$ 983.19	\$ (843.94)	\$ 139.25	\$915 CashOnline orders. \$70 Square. Expense: pizza, drinks, ice, plates
Chromebooks		\$ (6,486.20)	\$ (6,486.20)	20 Chromebooks purchased
Simcoe Spirit Shirts		\$ (2,000.00)	\$ (2,000.00)	100 Shirts purchased *** Jersey purchase in Feb
Pizza Lunch #1-5	\$ 8,965.48	\$ (3,727.04)	\$ 5,238.44	School cashonline + private sponsorships x5
Pizza Lunch #6-10	\$ 8,972.95	\$ (1,602.06)	\$ 7,370.89	
Movie Night Oct 2025	\$ 1,614.30	\$ (1,353.62)	\$ 260.68	CashOnline, Square, Cash; Expenses: Costco, Kernals, License, G&G
Teacher Reimbursement		\$ (4,470.19)	\$ (4,470.19)	
Scientist in the School		\$ (3,177.00)	\$ (3,177.00)	13 Bookings
Nitwits		\$ (835.92)	\$ (835.92)	November Session
Sewing Studio		\$ (4,704.00)	\$ (4,704.00)	Invoiced paid via school to save tax
Mabels Labels	\$ 102.99		\$ 102.99	Commission earned
Holiday Raffle/ Dr. Roz Donation	\$ 505.00	\$ (505.00)	\$ -	Cash deposit, cheque issued
Grade 6 Graduation 2024/25		\$ (215.24)	\$ (215.24)	LATE WITHDRAWAL- Yearbooks and Programs (June Cheque)
Public Speaking- Olympians		\$ (1,500.00)	\$ (1,500.00)	Cheques issued
G&G Speaker Purchase		\$ (1,353.74)	\$ (1,353.74)	Cheque issued
TV Purchase		\$ (500.00)	\$ (500.00)	Final TBD- pending invoice
Rocks & Rings		\$ (587.60)	\$ (587.60)	Cheque issued
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL	\$ 21,143.91	\$ (33,961.55)	\$ (12,817.64)	

Starting Bank Balance **\$30,247.06** August 1 2025

Total In YTD

\$21,143.91

Total Paid out YTD

-\$33,961.55

Current Bank Balance

\$17,429.42

After all above listed transactions are completed

Elizabeth Simcoe School Council APPROVED PLANNED/PROJECTED Income/Expenses YTD

	Income	Expenses	Profit / Loss	NOTES
Nitwits		\$ (850.00)	\$ (850.00)	Spring Session
Grade 6 Graduation		\$ (3,000.00)	\$ (3,000.00)	Historically funded
Classroom Enrichment		\$ (300.00)	\$ (300.00)	One staff member outstanding
Theatrics		\$ (1,000.00)	\$ (1,000.00)	Approved; event details TBD
Pizza Lunch (#6-10)		\$ (2,400.00)	\$ (2,400.00)	PROJECTED
Pancake Breakfast		\$ (250.00)	\$ (250.00)	
Social Media Presentation		\$ (1,977.50)	\$ (1,977.50)	APPROVED; Fall Date TBD
April Movie Night	\$ 1,500.00	\$ (800.00)	\$ 700.00	
			\$ -	
	\$ 1,500.00	\$ (10,577.50)	\$ (9,077.50)	

Current Bank Balance

\$17,429.42

Projected Total In YTD

\$1,500.00

Projected Total Paid out YTD

-\$10,577.50

Projected Bank Balance

\$8,351.92