

Elizabeth Simcoe Jr. Public School

School Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 21, 2026 – Staff Room | 6:30 pm – 8:15 pm

Attendance:

Amanda Formentini, Amanda Young, Chantal Elward, Elizabeth Hyland, Katie Eley, Megan Fitzpatrick, Molly Christie, Paula Liu, Raluca Kostovski, Rebecca Ho, Robyn Bluestein, Ruth Coulter, Tammy Hewitt, Tricia Davey, 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

- Paula approved the April 23, 2026 Minutes and Elizabeth second.

3. Council Roles & Expectations

- Katie

- Reiterated purpose of school council:
 - Support and fund extracurricular activities not covered by the school
 - Provide input on school programming and enhancements
 - Serve as a forum for productive, community-wide discussions
- Clarified boundaries of council authority:
 - Council does not have jurisdiction over operational decisions (e.g., schedules, lunch arrangements, classroom matters)
 - Staff (including administration and teachers) do not report to council
- Key directive moving forward:
 - Operational concerns should be addressed outside council meetings directly with school staff
 - Chair will redirect off-topic operational discussions during meetings
 - Emphasis on: Maintaining respectful tone and productive dialogue, protecting a safe, inclusive environment for participants and ensuring efficient use of council meeting time

4. Principal's Report

- Ruth

Construction Update

- Library fully cleared; construction begins June 1
- 180 boxes of books moved to storage
- Phased construction plan:
 - Library first
 - West gym starting June 17 (elevator + roof work)
 - East gym remains operational through June
- September readiness not guaranteed; contingency plans include:
 - Outdoor activities if needed
 - Flexible use of available spaces

School Operations

- Lunch program remains in East gym for June
- Possible shift to classrooms if required

School Activity Highlights

- Rugby, track & field
- Grade 6 activities: Graduation (June 23) and "Gotta Go" talent show
- Ongoing class organization for next year

Staffing & Board Updates

- Staffing remains in flux due to TDSB-wide restructuring:
 - Surplus staffing and reassignments underway and final staffing decisions may extend into summer
- Significant board-level changes:
 - Budget constraints and restructuring
 - Outdoor education programming under review due to funding gaps

5. Sunshine Childcare Report

– Kim

No update

6. Treasurer's Report

– Megan

- **Movie Night**
 - Revenue: \$1,409.20
 - Profit: ~\$861
- **Expenses**
 - Nitwits program: \$817
 - Website renewal: \$28
 - Fun Fair signage costs

Upcoming Expenses

- Grade 6 graduation
- Pizza lunch reimbursements
- End-of-year dance
- Ongoing program costs

Fundraising Outlook

- Fun Fair projected:
 - ~\$13,000 pre-sales (wristbands, pizza, sponsorships)
 - ~\$4,000 estimated costs
 - Potential net: ~\$8,000 remaining

7. Events and Activities Updates

Movie Night Debrief

- Katie/Megan

- Challenges:
 - Technical issues (Wi-Fi/download access)
 - Insufficient supervision and student supervision gaps
- Improvements for next year:
 - Require minimum volunteer threshold
 - Consider splitting by age group
- Reassess logistics and format: Fall and spring – will not have both gyms – may need to push to November if gym delayed

Staff Appreciation Week

– Amanda Y

- Overall success: Team: Megan, Amanda F and Colleen. Daily themed treats and strong engagement and positive feedback from staff
- Note: Consider scaling slightly to manage cost/impact

Year-End Dance

- Julia

- Planning complete
 - Contingency: East gym available if weather issues

Astronomy in Action

- Katie

- Confirmed. East Gym set up. June 19th

Pizza Lunches

- Elizabeth

- Continue through June
- Pizza to be divided out front foyer and fit as many tables as can fit.

Freezie Frenzie

- Tammy

Scheduled for:

- June 14
- June 11 (Play Day)
- June 12
- June 22 (changed from June 19)
- June 25

Tennis Program

- Elizabeth

- Strong teacher participation
- All classes to receive one session

Guildwood Day

- Amanda F

- Participation confirmed. Amanda to send Katie email to send to school.

Professor Pricklethorn

- Julia

- Still have room in November. Hold until whether details on indoor space.

Theatrics Program – Elizabeth

- Fall – maybe October – in classrooms so don't have to worry about space

News and Views

- Robyn

- Next issue not until July after Fun Fair

8. Fundraising Updates

Pizza Lunch (2026–2027 Planning)

- Proposal:
 - Launch in October (instead of September)
 - Likely maintain current model (two ordering windows)

Cedar Drive School Support Discussion

- External school requested support
- Council not in a position to fund large-scale curriculum resources
- Consider alternative contributions: Experiential programs (e.g., bees, butterflies, Rocks & Rings or smaller, targeted support

Concerns

- Sustainability of future contributions
- Uncertainty of council funding due to construction and fundraising risks
- Need to prioritize home school funding needs

Decision / Next Steps

- No immediate commitment. Council to review finances post-Fun Fair, define contribution cap (e.g., ~\$800–\$1,000 range discussed) and revisit and vote in June meeting

Fun Fair Planning

- Robyn / Chantal

- Scheduled for upcoming week
- Strong early sales: 192 wristbands (~\$3,840 revenue)
- Permit submitted; awaiting caretaker allocation
- Table rentals arranged (approx. 18 tables confirmed). Additional tables sourced from community / rentals
- Staffing and volunteer coordination ongoing
- Weather contingency monitored

9. New Business

Curriculum Night (Fall Planning)

- Likely to proceed. Food option (pizza or vendor) under consideration

10. Next Steps & Decisions to Carry Forward

- Final council meeting (June):
 - Finalize Cedar Drive contribution decision
 - Review Fun Fair financial outcomes
 - Discuss next-year planning (events, funding priorities, construction impact)

Next Meeting: June 18, 2026