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School Community Council Minutes

Date: February 3, 2026

Present: Naima Thomas (principal), Courtney Milne (teacher), Lindsay Jones (teacher & Apple Schools), Victoria Docherty, Julie Gamache, Jordan van der Laan, Danielle Raaber, Rebecca Haggerty, Blessing Igwe, Adewusi Omobolaji, Tanya Lapierre

Regrets: Leah Menard, Lindsay Linklater

Agenda Item	Minutes
<p>Welcome, Opening Remarks, Call to Order –</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting Commenced at 6:05pm ● Welcome and Introductions ● Land Acknowledgement & Indigenous Rights and Human Rights statements <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><small>The Durham District School Board acknowledges that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships, both historic and modern, with the territories upon which our school board and schools are located. Today, this area is home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island.</small></p> <p><small>We acknowledge that the Durham Region forms a part of the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, the Mississauga Peoples and the treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation. It is on these ancestral and treaty lands that we teach, learn and live.</small></p> <p><small>This statement was co-created in partnership with the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation and the Chippewas of Georgina Island</small></p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> </div> </div> <div style="width: 50%; border-left: 1px solid #ccc; padding-left: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <h3 style="color: #008080; margin: 0;">Indigenous Rights/Human Rights</h3> </div> <hr style="border: 1px solid #ccc; margin-bottom: 10px;"/> <p><small>The Durham District School Board recognizes Indigenous rights are distinct. In the exercise of those rights, Indigenous staff and students shall not be subjected to actions with the aim or effect of depriving these distinct rights.</small></p> <p><small>The Durham District School Board is committed to learning and working environments that centre human rights and equity and are safe, welcoming, respectful, equitable, accessible, inclusive and free from discrimination.</small></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; font-size: 8px;">SUCCESS</div> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; font-size: 8px;">WELL-BEING</div> <div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; font-size: 8px;">LEADERSHIP</div> <div style="background-color: #800080; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; font-size: 8px;">INDIGENOUS EDUCATION</div> <div style="background-color: #008080; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; font-size: 8px;">EQUITY</div> <div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; font-size: 8px;">ENGAGEMENT</div> <div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; font-size: 8px;">INNOVATION</div> </div> </div> </div>
<p>Approval of Agenda</p>	<p style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid #ccc; display: inline-block;">PDF February 3, 2026 SCC Meeting Agendas.pdf</p>
<p>Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes</p>	
<p>Principal’s Report – Naima Thomas, Principal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explained purpose of SCC, roles on the SCC (chair, secretary, treasurer), financial statements, outline of the agenda/evening, quorum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Danielle - chair ○ Jordan - secretary ○ Julie & Tanya- treasurer

- Courtney motioned to have the above members of council
- Danielle seconded
- Vote 9/9 in favour
- Passed

- **Update on the first 30 Days: A Listening Tour**

- I want to thank the community for the honest feedback provided in the recent survey. Based on your comments (approx 30 respondents), I have identified three areas that require my immediate attention:

- **Pillar 1: Behavior & Social Safety (Bullying and Disruptions)**

- What I heard: Concerns about consistent consequences for misbehavior and the impact of classroom disruptions on learning.
- School's priority is to ensure every classroom remains a focused, productive, and safe space for all students. DDSB School Code of Conduct - Assemblies, classroom conversations, emails to communities, daily announcements restating these expectations,
- Currently conducting a comprehensive review of the school's "Progressive Discipline" and "Positive Behavior Support" frameworks to ensure consistency across all grade levels.
- To ensure that behavioral expectations are clear, and that consequences are applied firmly, fairly, and consistently to minimize learning disruptions.
- The school is moving toward a more transparent reporting process so parents feel informed and supported when social conflicts arise.
- Proactive social-emotional learning to address the root causes of bullying.
- Cell Phone/Device policy, appropriate Chromebook use

- **Pillar 2: Inclusive Support**

- What I heard: A desire for more one-on-one support for students with neurodiversity (Autism) and concerns about students falling behind.
- Weekly multidisciplinary meetings to review student profiles, ensuring that academic and behavioral strategies are responsive to the real-time needs of our neurodivergent learners.
- To ensure all staff members—including classroom teachers, EAs, and specialty staff—are fully informed and aligned on each student's Specialized Program and Individual Education Plan (IEP) goals.
- Maximizing all available district and school-level resources (including specialized equipment, sensory spaces, and itinerant support) to foster a learning environment that is safe, supportive,

and productive for the entire student body.

- The school is focusing on strategies that allow neurodivergent students to thrive while maintaining the academic momentum of the group.
- Inclusion is not just about placement, but about ensuring every student has the specific tools and staff support they need to succeed both socially and academically.

- **Pillar 3: Communication & Health Protocols**

- What I heard: A community's request for more consistent and transparent communication regarding both daily school life and health-related updates.
 - Since January 5th, the school has successfully launched a multi-tiered communication approach to ensure information reaches all families. This includes:
 - Weekly/Bi-Weekly Newsletters: Providing a predictable cadence for school-wide news.
 - Direct Outreach: Utilizing email reminders, digital notices, and text messages for timely, urgent, or high-priority information.
 - Bring parents "into the classroom" and share the daily successes of our students, the school is actively promoting its official Instagram page ([@marystreet.ddsb](https://www.instagram.com/marystreet.ddsb)). Families are encouraged to follow for a visual window into school activities and events.
 - In response to parent concerns regarding school health (including infectious conditions like lice), the administration is committed to providing timely, clear, and proactive notifications. The goal is to empower parents with the information they need to keep their children safe and healthy while maintaining student privacy.
 - Gastro issue - 48 hours after the last episode they may return to class
 - Lice - email to community, class cleaned, thats all required to Public Health
 - We will invite our public health nurse to next meeting to clarify those timelines/guidelines
 - The school continues to explore further tools (such as the Remind app or photo-sharing platforms) to further bridge the gap between home and school.
- Looking Ahead
 - Focused on laying a foundation of trust and transparency.
 - Moving forward, continue to refine these systems, ensuring that

	<p>every family at Mary Street feels informed, heard, and confident in their child's learning environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●
<p>School Updates - C. Milne and L. Jones</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Apple Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One of 6 schools in the DDSB ○ Looks at the Health pillars (food, sleep, mental health, fitness, socio-economics, social, etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Our surveys of Grade 6, 7, 8, showed they didn't have a person they could go to, where to get supports, mental health ○ Our focus is Mental Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Leadership groups ■ TAMI group runs: Mindful Monday, Talking Tuesday, Wellness Wednesday, Thoughtful Thursday, Fun Friday for primaries at recess ○ Gardens - moved to other side of the building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Creating a peaceful garden with a plaque for Ms. Heath (staff member who passed away), Buddy Bench ■ Community Garden - please help take care of, take veggies, etc. ○ Eco-Club - Mrs. Milne running it, hydroponics, etc. ○ What comes next? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Parent asked about Roots of Empathy program ■ Zumba Nights ■ Survey sent home? ■ Movie Nights ■ Older Kids helping out the younger kids with academics ■ Reading Buddies ■ Debates and Quizzes ● Extracurriculars - pickleball, Jr Basketball, Jr. Dodgeball, Wrestling, Be the Change, Business Club, Guitar Club, GSA, D&D Club (Brew Wizards), Coding Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Goblins & Goblet - neurodivergent D&D ● Salmon Revitalization Project ● Kindness Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Feb 14-25 - Kindness Week ○ Feb 25 - Pink Shirt Day ○ Be the I in KIND wall - photos ● Olympics Events - classes assigned a country ● Gotchas & Houseleages
<p>Budget Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● \$100

New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Confirm best meeting day and time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There isn't a day that works for everyone ○ first Monday at 3:30pm, if a holiday it will be second Mon ○ Dates: Mar 2, Apr 13, May 4, Jun 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Motion - Lindsay ■ Second - Jordan ■ Vote 10/10 ■ Passed ● Breakfast Club - there is an interest to bring back the breakfast club ● Fundraiser <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Movie Night - funds raised go towards a license (Audio Cinefilm), once purchased we can show movies for the year, \$450, school willing to pay for half <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sell movie passes (\$2 entry) ■ Go to Cineplex, they donate popcorn with a letter, put in paper bags and sell ■ Sell pop, sell candies ■ Marketed as a Family Movie Night, bring lawn chairs, bring blankets ■ 2 showings due to size of gym ■ April 2, 2026, 5pm (Primary focus) and 7pm (junior focus) ■ Committee: ○ Move a Thon - dance organized by SCC who sell candy and glowsticks ● Valentines' Day Dance is proposed ● Naima to create a Whatsapp Group for SCC and Movie Night
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Meeting Adjourned: 7:20 pm

Next Meeting Date: Mar 2, 2026 at 3:30pm