






School Community Council Minutes

Date: March 2, 2026

Present: Naima Thomas (principal), Courtney Milne (teacher), Lindsay Jones (teacher & Apple Schools), Victoria Docherty, Julie Gamache (co-treasurer), Jordan van der Laan (secretary), Danielle Raaber (chair), Rebecca Haggerty, Tanya Lapierre (co-treasurer), David Hoogsteen, Elizabeth Hoogsteen, Lindsay Linklater

Regrets: Blessing Igwe, Adewusi Omobolaji

Agenda Item	Minutes
<p>Welcome, Opening Remarks, Call to Order –</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting Commenced at 3:30pm ● 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; gap: 10px;">   </div> </div> <div style="width: 50%; padding-left: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <h3 style="color: #008080;">Indigenous Rights/Human Rights</h3>  </div> <hr style="border: 1px solid #008080;"/> <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: #000080; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; font-size: 8px;">INDIGENOUS EDUCATION</div> <div style="background-color: #008000; 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> March 2, 2026 SCC Meeting Agendas.pdf</p>
<p>Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes</p>	<p> Feb 3, 2026 SCC Minutes - Final.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lindsay Motioned to approve last meeting minutes. ● Tory seconded it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unanimous, motion carries.

**Principal's Report
– Naima Thomas,
Principal**

[March 2, 2026 - SCC Meeting.pptx](#)

1. Staffing Update:

- Mme Idris, French teacher has taken a leave until the end of June
- Mme DeWolfe will take over the full french program
- We are currently hiring to fill Mme. DeWolfe's role as Dedicated Supply

2. Student Achievement: High Expectations

- **Acadience K-2**
 - We are just finishing up with assessing all K-2 students for the second time using Acadience Screener.
 - We are seeing consistent growth in foundational reading skills
- **Vault: EQAO Assessment & Preparation Tool**
 - Our grade 3 and Grade 6 teacher teams are working together to prepare students for the upcoming EQAO assessment while also continually assessing and adapting instruction to support growth in Reading, Writing and Math
 - Prior to EQAO (End of May) students will have had opportunities to practice questions and have experienced a mock examination in order to remove testing barriers on the day of the assessment
 - Prior to Grade 3 and 6 EQAO we will offer a virtual information session for parents interested in learning more about how they can support their children through this assessment year.
- **Grade 8 Transition to Highschool**
 - Grade 8-Grade 9 Transitions are in full swing
 - Students have all chosen and submitted course requests
 - Ms. Deklerk to arrange for Grade 9 leaders to visit Mary Street to answer students questions
 - The intermediate team are focussing on strengthening literacy and numeracy skills to prepare students for the transition
 - As students head to high school, the biggest challenge may be adjusting to a significantly more demanding course load.
 - Building strong work habits now will pave the way for success next year.
 - Consider registering your child to attend the Grade 8 Get Ready for High school Program from Aug 21 to Aug 25th. Register using this link: <https://www.dce.ca/en/summer-school/2026-summer-school-registration-type-gr.aspx>

3. Balanced Day: Proposed Pilot

- This is a pilot program to adjust the structure of the school today to create more opportunities for learning with few interruptions and longer recess/nutrition blocks
- Currently seeking feedback on interest in moving forward with the

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> program ○ Glengrove PS, Queen Elizabeth and Mary Street School ○ Recess/NB at 10:20-11 AM (20 minutes to have snack and 20 minutes for recess) ○ Recess/NB at 1PM-1:40PM (20 minutes to eat and 20 minutes for recess) ○ Evidence base for this approach. 6 other school boards have this daily schedule. ○ Optimized the learning environment (improved student focus), overall health and wellness. ○ A balanced school day schedule supports healthier eating. ○ Increased physical activity opportunities <p>4. Events and Extra-Curriculars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ March Break <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Friday March 13, 2026 to Friday March 20th ■ First day back to school is Monday March 23, 2026 ○ YMCA Swimming Lessons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Grade 5/6 Orr has finished their lessons and now 5/6 Mitchell will attend swimming lessons each Tuesday afternoon for a 7-week session ■ Students love it and we have noticed nearly perfect attendance each Tuesday ■ Their Opportunity Soccer Skills Program begins this Thursday after school and will run for the next 8 weeks. The first 4-week program will target primary students and the second 4 weeks will focus on Junior. Some intermediates are selected to help out as student leaders ○ Breakfast Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Starting Monday March 30th ■ Runs from 8:20 to 8:40 ■ All students are welcome. A registration sheet will be shared in the messenger so students/families can communicate any food restrictions. ■ Breakfast will be grab and go and there will be social opportunities for gym time and games.
<p>School Updates -</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Instagram - @marystreet.ddsb ● Spirit Days every Friday for remainder of year ● Grade 8 IPRCs happened with O'Neill and RS McLaughlin ● Olympics & Kindness month ●

Budget Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In the process of purchasing the Streaming Licence (\$655.40) ● School will pay for licence out of school generated fund, then after Movie Night fundraising event half will be transferred from Movie Night profits ● At this time account remains at \$100
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One Viewing (doors open at 5, movie starts a 5:30) ● Popcorn (\$2) , water and juicebox (\$1) [concession purchased at the door] ● Candy (50 cents to \$1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$2 entry to movie only ○ Movie Pass \$5 (in, drink, popcorn) ○ Family Pass \$20 (5 people) (in, drink, popcorn) ● Motion to have one movie showing vs 2 showings (Jordan) ● Danielle Seconds this motion- unanimous vote ● Motion carries
<p style="text-align: center;">Meeting Adjourned: Jordan motioned to close Rebecca second, unanimous- motioned carried.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Next Meeting Date: Apr 13, 2026</p>	