

University School Council

Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2026 @ 6:30pm

Virtual Meeting (Microsoft Teams)

Attendance: Lori Bonanno, Charles Adjei, Cliona Corbett, Jalil Salehi, Jennifer McTighe, Rachelle, Jaclyn Schmitz, Tahereh Rashnavadi, Ashley Vilgrain, Vivek K, Nesreen, Kelsey Slemko, Marian Zlomislic

School Council Meeting

1. Call to Order

- Meeting started at 6:35PM

2. Approval of last meeting's minutes

- Motion to approve: Jaclyn Schmitz. Seconded by: Marian Zlomislic

3. Approval of the agenda

- Motion to approve: Jaclyn Schmitz. Seconded by: Marian Zlomislic

4. Updates from School Council

- **Winter Ball Update – Feb 26, 2026**
 - Thank you to everyone who attended and who volunteered. It helps so much to have a large group of volunteers to get the event set up and run the various stations. Sincere thanks to everyone.
 - The students seemed to enjoy the event!
 - Cost of entry was by donation. We also sold snacks at the event, and attendees could pre-order pizza, desserts or drinks. Profit from the event was \$1400.
 - These funds are used to support: teacher appreciation (eg. covering a meal during parent-teacher conference evenings); treats at school events for students (eg. freezies and popsicles at the Open House and Sports Day events); and t-shirts to welcome new students.

5. Update from UES Principal and Assistant Principal

Principal McTighe and Vice-Principal Bonano shared the following updates:

a. 2026 School Planning

- Ms McTighe and Ms Bonanno took time to share information about the school planning, and gather feedback for consideration in future school planning decisions. This information will also be shared on the school website ([School Planning Engagement - University School](#)).

- The School Development Plan guides ongoing assessment and review of goals and actions. This plan is the driver for closing learning gaps and informs:
 - Instructional strategies
 - Professional learning
 - School structures and processes for learning
 - Resources to improve student learning
 - Data-informed decision making
- The school is now in Year 2 of a 3 year cycle.
- The full presentation can be reviewed [here](#) on the school's website.
- Summary: In the School Development Plan, the School Goal was stated as: Students' achievement in literacy will improve.
- The School Development plan helps the school track, measure, and assess its progress in achieving that goal.
- The Actions outlined in the School Development Plan include:
 - Learning Excellence: Teachers will integrate high impact strategies to support targeted and whole group instruction in literacy; Professional Learning grounded within the Literacy Framework focused on the Science of Reading
 - Well-Being: Classroom environments to support regulation; Teachers intentionally teach SEL to model and increase growth mindset; Foster a safe and welcoming community
 - Truth & Reconciliation, Diversity and Inclusion: Focus on Spirit of Reciprocity through all cultures; Provide opportunities for Land Based Learning and authentic connections to the community around us – Pond School; Walk alongside and build new relationship with knowledge Keeper
- The school welcomes feedback. Please answer the survey so that your feedback can be shared in the report.
- Discussion: Questions and answers included:
 - Q: How did the school decide to prioritize reading literacy over math literacy?
 - A: These plans are developed over three year cycles with feedback. At the time that this plan was developed, reading literacy was identified as the highest need to prioritize.
 - Q: Re: the literary assessments. What tools are used to measure?
 - A: routines and structures, phonemic awareness and moving toward fluency.
- **School Budget and Fees:** University School received \$2,526,192 in 2025-26 to provide a quality education to our students and meet the goals in our School Development Plan.
- At least 96 per cent of budgeted funds covers staffing and the remaining portion covers instructional and operational supplies.

- Proposed activities for the upcoming year that may require a fee for cost recovery include: Field trips (In-School/ Out of School) with busing; Artist in residence; Outdoor School; Recorders; Guest Speakers and Presentations; Alternate PE activities i.e. Inline Skating, SoundKreations. You can read more about school fees [here](#).
- Funds raised by the Parent Association and supported by School Council through events like the Casino Fundraiser help offset these costs.

Links to surveys were shared and families are encouraged to share their feedback.

Next Steps: The school website will have:

- A summary of feedback gathered at tonight's session by May 2026
- A meeting evaluation summary 2026 by May
- Information about student results and the school development plan will be shared at the November 2026 school council meeting.
- An updated school development plan will be posted on our school website by Nov. 30, 2026.

b. Other Updates

- **Music Concert**
 - April 9th, with performances at 1pm and 6:30pm. Details to follow.
- **Book Fair**
 - The School is working with Owls Nest Books to have a book fair in early April. Details to follow.

6. Adjourn. Meeting closed at 7:18 pm