

University School Council

Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2025 at 6:30pm

Virtual Meeting (Microsoft Teams)

Attendance: Salim Ahmed, Advik, Allison, Lori Bonanno, Cliona, Farid, Kalashree, Kurt, Lila, Jennifer McTighe, Marian Z, Jaclyn Schmitz, Nyakobo, Shahnewaz, Tanjin, Vivek, Nusrat

School Council Meeting

1. Call to Order

- Meeting started at 6:34PM

2. Approval of last meeting's minutes

- Motion to approve: Salim Ahmed. Seconded by: Jaclyn Schmitz

3. Approval of the agenda

- Motion to approve: Jaclyn Schmitz. Seconded by: Salim Ahmed

4. Updates from School Council

a. Overview of School Council and official roles and volunteer positions

- M. Zlomislic presented for School Council and opened with a welcome back to the teachers after the strike. She briefly mentioned that funds raised by school council had been used to sponsor a pizza lunch for the teachers to give a warm welcome back. She thanked everyone who volunteered at the casino fundraiser, shared some details of the upcoming events – movie night and winter ball and highlighted school council budget (general account).

b. Upcoming events details:

- **Movie Night – December 11 (6:00–8:00 PM)**
 - *Pay what you can.*
 - *Concession with popcorn, candy, and drinks.*
 - *Movie selection pending.*
 - *Proceeds cover licensing and concession costs; remaining funds go to the Council's general account.*
- **Winter Ball – February**
 - *Replaces cancelled Fall Ball.*
 - *Tickets sold via Healthy Hunger.*
 - *Pizza dinner will be offered.*
 - *Volunteer sign-up to be released in December/January.*
 - *Any remaining funds go to the Council's general account.*

c. General account purpose and use

- M. Zlomislic shared that school council budget is approximately \$5,000/year. Council aims to raise \$5,000/year from: fun lunches, movie nights, dances, fall balls, donations etc. This funds: administrative costs, teacher and staff appreciation, grade 6 celebration, new student T-shirts, treats for school events etc.

5. Update from UES Principal and Assistant Principal

- Principal McTighe expressed heartfelt appreciation for the community's support during the return from the strike. Staff shared that the messages, cards, and gestures shared by families and students meant a great deal.
- Principal McTighe and Assistant Principal Bonano shared the following updates:
 - **Remembrance Day Assembly**
 - A school-wide assembly was held in the gym.
 - Student artwork was displayed throughout the school.
 - **Veterans Food Bank Drive**
 - Led by Ms. Kim's class.
 - There are five decorated collection boxes placed at the school entrance.
 - Donations accepted until November 28.
 - **Cross-Grade Buddy Activities**
 - Students participated in classroom buddy activities to promote community and collaboration.
 - **School Messenger**
 - Weekly updates are shared via School Messenger.
 - Families who are not receiving updates should contact the office.
 - Weekly information is also posted online under "University School – Weekly Update."
 - **Upcoming Activities**
 - Pages with the Principal every two weeks, featuring read-aloud sessions, sharing stories and experiences.
 - Gymnastics activities underway; next week will include balancing skills and gradually more challenging activities. This week staff will be trained on the Canadian Climber.
 - Photo Retake Day: November 26. Parents to reach out to teachers if they want retake.
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences:
 - 27Nov2025 (Thursday): 3:30–8:00 PM
 - 28Nov2025 (Friday): 8:00 AM–12:00 PM
 - Bookings through MyCBE starting 21Nov2025 (Friday)
 - Each session 15 minutes
 - School council to provide lunch for the meeting days.
 - Report Cards will be published on February 28.
 - Felting Residencies:
 - Art Felt Studio Residency in January (9 sessions per class).
 - Sound Creation Dance Residency during the first two weeks of March 2026.



- **School Wishlist (\$52,350 Total Request).** Every year, the school is able to provide unique experiences and supplement other resources through the funds raised by School Council and the Parent Association and this community of volunteers. For the 2025-2026 school year, University School would like to use some of these funds to provide the following to our school community:
 - Field Trip Transportation – \$6,000: One bus per class funded by school council; additional buses as needed.
 - Classroom Discretionary Funds – \$3,000: \$200 per class; consumables and supplies for class projects. Not food expense. This would ensure that teachers aren't paying for classroom materials from their personal funds.
 - Indigenous Education – \$3,600: Knowledge Keeper for 3 full-day or 6 half-day visits over the year including mileage and meals. This amount is set by the school board.
 - Artist Residencies – \$11,950: Sound Creations + Felting Residency.
 - School Presentations – \$1,000: Supports programs such as previously done by the Evergreen Theatre.
 - Sensory & Accessibility Resources – \$2,000: Fidgets, wobble stools, privacy boards, calming tools, replacements of existing sensory resources.
 - Library Resources – \$2,000: New books, replacements, curriculum-aligned materials. ULS is the main supplier source for the books.
 - Photocopying & Paper – \$1,500: visuals for classrooms, hallway displays etc.
 - Technology – \$17,000: Chromebook/iPad replacements, Tech accessories, School sound system (~\$2,700), Teacher-only tablets for documentation. Council to explore lower-cost tablets will be evaluated with CBE tech lead.
 - T-Shirts – \$1,800: For new students and staff (may move to general account).
 - Environment Enhancements – \$2,500: Learning commons furniture, displays, and flexible learning spaces.

6. Adjourn. Meeting closed at 7:11 PM

