

**Attendance:** Lori Bonanno, Jennifer McTighe, Marian Z, Jaclyn Schmitz, Tom Wiebe, Chelsea Nohr, Fatemah Chehri, Heather Cody, Kadia Aloqbi, Kurt Dangerfield, Zainab Sanni, Cliona, Elahe Daie, Zahra, Samira Kordi, Shana, Andrea T., Advik, Sadia Ferdous

## **School Council Meeting**

### **1. Call to Order**

- Meeting started at 6:33PM

### **2. Approval of last meeting's minutes**

- Motion to approve: Tom Weibe. Seconded by: Jaclyn Schmitz

### **3. Approval of the agenda**

- Motion to approve: Jaclyn Schmitz. Seconded by: Chelsea Nohr

### **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 to our new principal, Ms McTighe, and an expression of thanks to the Council members of last year and this year for their work, with special shout-out to Jaclyn Schmitz who has served as Council Chair for the past two years but stepped down at the June Council meeting.
- What is School Council? This group has three core roles: 1) Act as a resource; 2) Build community; 3) Support fundraising activities that will support the school environment.
- The key roles in School Council are:
  - Chair: Marian Zlomislic (to be confirmed at today's meeting)
  - Vice-Chair: Jaclyn Schmitz (to be confirmed at today's meeting)
  - Secretary: Salim Ahmed
  - Fun Lunch Coordinator: Chelsea Nohr
  - Teacher Appreciation Meal Coordinator: Serena Wong
  - Communications Coordinator: Open Position
- Anyone who is interested in helping out with School Council – volunteering for events, shadowing existing roles, anything at all – should reach out to [ues.school.council@gmail.com](mailto:ues.school.council@gmail.com). We can always use more help.
- Motion to appoint Marian Zlomislic as Chair put forward by Tom Wiebe, seconded by Heather Cody.
- Motion to appoint Jaclyn Schmitz as Vice Chair put forward by Marian Zlomislic, seconded by Chelsea Nohr.
- Council meetings give all school community members a chance to be a resource to our Principal and Assistant Principal. Council and Association meetings have been set for:
  - Wednesday, September 24, 2025. 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Online.
  - Wednesday, November 19, 2025. 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Online.
  - Wednesday, January 14, 2026. 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Online.

- Wednesday, March 4, 2026. 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Online.
  - Wednesday, May 13, 2026. 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Online.
- One of these meetings might be held in-person to give people a chance to meet in person. It was originally discussed that the November meeting might be in person, but feedback in the meeting recommended that the November meeting should be virtual since it's the same week as the Casino Fundraiser.

***b. Planning for 2025-2026, including Fall Ball***

- Funds raised by School Council – through events like Movie Nights and Fall Ball provide funding for activities across the year that help build our sense of community.
- To provide a warm welcome back to teachers and families, School Council provided coffee & tea on the first day of school. M. Zlomislic asked for feedback on whether this should be continued next year. Feedback was neutral to positive. One member shared that they enjoyed it because they could meet other members.
- Meet the Teacher Night: School Council paid for the popsicles for students and dinner for the teachers who stayed at school until the event.
- Events coming up:
  - Fall Ball: Save the Date for October 23, 6-8pm.
  - We will need a lot of volunteers to manage this event. Watch for updates from the Principal. We've been slow to announce as we wait to understand how things will unfold across the province.
  - Winter event: Still being finalized, but will likely be a movie night in February.
  - June: Sports Day: Run by the school, but supported by School Council.
- From last year's survey, we heard how much families enjoy coming into the school for special events, so we try to offer at least 2 or 3 such events each year.
- Teacher appreciation: We try to do things throughout the year to show our appreciation, especially on those evenings where teachers have to stay late. On those nights, we provide meals.
- The Casino Fundraiser is coming up on November 13 & 14, and is managed by the Parents Association. This is our biggest fundraising event, raising \$60,000 - \$80,000 which covers funding for 2-3 years. These funds cover costs related to the educational experience within the school: new computers, books, field trips, etc. This requires a huge effort and many volunteers.

**5. Update from UES Principal and Assistant Principal**

- Ms McTighe opened with thanking everyone for the warm welcome to University School.
- She asked people to please come by and say hi so that she can put faces to names.
- She thanked School Council for their support in providing popsicles and sandwiches for teachers at the Meet the Teacher Open House, and expressed how much it means to the staff to be supported in this way.
- **Pond Visits:** Beautiful weather has led to time at the pond. Wonderful to see children engaged in inquiry. Students were so interested and excited when working outside. This

is important for our goals related to Truth and Reconciliation. This leads to acknowledging the land and reciprocity.

- **Open House** was a great success. Quieter than other years, some people mentioned because of hockey evaluations. Feedback was really good. Weather was great.
- **Student teachers** are at University School from Mount Royal. There are currently seven student teachers for five weeks. They are third year students right now and 4th year students will come later this year.
- **Residencies.** Two have been booked so far. 1) Sound Kreations - dance residency for two weeks starting October 14th. 2) Felting with Art Felt Studio is booked for January.
- **Building community within the school.** Last year they had flex time where the whole school could participate where nobody misses Gym or Music. Continuing on to have a once a month assembly, welcoming students and staff members. Terry Fox Run will be on October 3rd. Typically each month a different teacher will 'host' the assembly. It's a way to show learning across the school.
- **Buddies.** Last year was mixed grade buddies. This year classroom communities will come together, one class with another class/grade. This could provide strong continuity. This provides more opportunities where younger peers can be with older peers.
- **Scheduling.** There have been adjustments to scheduling. Lunch hour has been reduced a little. This will make clubs more challenging. Thinking about bringing back University U. This was introduced about 6 years ago. This would be a time where teachers would create an extra class (ex: robotics) that students could pick one that they would like to be a part of. They would then go to that activity for 4-6 weeks. This would happen more in the new year.
- **Healthy Hunger.** Huge thanks to Chelsea Nohr from School Council for arranging. All events have been posted. These events give kids a chance to order food for lunch from local restaurants. When the food order is a snack (for example, popcorn), parents have the chance to "order for a friend", and the school tries to make sure that all students are given these snacks so that no one is left out. Thanks to those that have ordered extra! We will continue this, as those that receive it are very grateful.

- **Q:** Will there be showcase events planned around the dance residency and the felting work created?
- **A:** Not sure yet. Depending on the amount of time booked with the Artists in Resident, mounting a performance can take time away from the learning process. But they will consider it and share more when they can.

- **Enrollment:** The current enrollment is 314, which is down from the expected enrollment of 330-370. Part of this is due to reduced affordable housing in the catchment area, including family housing at UCalgary. The official student count will be September 26th, which is the deadline for funding.
- **Staffing:** UES has 17 teachers (15 classroom teachers and 2 administrators); 15 support staff (E-Secretary; EA Assistant; EAL assistant; Library Assistant; Lunch supervisors; school assistants). In addition, there are 7 student teachers in classrooms for the next 5 weeks.

- **Q:** With a smaller enrollment, will the school receive an extra amount from the CBE for being a smaller-sized school?
- **A:** Maybe. We don't know yet, but will know soon.
  
- **Q:** Has the school received money to fund for EAs? Classes are crowded. The student teachers are a help, but they're not permanent.
- **A:** We haven't received extra money for hiring additional EAs. The budget for funding for staffing will be received in October based on student enrollment. Class sizes have increased but comparatively, across Alberta, the class sizes are ok.

**6. Adjourn.** Meeting closed at 7:12 PM