

## School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: October 6 2025

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Location: Ernest Public School/ Staff Room

Chair/Co-chair: Brian and Laura

Secretary: Bianca

Treasurer: Nas

Principal: Mrs. Lockett

Attendees: Mrs. Adler, Lisa, Rizki and Cristina (will attend next meeting).

### 1. Future Meeting Format

- Discussion:
- Options for future meeting formats were discussed.
- Members agreed that the hybrid model (in-person with an online option) continues to offer flexibility.
- Decision: Continue with the hybrid format for accessibility.
- Notes: Although online attendance has been low, it remains valuable for those unable to attend in person.

### 2. Attendance

- In-Person: Council members.
- Online: Open to all community members through a public link.
- Frequency: Meetings are held monthly and open to the school community.

### 3. Communication and Awareness

- Issue: Many community members are unclear about the purpose and role of the council and may perceive decisions as coming from external sources.
- Action:
- Enhance communication to clarify the council's purpose.
- Emphasize that parents and community members have a voice in decisions and can actively participate.

### 4. Translation and Accessibility

- Issue: Language barriers prevent some community members from fully understanding meeting invitations and materials.

- Decisions & Actions:

- Translate invitations and correspondence.
- Identify language needs of attendees in advance.
- Arrange translators when required for meetings.
- Explore volunteer or board translation support.

#### 5. Marketing and Engagement at School Events

- Recap:

- Last year's marketing efforts were limited, though Fun Fair and Cultural Bazaar were successfully promoted.

- Ideas for Future Engagement:

- Distribute flyers outside the school during morning drop-off.
- Host "Hot Chocolate Mornings" to connect with families; parents bring reusable mugs and donate \$1.
- Explore local business support for sponsorships.
- Repeat events in winter to strengthen parent engagement.

#### 6. Pumpkin Donations for Halloween Activities

- Goal: Provide one pumpkin per class, including ESL classes (~10 total).

- Plan:

- Council members to donate 1–2 pumpkins each.
- Use pumpkins for a carving contest and display; families collect them after school.
- Pumpkins to arrive after Thanksgiving to allow preparation time.

#### 7. Christmas Family Support Initiative

- Plan: Continue the annual Christmas Family Donation Program.
- Timeline: Begin planning in early November for improved coordination.
- Goal: Support two families this year (up from one last year).

#### 8. Curriculum Night Bake Sale

- Event: Bake Sale during Open House / Curriculum Night.

- Purpose: Fundraiser for the Parent Council.
- Setup: Tables inside the foyer area.
- Contributions: Nut-free baked or store-bought goods welcome.

#### 9. Teacher Wish List Initiative

- Proposal: Reintroduce the Teacher Wish List.
- Purpose: Allow teachers to request classroom needs.

#### 10. Gym and Outdoor Equipment Needs

- Update: Gym requires additional cleaning.
- Programs: PALS partnership reinstated.
- Need: Outdoor play materials.

#### 11. Staffing and Class Reorganization

- Changes: Grade 3/4 split reorganized; ECE position lost.
- Staffing Notes: Multiple teacher changes and assignments.

#### 12. Outdoor and Experiential Learning Vision

- Goal: Expand outdoor and play-based learning.
- Plan: Develop outdoor learning space; seek grant funding.

#### 13. School Clubs and Extracurricular Activities

- Interest: More clubs desired.
- Updates: Chess Club likely returning; parent-led clubs possible.

#### 14. Nutrition Program Launch

- Launch Date: October 8.
- Funding: ~\$13,000 startup.
- Restrictions: Only TFSS-approved foods.

#### 15. Communication and Family Updates

- Friday Communication: Weekly phone + email valued.
- Photos: Teachers enjoy sharing photos; website posting difficult.

#### 16. Technology and Maker Space Vision

- Status: Old computers to be removed.
- Plan: Convert into Maker Space with recycled materials.

#### 17. Meeting Schedule and Frequency

- Proposal: First Monday monthly.
- Next Meeting: November 3.

#### 18. Communication Tools

- Plan: Create WhatsApp group.

#### 19. Upcoming Events

- Fun Fair: Planning begins soon.
- Desserts planned: loukoumades, Costco brownies, more TBD.