

**ECNS School Council Minutes  
of the meeting on April 14, 2025 at 7pm**

*Julie D., Chair; Tim D., Vice Chair; Christy H., Secretary*

*To be approved/reviewed at the next School Council meeting on Monday, May 12th (online)*

Members Present: Melodie V., Tasha T., Candace K., Ashley R., Kim S., Christina P., Terri S., Megan L., Ademola A., Chan L.

Teachers: Megan L. (attended as parent)

Administration: Karla L.W.

ESCE Board and Society Representatives: None present

**1. Call to Order, Scripture Reading, and Prayer**

- The chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- Melodie V. led in a devotion on the Beatitudes (“Blessed are the Peacemakers”) and opened in prayer.

**2. Acknowledge of Members Present**

- The chair acknowledged members, teachers, admin, and community members present.

**3. Code of Conduct Reviewed**

- The vice chair read through the Code of Conduct for members.

**4. Approval of Meeting Agenda**

- The chair asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda; Kim S. motioned to approve, Tasha T. seconded. [Agenda approved.](#)

**5. Approval of Previous Minutes**

- The chair asked for a motion to approve the February minutes; Melodie V. motioned to approve, Kim S. seconded. [Minutes approved.](#)

**6. School Admin Report**

- The principal received questions/comments on the admin reports posted to SchoolZone.
- Parents thanked the principal for writing the reports for parents/guardians and for including pictures on SchoolZone; parents also expressed gratitude and thanks for admin and teachers hosting the Celebration of Learning (CoL).
- The principal acknowledged parent comments and noted that the CoL could have been advertised more broadly. Next year, the hope is for teachers to be able to visit other teachers’ classrooms during the CoL. A strength of the CoL is that it allows teachers to

demonstrate Teaching for Transformation throughlines so that parents can see firsthand how their students engage with the curriculum.

- The principal reminded parents that photos shared in reports on SchoolZone are protected by the school's firewall and cannot be emailed/posted on social media outside of SchoolZone.

## **7. ESCE Board Update**

- None given, as no board reps were available to be present.
- The chair reminded parents of the upcoming AGM on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and encouraged parents to attend, as well as to invite other parents/guardians from ECNS to attend the meeting.

## **8. Unfinished business—Junior High Options Discussion**

- The chair reminded parents of the March Admin report to see some of the great work done through current Junior High Options.
- The chair read an email from a parent that outlined how a public school in similar size to ECNS conducts options: Junior High students can pick two options (3D printing, cosmetology, woodworking, music, etc.). All options are available to grades 7-9, and each teacher is responsible for teaching one option. Drawbacks include some options fill up and not all students get to participate.
- The principal noted that the West school campus conducts Junior High options similarly to ECNS. Our teachers offer options within their expertise. ECNS also has a greater number of part time teachers within the staff, which makes it more difficult to schedule options classes, as their time might not allow them to teach an options class.
- A teacher shared that in past years, ECNS was able to offer several full year options (music, ceramics, etc.) which gives teachers time to give a strong foundation for students to build on in later grades. Each year is also a new challenge in evaluating which options students are asking for, the expertise of teachers to offer those options, and time to teach extra classes.
- A parent asked if the school could allow a mix of grades to take options together, rather than separating them by grade? The principal responded that this idea has been brought to teachers, and one example is an art class offered to grades 8/9.
- A parent asked about the possibility of hosting clubs in addition to options offered within the school? The principal responded that in admin's one-on-one sessions with teachers, they are asking these types of questions and searching for ways to engage students outside of classes. She also noted that the classroom experience has changed drastically over the last 8-10 years, with teachers needing to teach to many different learning levels in one homeroom. Some options, such as plays/drama, also take up a significant amount of time.
- A parent asked if parents can be involved with options and/or clubs for students? The principal responded that in theory it could work, but it is also a matter of having adequate staff supervision and expertise (example: if a student has a question that a parent is not equipped to answer because of different division levels or a Christian school understanding, etc.). The principal also noted that part time staff only have so many hours that they can be assigned time to work within the school. Another parent

agreed that they have seen many changes over the past fourteen years in terms of parents being able to manage student behavior concerns and to offer enough time to lead an option/club.

- A parent added that before COVID, there had been plans for a parent to help with an option for several weeks to offer their particular expertise in graphic design. Perhaps this model can be explored to involve parents in options moving forward.
- The principal invited parents to come and share ideas/ask questions at any time.

## **9. New business**

### **A) Proposal of new schedule for Reviewing the School Extra Activities**

- The chair proposed extending the timeline of exploring the School Extras into next year. adopting a schedule for School Council to look at School Extras to provide feedback and learn about events happening throughout the year: Family Gatherings (Christmas Concert/Pizza Night/Celebration of Learning/Grandparents Day, etc.); Grade 9 Farewell and Kindergarten to Grade 1 transition; Assemblies; Library Materials; Lunchtime Activities; Sports at ECNS; French Trips (Paris/Quebec); Clubs at ECNS; Parental volunteer opportunities
- A parent noted that volunteering probably should go in the earlier part of the school year (October); a parent also suggested discussing Grade 9 Farewell/Kindergarten in February to allow enough time to plan
- A parent asked for clarification on why School Council is discussing extra activities—is it to learn more about what’s happening already? The chair responded that yes, primarily it is an opportunity for parents to learn what’s going on in the school and be an outlet for parent feedback.
- A parent concurred that having an ongoing discussion about things that happen within the school is important for new parents/parents of younger students to keep them engaged and updated on the history of what has happened within the school community throughout the years.
- After discussion about which options to place in which months, the chair [asked for the group to approve](#) the calendar of discussion topics, which [passed](#). The schedule is:
  - ❖ May - Family Events (Christmas Concert, Welcome Night, Grandparents Day, Celebration of Learning).
  - ❖ June - Library Materials
  - ❖ September 2025 - Assemblies
  - ❖ October 2025 - Parent Volunteer Opportunities
  - ❖ November 2025 - Lunchtime Activities
  - ❖ January 2026- Sports at ECNS
  - ❖ February 2026 - Grade 9 Farewell, Kindergarten to Gr. 1 transition
  - ❖ March 2026 - French Trips (Quebec/Paris)
  - ❖ April 2026 - Clubs

### **B) Update on West and North Community Events**

- The chair reminded parents that this was addressed under the School Admin Report.

- May 24<sup>th</sup> is the West event hosted for all ECS campuses. The school will show the Dogman movie, with free admission and concessions offered. Attendance will be capped at 250.
- May 2<sup>nd</sup> is the North event with a Family Fun Night for pizza, sport games, and scavenger hunt. Pizza is \$1/slice, and the aim is to keep the event casual and lowkey. Volunteer opportunities include check-in, handing out pizza, sports engagers, playground engagers, and cleanup. All families from both campuses are welcome!
- A parent asked if flyers would come for the West school event—the chair answered that we will have flyers for both events.

#### **C) Update on School Council Grant Decision**

- The chair shared that parents voted on attending the Alberta School Councils Spring Symposium. This event cost \$100 from our \$500 and is virtual, making it flexible for parents to attend as much as schedules allow. The additional grant funds can be put towards a pull up banner and additional parent resources for our School Council. The chair also asked if any parents know of people who are graphic designers/artistically inclined to help design a school council banner.

#### **D) School Council Childcare Decision for June/September Meetings**

- The chair reminded parents that we agreed to fund childcare through March (April, since March was postponed). Four different families have taken advantage of the service since January.
- A parent gave feedback that since not many have used the childcare service, they did not want to feel as though they were taking advantage of school council funds.
- A parent voiced that they were not able to come to previous school council meetings as a single parent, and not continuing childcare would probably mean not attending school council meetings.
- Another parent wondered if a different time (earlier in the day) might allow more parents to take advantage of the offering (i.e., meetings not taking time later in the evening). The chair reminded that the time of day to offer school council was given by feedback from parents where a vast majority preferred evenings. The goal is to allow working parents to attend and be more inclusive.
- The principal noted that since offering childcare is a valuable option that could allow parents to be able to participate in the life of the school, it is worth it to continue. Other parents suggested that perhaps in time, as we keep advertising childcare at meetings, more parents will take advantage of it. It might also be wise to drop down to one babysitter per night, as opposed to two.
- The chair [asked for a vote](#) to continue offering babysitting through October with one to two sitters/night—[12 voted yes \(unanimous\)](#).

#### **E) Appreciation Committee (comprised of Kim S., Christina P., and Edwin L.) Updates**

- The committee made cards available for parents to write a quick encouragement to any teacher/admin within the school.

- The committee shared that they are offering a signup for two volunteers/week to bring a snack for the weekly staff meeting. A signup link is coming via email and SchoolZone for parents to take a shift.
- Another initiative is a poster for people to put a painted handprint on to give to the Society staff as a tangible reminder that they are prayed for.
- The last initiative is to create a playlist of worship and encouraging songs for teachers/staff to listen to, where parents can offer suggestions and contribute to the playlist together.
- A parent suggested that for the staff snacks, some staff might have dietary restrictions—could any restrictions be noted? The appreciation committee said that any restrictions would be noted, and that in the past when parents have brought meals/snacks, the only request made is to keep dishes nut-free.

#### **F) Playground Wood Chips Suggestion from Parent**

- The chair read a suggestion from a parent about wanting to help reopen the primary park for the students since all the flooding had made it inaccessible for play. The parent suggested that parents could gather wood chips from other companies and fill it in.
- A parent noted that Suzanne Hogendoorn (spelling) manages the facilities for the campuses and that parents could let her know about the status of the playground so that it can be addressed.
- The principal added that sometimes issues need to be outsourced and incur an expense.
- A parent asked if it would expedite the process if multiple parents emailed the concern to the facilities manager? The principal noted that it would be best for parents to contact the board directly, as the facilities manager is not responsible for choosing which large projects get priority.

#### **G) Hot Lunch**

- Our current hot lunch crew is not able to keep volunteering to run hot lunch after this year, so we are in need of several parents to volunteer to lead the hot lunch program. The current leader of hot lunch is willing to help train and onboard new volunteers, and the day that hot lunch is offered could be changed, depending on new volunteers' schedules. Let School Council know if you are willing to serve!

#### **H) France Trip Fundraiser**

- Root farms is partnering with our students to help them raise money for their France trip—any parents can sign up online to help support this fundraising effort.
- A bottle drive will also happen at the school on April 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The Manning Bottle Depot will also open an account on April 27<sup>th</sup> for anyone to credit their bottles to the "Edmonton Christian France Trip." This account will remain open for the next year and a half.

#### **10) Diversity and Inclusion Discussion**

- The secretary gave a brief discussion on the desire for ECNS to be a community that champions unity in Christ while also encompassing a wide range of theological

differences within our school. Parents were encouraged to be bridge builders and initiators of conversations and building relationships with others outside of their immediate circles.

- A parent reminded the group about the upcoming Wicahitowin Night (part of ECNS' Learning Together Series) and encouraged parents to attend.

#### **11) Closing Prayer and Meeting Adjourned**

- The principal closed in prayer at 8:37.