

Ethel M Johnson Elementary School Parent Council

September Agenda

Date: September 9, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Location: EMJ In-Person and Virtual (MS Teams)

Attendance: Alison Kemlo, Shaun Storbakken, Elke Coleman, Amy Jones, Susan Elies-Guss (AP), Melanie Clark (P), Samantha Turcotte, Jessica Eadie, Kendra Flanigan, Kristal Burton, Veronika, Hida, Mary, Mauro, Nancy, Susanna, Justine, Shane, Autumn, Chia-ping Kao, Kerri Simeon, Joanalyn Bayanes, Yaa, Natalya, Josie Storbakken

1. Call to Order: meeting called to order at 6:10pm by Shaun Storbakken

2. Welcome & Introductions

Brief introductions (name, child's grade(s), one thing you're excited about this year)

3. Parent Council Structure

Why We're Here - Parent Council Purpose:

- Help make our school the best it can be for all students.
- Give parents a voice in decisions that affect our kids' education.
- Bridge communication between families and the school
- Support teachers and administration in creating a positive learning environment.

What this looks like:

- Organizing community events that bring families together.
- Providing feedback on school policies that impact our children.
- Being a sounding board for new ideas and concerns
- Fundraising and directing spend of parent council funds.

Meeting Cadence:

- **Monthly meetings:** Second Tuesday of each month at 6:00PM
- **Pre-planning meetings:** Co-chairs + admin one week prior
- **Meeting Agenda and Minutes:** Agendas are sent out on the Friday before the next meeting. Agendas and minutes are stored in Parent Council Google Drive:
 - [2025-2026](#)
 - [Governance](#)

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- **No meetings:** June-August and December

4. Administrative Updates

- Principal/Vice-Principal updates on school priorities for the year.
 - Gratitude's:
 - Teachers Taco lunch in June – was a hit!
 - Grade 6 farewell at Activate Games was amazing. The kids had a great time.
 - School Organization for 2025 – 2026:
 - Staffing Updates –
 - EES welcomes Ms. Curtis and Mr. Reinhardt
 - Kindergarten welcomes Ms. Lowry on a Temporary Contract
 - Grade 2/3 welcomes Mr. Topolnisky
 - Grade 4/5 welcomes Ms. Helfrich, Ms. Kay (Stitt)
 - Grade 5/6 welcomes Ms. Michael, Ms. Olson as a Literacy & Learn Temp, Ms. Johnston as Literacy & Learn
 - Ms. Wilkinson returned from Maternity leave as a literacy teacher.
 - Ms. Laney will be returning as both Music and French teacher.
 - K- 6 Support will be Ms. Kayla and Ms. Holly
 - PLP supports are Ms. Pam and Ms. Nina (Temp)
 - Ms. Bose will be in EES as a temporary support.

Our student numbers have increased from 284 in 2024-2025 up to 320 at the start of September 2025.

- School Vision for 2025 – 2026:
 - Areas that the administration will be working on with students are regular attendance, peer connection, parent connection, school wide continuum of supports, Early year assessments initiated, positive behaviour supports, student wellness & regulation.

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- Funding Requests
 - Grade 2/3 will participate in a weeklong learning at the Calgary Zoo – voted in Casino.
 - Upgrade to the school sensory room – voted through Casino.
 - Grade 2/3 Field trip to Telus Spark – voted through Casino.
- Key dates and upcoming events
 - Parent Presentation - Growth Mindset
 - Thursday October 2, 2025, from 5:30-7:30pm
 - Hybrid option, with the possibility of recording through Teams
- Areas where parent council support would be most valuable 😊

5. Communication & Engagement

Review of our communication methods:

- School website
- Monthly newsletter
- Volunteer coordination systems – Sign up Genuis.
- Hot Lunch – Healthy Hunger
 - Will be set up for November – June in the coming weeks.
 - Brown Bag Lunch program is available to all students as well.
- Virtual Meeting Hardware
 - Going to keep Microsoft Teams for all virtual meetings
- Treasurer's Report – see attached.

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6. Annual Calendar Planning Session

Date has been set for Thursday September 25, 2025

Set a date for a committee to work on a high level 2025-2026 Parent Council calendar.

- We'd use this session to map out key events and bring the result back to council for approval. It would be a guiding but changing document that we could adjust throughout the year. Items we might consider / events we've done in the past:
 - Back to school event (breakfast like prior years, can we plan this now?)
 - Fall / Spring Dances
 - Family fun nights (movie nights, game nights, etc.)
 - Grade 6 Farewell
 - Fundraisers / campaigns
 - Multi-year ideas (Grade % 'bigger trip?', higher expense residencies every 2nd or 3rd year?)
 - Coordinate with school events calendar and facility availability.
 - Resources / volunteer availability (it's also a casino year for EMJ Parent Society)

7. Round Table

- Halloween Dance has been booked for Thursday October 30, 2025, from 5 – 7pm
 - Motioned to spend \$1500.00 by Elke Coleman, seconded by Samantha Turcotte.
- Meet the Teacher
 - Have a treat at the Parent Council table.
- Connect the Parents
 - Coffee & doughnuts
 - Thursday September 18, 2025, between 7:45 – 8:15am
 - \$300.00 budget – motioned by Shaun Storbakken, seconded by Alison Kemlo
- Playground Upgrades
 - Alison Kemlo is looking into upgrades that would include Inclusive pieces for all our students and possibly removing the gravel and replacing with rubber.
- Division 2 T-Shirts
 - As part of the school wide inclusivity, Grade 4-6 students who have outgrown their t-shirts will be given a new one.

8. Adjournment – meeting closed at 8:00pm by Shaun Storbakken