

EDMONTON CLASSICAL ACADEMY EASTGATE CAMPUS

SCHOOL COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, October 16th, 2025

6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Agenda

- a) Welcome and Introduction;
- b) Call to Order by the Chairman;
- c) Adoption of Agenda; Approval of previous Minutes
- d) Year-in-Review;
- e) Principal's Report;
- f) Faculty's Report;
- g) Elections;
- h) Thank you;
- i) Adjournment.

What is the purpose of our AGM?

- **Annual Year-in-Review:** Reflect on the year's accomplishments, events, and initiatives.
- **Committee Reports:** Committee progress.
- **Elections:** Elect the new executive team (Chair, Vice Chair, etc.) for the upcoming term.
- **Engage the School Community:** Provide transparency, encourage parent participation, and strengthen collaboration between families and the school.
- **Not a Forum for Individual Concerns:** Personal or classroom-specific issues should be directed to the **teacher or principal (rob.piortkowski@classicalacademy.ca)** — this meeting focuses on council business and school-wide initiatives.

School Council vs. Fundraising Society

School Council

- Provides a forum for parents, staff, and the community to work together to enhance the school's overall success and well-being.
- Serves primarily an **advisory role** to the school administration.
- Operates under the **Education Act**.

Fundraising Society

- Focuses on raising **additional financial resources** to support school programs, equipment, and activities.
- Operates independently from the School Council.
- Governed by the **Societies Act**, **Alberta Corporate Registry**, and the **Alberta Gaming, Liquor & Cannabis Commission (AGLC)**.

ECA School Council is Not:

- **A governing body** — School councils do *not* participate in school governance or management.
- **An employer** — Employment matters are outside the role of council.
- **A complaints forum** — Concerns should be directed through the proper school channels.
- **A fundraising or lobbying organization** — While councils may support school initiatives, fundraising is *not* their primary purpose.
- **An incorporated society** — Because the council's role is advisory, it is *not eligible* to incorporate as a society.

ECA School Council - Structure Overview

Meeting Frequency: Meets **monthly** on the **3rd Thursday**, from **6:00–7:00 PM**.

Model of Governance: Operates under a **Representative Model**, conducting business on behalf of the school community and reporting back through meeting minutes.

Council Composition

- **Executive:** Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Communications Director, Directors at Large
- **School Representatives:** Principal and Teacher Representative

Executive Terms: Two-year terms with a limit of **two consecutive terms** to ensure continuity and fresh perspectives.

Decision-Making Process: A collaborative approach, seeking **consensus first**, followed by a **majority vote** when needed.

Reporting Requirements: An **annual report** must be submitted to the School Board by **October 31** each year.

Our Executive Team

Chair	Kelsa Unruh 2 children - Grade 1 and Grade 3
Vice Chair	Michelle Lindberg 1 child - Grade 3
Secretary	Sally Berg 2 children - Grade 5 and Grade 9
Director at Large	Sami Trabelsi 3 children - Grade 1, Grade 3, Grade 6

Faculty Representation

In accordance with provincial legislation, each School Council must include at least one teacher representative. This representative plays a key role in supporting a successful council by sharing professional insights, providing updates from the classroom perspective, and ensuring strong collaboration between staff and parents.

We are pleased to have **Mrs. Tabitha Wiebe** serving as the teacher representative for the Edmonton Classical Academy School Council, bringing valuable input and connection from the ECA faculty.

Why do we have Committees?

- **Support ongoing and specific school needs** — some committees are permanent, others are formed for special projects or emerging priorities.
- **Share the workload** and allow School Council to stay focused on big-picture goals.
- **Encourage parent involvement** — sign up tonight or start a new committee that fits your interests.
- **Flexible commitment** — help when and how you're able; every contribution matters.
- **Build stronger teams** — most committees currently have only a Chair, and each one needs a few parents to lean on for support and ideas.
- **Accountable and collaborative** — each committee reports to School Council, and the Chair serves as a de facto member of all.

Get Involved!

Current Committees:

Communications, Events, Grant Writing, Library, Movie & Games, Playground, Appreciation and Support, Concerts, Festivals, Building Maintenance & Repairs, Playpod, Kingdom Sports Day.

Some committees still need a Chair — and most could use a few more helping hands.

Not all work is done at school — many tasks can be handled from home.

Sign-up sheets are available tonight — join a committee or share a new idea for one!

Even a small contribution makes a big difference for our students and staff.

Committee Reports

Playground Committee - Sami Trabelsi

Focus:

Advanced the school playground project in partnership with school leadership and parent council.

Key Highlights:

- **Vendor Coordination:** Gathered and compared detailed design proposals and pricing.
- **Budget Planning:** Compiled full cost estimates and explored phased installation options.
- **Funding Strategy:** Researched grants and outlined combined funding through grants, school, and fundraising.
- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Maintained transparent updates with leadership and council.
- **Leadership Transition:** Supported smooth handover to new coordinator, ensuring project continuity.

Outcome:

Established a strong foundation with vendor quotes, funding plan, and engagement framework — project now moving forward under new leadership.

Playpod Committee - Kelsa Unruh

- Purchased a seacan for storage, with shelving generously installed by a parent volunteer.
- Stocked the PlayPod using an approved council budget and additional parent donations.
- Student survey at year-end gathered feedback and ideas for new items. Top requests: balls, sports gear, paddles, rackets, and even old phones/keyboards.
- Parent volunteers supervised during the first few weeks; now managed by teachers.
- The PlayPod has been a huge hit with students — making recess more fun while we continue working toward our long-term playground goal.



Concerts Committee - Oksana Shyshyna

Established: 2024/2025 to support ECA's music program with concert planning and organization.

Highlights: Successfully hosted two full-school concerts (December & May) — both well-received by students, families, and staff.

Key Learnings & Updates for 2025/2026

- Concerts will now be held in the school gym to reduce cost and complexity.
- Two separate shows: Grades K–4 and 5–9 for better student experience.
- Transitioning from holiday-themed to seasonal concerts (Winter & Spring).

Current Focus

- Venue décor
- Ticket & poster design
- Live event check-in

Future Vision

- Develop MC training for students.
- Support additional school events requiring stage presence.
- Help students build confidence and public-speaking skills.

Join us! Help make our school performances engaging and memorable.

Communications Committee - Kelsa Unruh

Operating Procedures:

- Revised in consultation with ASCA, Mr. Tanner, and the executive team to align with best practices and school needs.
- Updated version available on the School Council website.

ASCA Membership:

- Renewed and maintained membership for continued access to resources, training, and guidance.
- Attended ASCA AGM and Spring Symposium.

Volunteer Tracking:

- Researched Track It Forward app to help record and recognize volunteer hours.
- Implementation paused during principal transition.
- Recommended for future adoption to support the new ACA Board volunteer fee initiative.

Festivals Committee - Maria Laura Giordani, Anya Yahnishchak

Last year, our school hosted two wonderful community festivals that brought families, creativity, and fun together.

Winter Festival – “The Snow Queen”

Inspired by Hans Christian Andersen’s classic, the winter festival welcomed over 120 families. We featured the Joe Show, a variety of craft stations, a scavenger hunt, and a book sale. Students across all grades took part in our poetry, art, and short story contests, with prizes for creativity and effort. The event wrapped up with a popular bake sale that brought everyone together in the spirit of warmth and community.

Spring Festival – Outdoor Celebration

Our spring festival moved outdoors and featured the exciting FitSet Ninjas obstacle course, BBQ-style concession, and another successful book sale. Families enjoyed prizes, sunshine, and a great opportunity to connect before summer.

Grant Writing Committee - Kelsa Unruh

Explored multiple funding opportunities to support school and community initiatives.

Challenges identified: Difficult to apply effectively without clear project scopes, approved budgets, and prioritized initiatives.

Recommendation: Collaborate closely with ECA/ACA leadership to identify and prioritize key projects for future grant applications.

Success Story: Secured the Indigo Grant – \$30,000 toward the school library program.

Special Thanks: To Anya and Mrs. Schauer for their incredible effort and dedication in preparing the application.



Library Committee - Rhamona Barber

- The committee primarily served as a supportive role for the 2024-2025 school year because ECA was able to hire a full-time librarian!
- The committee helped organize volunteers for the library based events which included furniture building, book donations and purchases, book sorting and distribution, used book sales and the annual book fair.
- ECA's library was unable to officially open last year so the proposed library initiatives that will require ongoing assistance from the committee and parent volunteers will be put into action in the 2025-2026 school year.

Events Committee - Meagan Jakubec

This year, the Events Committee was newly established to help coordinate both long-standing traditions and exciting new activities for our school community. We've already had a busy and successful start to the year, hosting three events so far.

We began by welcoming our teachers back with a Welcome Back Reception, a small gesture of appreciation for all they do. Our Community Potluck brought families together to share food and connection, it was a wonderful turnout and a great way to kick off the year. Most recently, we hosted our first annual Mother/Son Kickball Game, which saw fantastic participation and energy from both students and parents.

Looking ahead, we're excited to continue building on this momentum. The Father/Daughter Dance will be returning this year.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who have helped make these events possible, their time, commitment, and enthusiasm make such a difference. If you would like to join the Events committee, please reach out!



Movie Night Committee - Simran Chawla

Although we weren't able to host movie nights last year, we're excited to get them rolling this year—and add something new!

- K–3: Movie Night
- 2–5: Movie Night
- 6–9: Games Night

All events will take place right after school.

We'll have popcorn and water available (easy, fun, and still keeping the school clean!).

To make these events a success, we'll need lots of extra volunteers and supervisors to help with set-up, supervision, and clean-up.

This is a great chance for our kids to have fun together and for parents to connect too—let's make it happen!

Appreciation and Support Committee - Faith Bodnarek and Colyssa Stoik

The 2024/25 school year saw this committee ran by Christina Simpson. She organized a number of initiatives to support teachers and staff. These include the creation of a “staff favourites” document, and committee-organized “tokens of thanks” towards staff both in the fall and spring.

This year, the committee is under a new chair, however many of the initiatives will remain similar. An updated “staff favourites” list has been produced and made available to families. A small “thank you” initiative was completed for World Teacher Day on Oct. 5th. There are also plans for further initiatives to be done in the spring to thank staff for their hard work.

The committee strives to work alongside the school Principal, and hopes to meet with the staff representative to Parent Council at some point as well.

Principal's Report - Mr. Piotrkowski

Acts of Curiosity

How do existing processes affect school culture?

How are changes shaping our student and staff culture?

What does data say about our areas for growth?

How can we engage with stakeholders to improve on metrics related to satisfaction in these areas?

“Men invent new ideals because they dare not attempt old ideals. They look forward with enthusiasm, because they are afraid to look back.”

– G.K. Chesterton

Faculty Report - Mrs. Wiebe

- A thank you to our most wonderful parents from our faculty for the incredible supports this past year.
- Most of the school wide community building events have been organized and hosted by the parent community.
- We continue to appreciate our parent council who desire to work together with faculty to create and foster a community of people that support one another.

Here is a list of just some of the things our faculty has appreciated.

- countless hours spent volunteering with smiles on faces, teacher appreciation events, acquiring furniture/play equipment, coffee/treat drop offs, community building events, answering a call for help within hours, getting our playpod up and running, surveying students to gather feedback on playpod, helping in classes with students, cleaning surfaces during flu season, photocopying, book binding, buying teacher wishlists, sorting/organizing lost and found, and accompanying fieldtrips with our students- all done with such persevering attitudes for the greater good of the whole community. We are better because of our volunteers!

Elections

Elections

Positions Up for Election:

- Chair
- Vice Chair

(The Secretary and Communications Director positions have been filled by acclamation.)

Each Candidate will have up to 3 minutes to introduce themselves and share why they're interested in the role. There will be no questions during this time.

Voting Process:

- Voting will take place immediately following candidate speeches.
- Each member may cast **one vote per position by secret ballot**.
- Votes will be collected and counted by the **Nomination Committee**.
- Results will be shared once all ballots are tallied.

The Nomination Committee conducted the election process in accordance with the approved procedures.

Chair

Candidates:

Ayokunle Ayoola

Job Ochigbo

Kelsa Unruh

Vice Chair

Candidates:

Sami Trabelsi

Joseph Obadimeji

Michelle Lindberg

Secretary

Candidates:

Sally Berg

As there were **no additional nominations** received for this position, Sally Berg **is acclaimed as Secretary** for the 2025–2026 School Council term.

Thank you for stepping forward to serve our school community!

Communications Director

Candidates:

Anya Yahnishchak

As there were **no additional nominations** received for this position,
Anya is acclaimed as Communication Director for the 2025–2026
School Council term.

Thank you for stepping forward to serve our school community!

Quick Break

While the results are being counted, please take a few minutes to visit our committee tables, connect with other parents, or simply take a quick break.

Election Results

Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations and voted.

Congratulations to our newly elected and acclaimed members — we're excited to work together toward another great year at Edmonton Classical Academy!

Your willingness to share your time and talents makes a real difference in the success of our school council.

Stay Involved: Join a committee, attend meetings, or lend a hand at upcoming events — every contribution counts!

Thank you!

Next Meeting: *Wednesday, November 19 or Thursday, November 20 (TBD)*

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our ECA community!

Meeting Adjournment