

**MINUTES OF THE EARL GREY SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, June 10th, 2025, AT 6:30 P.M. (MOUNTAIN TIME)
HELD AT 845 HILLCREST AVENUE S.W., CALGARY, ALBERTA**

Member Attendees: Matthew Lowe, Sandi Metz

Director Attendees:

- Chair: Lynn Krasey
- Vice Chair: Lindsey Huston
- Secretary: Kelsey Gallagher
- Volunteer Coordinator: Audra Zannis
- Playground Coordinator: Katie Plintz

Virtual Attendees:

- Fundraising Coordinator: Laura Hubbard

Guests:

- Lynn Tsutsumi
- Teresa Loch
- Nancy Slukynski
- Kaylen Christiansen

Apologies:

- Treasurer: Ken Little
- Casino Coordinator: Britt Obuck
- Fun Lunch Coordinator: Kale Badura
- Key Communications: Rihanna Vanin

1. **Annual General Meeting (AGM) Council Meeting** – Call to order 6:41pm by Lindsey Huston
2. **Acknowledgement of the Land** – Sandi Metz
3. **Review & Approve May Minutes**
 - Approved May 2025 meeting minutes.
4. **Introduction New Principal** – Kaylen Christiansen
 - Ms. Christiansen spoke about her educational journey:
 - Started working as a teacher when she was 22-years old with the Calgary Catholic School Board.
 - Ms. Christiansen has worked in a variety of schools. Her experience ranges from Grades K-12, in big schools (700+ students) and small schools and in special needs focused and nonspecial needs focused schools. Worked experience highlighted included:

- Started her career in Calgary Catholic in a variety of Junior Highs (St. Matthew's, Father Whelihan) and Bishop O'Byrne High School.
 - In Vancouver as a special need's coordinator.
 - At Herald School in Medicine Hat (Grades K-6), in her first Assistant Principal position.
 - Dr. Roy Wilson Learning Centre in Medicine Hat (Grades K-9) in an Assistant Principal position.
 - Hawkwood School in Calgary (Grades K-6) in an Assistant Principal position.
- Ms. Christiansen highlighted, "Who am I?":
 - Inclusive & student centered
 - Data-Informed & strategic: Ms. Christiansen believes in the motto, "Go slow, to go fast". Ms. Christiansen wants to learn what is working and what is not working at Earl Grey School. To do this she wants to talk to all the stakeholders and then figure out where she can add her own touches.
 - Collaborative: Wants to get to know parents, staff and students in the school community. Believes in the "Collaborative response model".
 - Passionate about: kids, the arts & having a school that runs smoothly.
 - Picked Earl Grey School: Ms. Christiansen was able to choose the school that she was interested in becoming a principal at.
- What Ms. Christiansen heard from your Parent Survey:
 - Parents are seeking approachable leadership
 - Inclusion, equity & cultural responsiveness:
 - Ms. Christiansen highlighted that 60% of Earl Grey students have special needs.
 - Ms. Christiansen believes that cultural responsiveness requires continuous learning.
 - She believes in having all learners be seen at Earl Grey.
 - Support for teachers & the school community:
 - Ms. Christiansen acknowledged that it is a hard time in education right now. She has heard that our school has had changes recently and wants the Earl Grey community to know that she has been in schools that have undergone change before.
 - Steady Leadership through change:
 - Ms. Christiansen acknowledges that change is hard and recognizes the great leadership that Mr. Lowe has provided over the past 9 years. Ms. Christiansen understands that this is a well-established community.
- Ms. Christiansen opened the floor for any questions?

- What attracted you to Earl Grey?
 - Fine arts & residences. This is something Ms. Christiansen feels fortunate to have the support of Parent Council to run. She feels that these opportunities add to the education of the student body.
 - Extracurriculars the school offers.
 - Looking to work in a smaller community and to build relationships.
 - Earl Grey's School development plan: new communities & enhancing EAL learning.
 - Opportunity to enhance technology at Earl Grey.
 - Overall, Ms. Christiansen feels that she can benefit from the Earl Grey community and that she can add to the Earl Grey community.
- How can you best be supported?
 - Wants to speak and ask questions of people currently involved in the Earl Grey community so that she can more fully understand the existing community.
 - A core question Ms. Christiansen wants to know is, "What do you want for your kids?"

5. Dad's Breakfast: what is needed, who's point person? – Lynn Krasey

- What is needed:
 - Niall is the point person
 - This year the school is getting donations for Dad's breakfast. In the past Dad's have paid for.
 - To date sausages & sandwiches have been donated and the BBQs are organized.
 - If anyone wants to be a mascot, they are welcome.
 - Scheduled for June 20th, 2025

6. Sports Day: teachers are running & managing volunteers: – Matthew Lowe

- Thank you to Shail Born
- Sports Day will start around 9:30-11:35am
- Teachers are reaching out individually for volunteers for Sports Day

7. Principal Report – Matthew Lowe

- Air Quality Index.
- There are different stations measuring air quality across the city. Mr. Lowe uses the station closest to downtown.
- If Air Quality Index is 7-10 then students stay inside.
- At Air Quality Index of 6 students are not encouraged to be active outside.

- Alberta Teachers Association has put through a strike vote, 95% in favour of a strike. There is a 120-day window to call the strike, and they can call the strike within 72 hours. For now, it is business as usual.
- Volunteer Tea was wonderful.
- Grade 6 Grad:
 - Farewell day will end at around 11:45am.
 - Kids are to bring their own lunches.
 - To coordinate further contact Ms. Javed.
- Teacher update for 2025-2026 at Earl Grey:
 - Ms. Leanna Sushall: returning from mat leave
 - Ms. Shael Bourne: will be leaving. She is currently covering Leanna Sushall's mat leave.
 - People leaving to be closer to home:
 - Ms. Aida Javed
 - Ms. Amanda Schoults
 - Ms. Kaitlyn Walker
 - Earl Grey is in the process of hiring 2 teachers and has these jobs posted. Job postings will close tonight at midnight. Interviews will take place soon and then teachers will be hired shortly thereafter. The school will try to secure the right individual quickly.
 - Ms. Christiansen & Ms. Metz will oversee the hiring process
 - There is another hiring round for teachers in August if needed.
 - The school will not know who is teaching what grade until the first day of school.
 - The Friday message will go out about criteria taken into consideration to generate class lists. Mr. Lowe asks that parents do not ask for specific teachers.
- Mr. Lowe thanked Parent Council and Parent Council thanked Mr. Lowe for his contribution to Earl Grey.
 - Mr. Lowe shared some highlights from his time at Earl Grey. These included: concerts, hiring talented teachers, planning and creation of the courtyard and playground, Earl Grey's 50th Anniversary "Celebration of Love 1969".
 - Mr. Lowe shared: "Only Earl Grey". He feels that this is a great community, great school & that being a principal for Earl Grey has been the highlight of his career.

8. **Review 2025/2026 of Spend Ideas – Lynn Krasey**

- Reviewed things that we need to purchase before September. This includes:
 - Paper:
 - Proposed School Council Spend same as 2024/25 school year of \$4,000.
 - School spent ~\$6,000 2024/25 school year.
 - Vote: Approved 5 votes

- Agendas:
 - In the past purchased by the school
 - They must be purchased through CBE, we have not yet purchased for 2025/26.
 - This year students provided 50 cent notebooks
 - Other schools do not do agendas, but teachers like agendas.
 - Agenda orders need to go in by May. This can be reconsidered May 2026.
 - Some parents from Parent Council feel it is important for kids to write their “To Do’s” for the next day in their agenda.
 - Action Plan: Ms. Christiansen & Ms. Metz will look at Grand & Toy Catalogue (CBE approved vendor) and the school budget will approve an agenda option for fall 2025.
 - Walkie talkies:
 - Council can go to Best Buy and purchase \$1,500
 - Lindsey Huston to research walkie talkies and purchase.
 - Vote: Approved 5 votes
 - Gordana Reading Program:
 - Vote: Approved 5 votes
 - Ms. Metz to look at subscription for reading Eggs & Mathletics.
9. **Class Rep Plan & Discussion for 2025/26: – Lynn Krasey**
- Do we want them, do we not want them?
 - Mr. Lowe & Ms. Metz reviewed the teacher’s thoughts with Parent Council. The teachers:
 - Feel the school should use the “old model” of Class Rep.
 - Want to reach out themselves to see who wants to be a classroom rep, to build a relationship with the class rep and to discuss their individual needs for their class.
 - If Parent Council needs to contact the class representatives, the teacher will communicate who their class rep is to Parent Council.
 - Thoughts from council members:
 - Teresa Toch: Wants every class to have a class rep and to make class representatives mandatory.
 - Audra Zannis: Wants the class rep to not be the only ones volunteering in the classroom.
 - Discussion about:
 - Teachers being able to choose whether they want a Class Rep to help with things (Ex. Creating a sign-up sheet for parent volunteers) or if teachers want to do this themselves.

- How do we still facilitate connection amongst parents? Ex. A parent that makes a WhatsApp chat for the classroom and interested parents can participate. One idea shared by Ms. Christiansen is to encourage parents to share their contact information and to join the class community by setting up a QR code and a draw that parents who sign up are entered into at the beginning of the school year. Plan: to revisit this idea in September.
- Plan:
 - Class Reps will be up to teachers to coordinate next year.
 - Teachers can choose to have a class rep or not and whether this class representative will create a class list.

10. Council of School Councils (COSC) \$500 Grant: – Lindsey Huston

- The school must use this in the year it is granted.
- Council will get next year's card in September 2025.
- Ms. Christiansen used this grant at her old school for subscription to Brainpop & Box Cars.
- Discussion about whether we can use this towards Reading Eggs or Mathletics.
Conclusion: Ms. Christiansen will investigate this further.

11. Blaze Pizza Plan for next year & collecting money earned: – Lynn Krasey

- Teresa Loch happy to coordinate dates & collect funds, but she does not want to push it.
- Council agrees that Blaze dates should coordinate with the school events Ex. Spring concert & Parent Teacher night.
- Katie Plintz is happy to provide connections for food trucks if we ever want one to come to for a school event.

12. Fun Lunch: – Lynn Krasey

- Ms. Metz will send Thursday dates for Fun Lunch.
- Fun Lunch needs to be booked by August/Sept 1st, 2025.

13. Summer signing availability:

- Lynn, Lindsey & Ken are available over the summer.

14. First day of School Plan: – Lynn Krasey

- How can we help?
 - Parent volunteers discussed challenges from the first day of school 2024. Parents highlighted that the class lists had not yet been printed prior to students arriving at the school making it challenging to help students find their classroom. Suggestion: to print lists earlier or put signs up with Grade number on it so students can gather under their grade.
 - Action: Ms. Christiansen wants to create a plan for the first day of school and would like Parent Councils help.
- Tissues & Tears table: Mr. Lowe suggests that Parent Council continues to give coffee and tea out to parents and encourage new parents to join. Mr. Lowe feels this creates a positive first impression for parents.
- Grand opening or the playground has not yet been set. It will not be on the first day of school.

15. Calendar date setting for next year's big events: – Lynn Krasey

- Meet the Teacher: September 25th
- Terry fox day: September 19th
- Orange shirt day: Oct 1st
- Remembrance Day: November 7th
- Dec 11th: Division 2 concert
- Jan 20-29th: Alien in line skating
- January 29th: Skating party in the evening (6-8pm)
- Fall break: November 8-12th
- First parent teacher day: November 27th-28th
- Feb 26-27th: Parent Teacher conferences
- March: Residency
- May 7th: Spring concert Division 1
- May 25th-28th: Camp Chief Hector dates

16. Art Cards, Pet Parade & Newsletter:

- Art Cards:
 - Teachers asked that we revisit Art Cards after 1-year. This can be revisited in September 2025.
 - Art Cards could be done some time other than December 2025 as this is already a busy time of year.
- Pet Parade:
 - Looking for a new volunteer.
 - Nancy Slukynski is happy to walk the new volunteer through the process.
- Newsletter:
 - To be completed at the start of the year. Newsletter: "Welcome to Earl Grey"

17. Additional summer business: – Lynn Krasey

- Playground timeline: July 2nd, 2025 (parking lot and playground closed)
- Playground closed July-August 2025.

18. Set Date for Sept 2025 Council Meeting: – Lynn Krasey

- Tuesday September 16th, 2025

19. In Camera for 1 issue: – Lynn Krasey

20. Meeting Adjourned– Call to order 8:49pm

Signed By: *L Krasey*

Lynn Krasey - Chair

K Gallagher

Kelsey Gallagher – Secretary