

ECFE Family Council Meeting Agenda & Minutes

Wednesday, January 10th 6:00 - 7:00 pm at Wilder

In attendance: Emily, Darnell, Elizabeth, Maggie, Bethany, Michelle

Agenda Item	Discussion
Introduction and Discussion of classes we signed up for this semester.	- Michelle will be taking Ones on Friday mornings and asked about Ones for the second quarter as she is only registered for the first quarter. - Emily had questions about the lottery process. Emily will be taking Nature and Curiosity. - Order of priorities for lottery: Families that have never had an ECFE class, Family Council members, and children with special needs. - Darnell: not currently taking ECFE classes.
Organizational Housekeeping	- Website: We talked about branding a bit and I think it would help not only improve the aesthetic (sorry, John!) but also make the website appear more official if it is within the same style as the official school sites. - Maggie: Is it possible for the Family Council website to be the same structure as the new ECFE website? - John: Can we take down the previous website? The new website is listed as the third in Google searches. - Facebook: John will check with Erika about the Facebook page about changing the group name. What is the update on this? It was not decided what we will do with our Facebook page but we do not have anyone interested/able to manage it, therefore we could consider changing the group name and indicating that the page is closed and redirect to our new website. Let's wrap this up before next month. - Darnell: please share Google Drive with Family Council
Fundraising/Budget	Our discussion about fundraising and budget was related to our two upcoming events. Details below.

	● Maggie: What is the budget for the family council meal each month? Would it be possible to order something other than pizza? Possible ideas include Indian, Chinese, Thai, Italian. If you are open to considering other options, please let Michelle know if you'd like any recommendations or assistance.
Guest speaker on sexuality (February)	● Discussion about whether we should have a suggested donation for cookies. We decided against this and instead will have a sign with our Venmo QR code on the refreshment table. On the back side of the sign will be a QR code for the Family Council website. After the presentation, we can flip the sign: "Did you enjoy this evening's event? Join the ECFE Family Council!" ACTION ITEMS ● Maggie: ○ reserve the auditorium and classroom ○ ask graphic design team to create a sign for donations that includes our Venmo QR code and a sign for getting involved with Family Council that includes a QR code to our website ○ ask graphic design team to create a flier for the sexuality speaker event and send to Family Council for approval ○ send flier via email to all ECFE and ECE families and teachers ○ post about event to ECFE Instagram and Facebook ○ request 30 printed fliers for those interested in posting in the community ○ connect with Michelle (and whoever else is interested in posting) once the printed fliers are available for pick-up ● Darnell: ○ submit \$100 donation to Family Tree Clinic ○ share flier with Hennepin County Libraries ● Michelle: ○ post fliers on community bulletin boards ○ purchase 50 cookies and 50 snacks for children (fruit pouches or non-perishable preferred) ● John: ○ post flier on website
Legislative Advocacy (March)	● The date has still not been decided. Elizabeth reached out to MNAFE for more information. ● Governor will be making a proclamation celebrating 50 years of ECFE on April 11 but there is a MNAFE conference that day in St. Cloud.

	● Bussing: Bethany said that teachers are excited and would like to have more bussing available. In the past, the council paid for the bus budget. We will need an RSVP date and a capacity limit. Last year we spent \$300 for buses. The two buses we had were only about half full. Can we consider getting two buses for each location, with the ability to cancel at the last minute? ● Light Rail: Bethany mentioned that she is aware of four teachers that would be willing to arrange a group to take public transit. We could ask Metro Transit for free passes. ● Postcards: There was discussion about postcards and whether we should order and print postage paid postcards for teachers to share with classes and families to send to their legislators. It was decided that we should use the cards that we have which are designed by ECFE children. ACTION ITEMS ● Elizabeth: ○ Inquire about the cancellation policy for buses. ○ Once a date has been set, ask teachers to set aside time in class to talk about ECFE Day at the Capitol and have parents fill out the cards. Teachers will collect them back in class and the Council can bring the cards to advocacy day.
Family Spring Picnic	● Date: Friday, June 7 Time: 5:00 - 7:00pm Location: North Mississippi Regional Park ● We had a brief discussion about which parks would be best for this event. We decided to go with North Mississippi for several reasons: the north central location of the park is most equitable for families in the city, the possibility to partner with Kroening Nature Center and have a naturalist present, and most importantly, there is a playground/tot lot near the picnic shelter. ● Food: In the past this event was advertised as a picnic and families brought their own food. This is what will work best, however we'd also like to have a few food trucks present. We will continue the conversation on food for this event at our next meeting. ACTION ITEMS ● Darnell: ○ call Minneapolis Parks to inquire about receiving a discount/waiver on picnic permit fee

	○ reserve Shelter C and confirm with Family Council once this has been done ● Zeynep: ○ reach out to Med Box Grill about their availability and interest in being at this event ● Elizabeth: ○ inquire with Kroening Nature Center about whether they may be able to provide a naturalist and naturalist table at this event
Grow Family Council meeting attendance	● Discussion: Bethany shared that the families she had invited to attend last month didn't necessarily feel that they had anything to contribute to the discussion and that as a newcomer, our meetings can be a bit overwhelming/confusing for new families. A few potential ideas we had to address this: ○ Making an effort to arrive at 5:30pm - use the first half hour for socializing and at 6:00pm the council meeting starts. ○ Start each month with a review to catch folks up on what they may have missed. ○ Doing individual asks: asking each person present to do an action item. ○ Sending the agenda out in advance and including what we talked about last month and what we are talking about this month. Include printed handouts of those at meetings.