

Ecole St Gerard Playground Fundraising Society

Society Bylaws

1. Membership

- A. Any person having a vested interest in the educational well-being of students enrolled in Ecole St. Gerard, residing in Alberta, being of the full age of 18 years, who has completed the membership requirements and is in good standing with the Association, is eligible to become a Member of the Association with voting privileges at any General Meeting of the Association Membership.
- B. The majority of the Members of the Society will be parents or guardians of students currently enrolled in Ecole St. Gerard.
- C. Membership must be renewed annually. The membership year shall be the same as the fiscal year (September 1 to August 31). Membership fees, if any, in the Society shall be determined from time to time by the Members at an Annual General Meeting.
- D. Any Member wishing to withdraw from membership may do so upon giving notice in writing or verbally to the Board through its Secretary.
- E. The membership of a member is ended upon their death.
- F. No rights or privileges of any individual member are transferable to another person. All rights and privileges cease when a member resigns, dies, or is expelled from the Society.
 - a. Although a member ceases to be a Member by death, resignation, or otherwise, they are liable for any debts owing to the Society at the date of ceasing to be a member.
- G. Any Member, upon a majority vote of all Members of the Society in good standing and present at a Special General Meeting of the Membership called for that purpose, may be suspended or expelled from membership for any cause that the Society may deem reasonable. The suspension process will be as follows.
 - a. The affected member will receive written notice of the Board's intention to deal with the proposed suspension, stating the reasons for the proposed suspension.
 - b. The member will receive at least 10 days notice prior to the meeting, by mail or email, to the last known address shown in the records of the Society. The notice may also be delivered by an Officer of the Board.
 - c. The Member will have an opportunity to appear before the Board to address the matter. The Board may allow another person to accompany the Member upon notification.
 - d. The Board will determine how the matter will be dealt with and may limit the amount of time given the Member to address the Board.
 - e. The Board may exclude the Member from its discussion on the matter, including the deciding vote.
 - f. The decision of the Board is final.
- H. Any Member in good standing is entitled to:
 - Receive notice of the meetings of the Society
 - Attend any meeting of the Society
 - Speak at any meeting of the Society
 - Exercise any of the rights granted to members in these bylaws
 - Members in good standing are entitled to one vote at Annual and Special General Meetings

2. Associate Membership

Ecole St Gerard Playground Fundraising Society

Society Bylaws

- A. The Principal and staff members of Ecole St. Gerard can choose to have an Associate Membership only.
- B. As Associate Members, the Principal and all other staff members shall serve as resource people and in an advisory capacity, however they will not have voting rights at any General Meeting of the Membership or Meeting of the Board.
- C. Neither the Principal nor any staff member shall have signing authority for the Society.
- D. The Principal, by virtue of the School Act, shall have the power of veto relating to actions directly affecting the School building, staff or students, but not relating to financial expenditures, revenues or investments of the Society.

3. Board of Directors

- A. "Board of Directors," "Executive," or "Board" shall mean the Board of Directors of the Society.

COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

The Board will be composed of the following Officers and Directors.

- 1. Officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer – These positions are mandatory.
- 2. Directors: A maximum of 4 Directors at Large – These positions are optional, and will be filled provided there are Members willing to do so.

a. President

The President shall have general knowledge of all activities of the Society and will carry out duties assigned by the Society.

- i. The President shall call all Meetings of the Board, and shall preside at all General Meetings of the Membership and Meetings of the Board.
- ii. The President will be the chief spokesperson for the Society, unless otherwise delegated.
- iii. The President shall be copied on all Society communications and will review any communications to the membership, parent body, School community or public prior to distribution and shall include the Vice-President in same.
- iv. The President shall not have a vote at any meeting.
- v. The President will be an ex-officio member of all Committees.

b. Vice-President

- i. The Vice-President shall assist the President in all Society activities and will carry out other duties assigned by the President.
- ii. In the event of absence, resignation, incapacity or extended leave of absence of the President, the Vice-President shall fulfill the President's responsibilities. In the absence of both the President and the Vice-President from meetings, a Chair may be elected or appointed at the meeting to preside.
- iii. The Vice-President will be copied on all Society communications and will review any communications to the membership, parent body, School community or public prior to distribution.

c. Secretary

Ecole St Gerard Playground Fundraising Society

Society Bylaws

- i. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to attend all General Meetings of the Membership and Meetings of the Board, to keep accurate minutes of the same, and to prepare these for distribution.
- ii. In the absence of the Secretary, his/her duties shall be discharged by such Officer or Director as may be appointed by the Board.
- iii. The Secretary shall have charge of all the correspondence and/or documentation of the Society and be under the direction of the President and the Board.
- iv. The Secretary shall keep a Register of Members of the Society and their contact information, as required by the *Societies Act*, and shall send all Society correspondence/notices as required.
- v. Should the Society choose to adopt a Society Seal, the Secretary shall have charge of the Seal, and whenever used, be authenticated by the signature of the Secretary and the President, or, in the case of the death or inability of either to act, the Vice-President.

d. Treasurer

- i. The Treasurer shall receive all monies paid to the Society and be responsible for the deposit of same in whatever Bank, Trust Company, Credit Union or Treasury Branch the Board may order.
- ii. The Treasurer shall properly account for the funds of the Society, keep such books as may be directed and disburse funds as required.
- iii. The Treasurer shall present a full detailed account of receipts and disbursements to the Board whenever requested and shall prepare for submission to the Annual General Meeting of the Membership a duly audited statement of the financial position of the Society and shall submit a copy of same to the Secretary for the records of the Society.
- iv. The Treasurer will prepare, and submit with Board approval, any financial reports required by organizations and agencies in a timely manner.
- v. The signing authorities of the financial accounts will be a minimum of two of the four elected Officers of the Society.

e. Officers and Directors at Large

All Members of the Board will:

- i. Attend Annual, Regular and Special General Meetings of the Membership.
- ii. Be prepared for, attend and actively participate in all Meetings of the Board.
- iii. Actively support the initiatives and actions of the Society.
- iv. Approve, where appropriate, policy and other recommendations received from the Board and its standing committees.
- v. Review the Bylaws and recommend Board-approved Bylaw changes to the membership.
- vi. Review the Board's structure, approve changes, and prepare necessary Bylaw amendments.
- vii. Participate in the development of the Society's plan and annual review.
- viii. Review the annual budget for the Society and submit to the membership for approval.
- ix. Assist in developing and maintaining positive working relations among the Board, committees, School and School Council to support and enhance education in the School community.
- x. Allow for opinions and positions of all Members to be voiced and heard in a safe, respectful environment.
- xi. Act as a leader and an ambassador of the Society.

Ecole St Gerard Playground Fundraising Society

Society Bylaws

- xii. Strive to reach consensus in all areas. If a consensus cannot be reached, Board Members will accept, and adhere to, the majority decision of the Board.
 - xiii. Address operational concerns openly and with input from Board Members.
 - xiv. Address personal concerns relating to Board Members roles privately, constructively, respectfully and in a timely manner.
- B. The Board shall, subject to the Bylaws or directions given it by majority vote at any meeting properly called and constituted, have full control and management of the affairs of the Society.
- C. The powers and duties of the Board include:
- a. Promoting the objects of the Association;
 - b. Promoting membership in the Association;
 - c. Maintaining and protecting the Association's assets and property;
 - d. Approving an annual budget for the Association;
 - e. Paying all expenses for operating and managing the Association;
 - f. Paying persons for services and protecting persons from debts of the Association;
 - g. Investing any extra monies;
 - h. Financing the operations of the Association, and borrowing or raising monies;
 - i. Making policies for managing and operating the Association;
 - j. Approving all contracts for the Association;
 - k. Maintaining all accounts and financial records of the Association;
 - l. Appointing legal counsel as necessary;
 - m. Making policies, rules and regulations for operating the Association and using its facilities and assets;
 - n. Selling, disposing of, or mortgaging any or all of the property of the Association; and
 - o. Without limiting the general responsibility of the Board, delegating its powers and duties to the paid administrator of the Association.
- D. Any Director or Officer may resign his/her position by providing written notice to any two Board Members.
- E. The board membership of a Director is ended upon their death.
- F. Any Director or Officer may be removed from the Board at any time with cause by a majority vote of the Board whenever, in its judgment, the best interest of the Society will be served.

4. Auditing

- A. The books, accounts and records of the Secretary and Treasurer shall be audited at least once each year by a duly qualified accountant or by two Members of the Society without signing authority, elected or appointed for that purpose at the Annual General Meeting of the Membership.
- B. A complete and proper statement of the standing of the books for the previous year shall be submitted by such auditor at the Annual General Meeting of the Membership.
- C. The fiscal year of the Society in each year shall be September 1st to August 31st.

5. Standing and Ad Hoc Committees

Ecole St Gerard Playground Fundraising Society

Society Bylaws

- A. Standing and ad hoc committees will be formed as necessary by the Board and will operate on an ongoing basis with specified lengths of terms for Members.
- B. Committees will meet outside of Meetings of the Board or General Meetings of the Membership to complete their assigned tasks as per the direction of the Board and present a report of their activities at meetings as requested.

6. Meetings

Irregularities or errors done in good faith do not invalidate acts done by any General Meeting of the Membership or Meeting of the Board. No action taken at a meeting is invalid due to accidental omission to give notice to any Member, any Member not receiving any notice, or any error in any notice that does not affect the meeting.

General Meetings of the Membership

A. Annual General Meeting of the Membership (AGM)

- i. An **Annual General Meeting of the Membership (AGM)** will take place on or before October 31st in each year, by providing no less than 21 days' notice in writing using a newsletter, website, email, text and/or social media. If a Special Resolution will be proposed, no less than 21 days' notice will be required.
- ii. Only the matters set out in the notice for the AGM may be considered at the AGM.
- iii. The President chairs every General Meeting of the Society. The Vice-President chairs in the absence of the President.
- iv. If neither the President nor the Vice-President is present within one-half (1/2) hour after the set time for the General Meeting, the members choose one (1) of the members to chair.
- v. At this meeting, there shall be elected a President, Vice-President(s), Secretary, and Treasurer, and optionally up to 4 Directors. The Officers and Directors so elected shall form a Board, and shall serve until the end of the meeting at which their successors are elected.
- vi. Quorum at an Annual General Meeting of the Membership shall be 4 Members, 3 of whom must be voting Members.
- vii. If quorum cannot be attained at the meeting, a General Meeting (GM) of the Membership will be scheduled for the same day, time and location the following week. The voting Members in attendance at that General Meeting will constitute quorum for the purposes of conducting Annual General Meeting business such as election of Officers and approval of financial statements.

B. Regular General Meeting of the Membership (RGM)

- i. A **Regular General Meeting of the Membership (RGM)** may be scheduled at the request of the membership at an Annual General Meeting of the Membership.
- ii. Regular General Meetings of the Membership shall be announced to all Members in good standing by providing no less than 10 days' notice in writing using a newsletter, website, email, text and/or social media.
- iii. Quorum at a Regular General Meeting of the Membership shall be 7 Members, 5 of whom must be voting Members and 2 of whom must be elected Officers of the Society.
- iv. The President chairs every General Meeting of the Society. The Vice-President chairs in the absence of the President.
- v. If neither the President nor the Vice-President is present within one-half (1/2) hour after the set time for the General Meeting, the members choose one (1) of the members to chair.

C. Special General Meeting of the Membership (SGM)

Ecole St Gerard Playground Fundraising Society

Society Bylaws

- i. A **Special General Meeting of the Membership (SGM)** may be called at any time by the Secretary upon the instructions of the President or Board by providing no less than 21 days' notice in writing using a newsletter, website, email, text and/or social media. If a Special Resolution will be proposed, no less than 21 days' notice will be required, specifying the intention of the Special Resolution.
- ii. Only the matters set out in the notice for the SGM may be considered at the SGM.
- iii. Quorum at a Special General Meeting of the Membership shall be 7 Members, 5 of whom must be voting Members and 2 of whom must be elected Officers of the Society.
- iv. The President chairs every Special General Meeting of the Society. The Vice-President chairs in the absence of the President.
- v. If neither the President nor the Vice-President is present within one-half (1/2) hour after the set time for the General Meeting, the members choose one (1) of the members to chair.

Meetings of the Board

D. Regular Meeting of the Board

- i. A **Regular Meeting of the Board** shall be called at the frequency determined by the Board that will permit their duties to be accomplished.
- ii. Regular Meetings of the Board will be announced to all Board Members by providing no less than 10 days' notice in writing using a newsletter, website, email, text and/or social media or 3 days' notice verbally by telephone or in person.
- iii. Quorum at any Regular Meeting of the Board shall be 4 Board Members, 2 of whom must be elected Officers.
- iv. Regular Meetings of the Board may be held without notice if a quorum of the Board is present, provided that any business transactions shall be ratified at the next Regular Meeting of the Board; otherwise they shall be null and void.
- v. A topic to be discussed at a Regular Meeting of the Board may be deemed to be "in camera" or closed to anyone the Board chooses should the Board determine, by a majority vote of those present, that the topic is of a personal, sensitive or confidential nature.

E. Special Meeting of the Board

- i. A **Special Meeting of the Board** shall be called by the Secretary upon the instructions of any 2 Board Members, by providing no less than 10 days' notice in writing using a newsletter, website, email, text and/or social media or 3 days' notice verbally by telephone or in person, to all Board Members setting forth the reasons for calling such meeting.
- ii. Quorum at a Special Meeting of the Board shall be any 4 Board Members.
- iii. All or any portion of a Special Meeting of the Board may be deemed to be "in camera" or closed to anyone the Board chooses should the Board determine, by a majority vote of those present, that the content of the meeting or agenda item is of a personal, sensitive or confidential nature.

7. Special Resolution

Special Resolution will mean a resolution passed at a General Meeting of the Membership of which not less than 21 days' notice in writing using a newsletter, website, email, text and/or social media, or provided verbally by telephone or in person, specifying the intention to propose the resolution has been duly given, and by the approval of not less than 75% of those Members entitled to vote in attendance.

8. Election Process

Ecole St Gerard Playground Fundraising Society

Society Bylaws

- A. Board Members are elected by the voting Members at an AGM held annually on or before October 31st.
- B. Candidates must be voting Members in good standing.
- C. Notification of the nomination procedure will be included with the notice of the election.
- D. The term of office shall be complete at the end of the meeting at which successors are elected unless written notice of resignation is submitted to the Board.
- E. The maximum number of consecutive terms, in the same Officer or Director position on the Board, shall be 4 consecutive terms.
- F. Any vacancy occurring during the year may be filled at the next meeting, provided it is so stated in the notice calling such meeting.

9. Voting

A. General Meetings of the Membership

- i. Any voting Member, including each Member of the Board, who has not withdrawn from membership and who has been neither suspended nor expelled shall have the right to vote at any Annual, Regular or Special General Meeting of the Membership.
- ii. Such votes must be made in person and not by proxy or otherwise.
- iii. Members will vote by show of hands or by secret ballot where 50% + 1 will be considered the majority, except in the case of a Special Resolution. (See Clause #7) At least three(3) people must make a request for a ballot to be held.
- iv. The president declares the resolution carried or defeated. This statement is final and does not have to include the number of votes for or against the resolution. A Voting Member may request to have their vote recorded.

B. Meetings of the Board

- i. Only each Member of the Board will have 1 vote excluding the President at all Meetings of the Board.
- ii. Such votes must be made in person and not by proxy or otherwise.
- iii. Members will vote by show of hands where 50% + 1 will be considered the majority.
- iv. The President may authorize an electronic vote by email if a situation needs to be acted upon by the Board between physical meetings. In the case of an electronic vote, a quorum shall be constituted when at least 60% of the Members of the Board cast a vote by email. Any motion taken electronically will be formally recorded into the minutes of the next Board meeting.

C. In the case of a tie, the President may cast a vote.

D. Any Member having a personal pecuniary gain or conflict of interest in any matter being discussed by the membership or the Board is required to declare such and absent himself/herself from any discussion or vote on such matter.

10. General Management

A. The registered office of the Society is located within the School.

Ecole St Gerard Playground Fundraising Society

Society Bylaws

- B. The mailing address for all communication or correspondence shall be the registered office of the Society.
- C. To maintain integrity, minute books and financial records will be securely stored and may be inspected by any Member in good standing of the Society upon request.
- D. Such inspection may only take place at the registered office of the Society, in the presence of a Board Member, and dual control (2 people present, 1 of whom is a Board Member) will be maintained at all times.

11. Remuneration

- A. Unless authorized at any meeting and after notice for same shall have been given, no Officer, Director or Member of the Society shall receive any remuneration for his/her services.

12. Borrowing Powers

- A. For the purpose of carrying out its objectives, the Society may borrow or raise or secure the payment of money in such manner as it thinks fit, and in particular by the issue of debentures, but this power shall be exercised only under the authority of the Society, and in no case shall debentures be issued without the sanction of a Special Resolution of the Society.

13. Society Seal

- A. The Society has not adopted a Society Seal. Should the Society choose to adopt an Society Seal, The Secretary shall have custody of the seal, and use it accordingly as directed by the Board.

14. Insurance and Indemnity

- A. **Insurance:** For the purpose of carrying out its objectives, the Society will annually review and carry liability insurance as deemed necessary by the Board, or if required by the policies of the School or School Board.
- B. **Indemnity:** Provided appropriate insurance is in place, each Officer and Director holds office with protection from the Society.
 - i. The Society indemnifies each Officer and Director against all costs or charges that result from any act done in her/his role for the Association.
 - ii. The Society does not protect any Officer or Director for acts of fraud, dishonesty or bad faith.
 - iii. No Officer or Director is liable for the acts of any other Officer, Director or Member.
 - iv. No Officer or Director is responsible for any loss or damage due to the bankruptcy, insolvency, or wrongful act of any person, firm or corporation dealing with the Society.
 - v. No Officer or Director is liable for any loss due to an oversight or error in judgement, or by an act in his role for the Society, unless the act is fraud, dishonesty or bad faith.
 - vi. No Member is, in their individual capacity, liable for any debt or liability of the Society.

15. Privacy

- A. The Society shall not collect, use, share or store personal information for purposes other than those of Society business, and shall destroy it appropriately once it is no longer needed.

Ecole St Gerard Playground Fundraising Society

Society Bylaws

- B. The Society will adhere to *Personal Information Protection Act* (PIPA) guidelines as required by Alberta legislation, and voluntarily where appropriate.

16. Conflict Resolution

- A. If at any time 10 Members, or 5 Members and greater than 50% of the Board Members, of the Society are of the opinion that the Society is in a state of conflict such that its operation is significantly impaired, they may deliver a written "Special General Meeting of the Membership" request signed by them to all Board Members.
- B. Upon receipt of such, the President will call a Special General Meeting of the Membership, providing due notice as stated, and Members in attendance will have an opportunity to hear and discuss the issues causing conflict.
- C. On motion, a vote shall be held respecting a proposed resolution to the conflict, and if a majority of voting Members present vote in favour of the resolution proposed, the Society will immediately act upon the resolution, as directed by the assembly.

17. Bylaws

- A. All Members are responsible for behaving in accordance with the Bylaws and objectives of the Society.
- B. The Society Bylaws and operations will be in accordance with the laws of Alberta, the *Societies Act* and any other governmental legislation relating to the Society's operation and objectives.
- C. The Bylaws may be rescinded, altered or added to by a "Special Resolution." Changes to the Bylaws do not come into effect until the Special Resolution(s) is registered at Corporate Registries. Special Resolution(s) sent to the Corporate Registries shall be dated and verified by a person authorized by the Society.
- D. Any question regarding the proper application and interpretation of these Bylaws shall be determined by the Chair of any Society meeting. The Chair's decision may be appealed by a voting Member and can be overturned by a simple majority vote at a Special General Meeting of the Membership called in accordance with the Conflict Resolution clause in these Bylaws.

18. Policies and Procedures

A Policy and Procedure Manual may be created, maintained and reviewed annually by the Board. Members in good standing may put forward policies to the Board for consideration and/or implementation.

19. Dissolution of the Society

- A. In the event of the dissolution (closing) of the Society, which shall require a Special Resolution of the membership, the assets remaining after payment of all debts and liabilities shall be transferred to Ecole St. Gerard with the exception of gaming proceeds.
- B. All remaining gaming proceeds, after payment of all debts and liabilities, shall be disbursed to eligible charitable groups or purposes as per Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission regulations.