

Emily Follensbee School
School Council Meeting

MINUTES OF MEETING



DATE | Thursday November 20th, 2025

TIME | 6:45 PM

IN ATTENDANCE |

Nancy Koutselas (Chair), Ali Azam (Treasurer), Sara Minshull (Secretary), Jennifer Hart (Principal), Lanna Myers (Assistant Principal), Colleen Russell (Teacher), Ekta Sachdeva (Teacher), Dianna (Teacher), Julie Burghardt, Surjeet and Monica Parihar, Japleen Maan, Cindy Zhai, Maryam, Lisa (Parents/Caregivers)

REGRETS |

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT: 6:45 PM

ITEM	PRESENTER	NOTES
1. Welcome & Introductions (1 min)	Council	Welcome & Introduction of Attendees Nancy welcomed everyone, and shared introductions by those in attendance.
2. Minutes from Last Meeting (2 min)	Council	September 2025 Minutes: October 2025 meeting was cancelled due to ATA Labour action. Nancy motioned, Ali second
3. Approval of Agenda (1 min)	Council	November 2025 Agenda: Nancy motioned, Ali second
4. Land Acknowledgement (5 min)	Lanna	Acknowledgement of the Land: Lanna acknowledged the land on which we gather
5. Teacher Presentation	Ekta	More Than One Way to Turn a Page: Reading is more than just decoding words on a page-it is a pathway to growth, connection, and participation. Every page turned gives students language exposure, helping them discover new words, ideas, and ways of expressing themselves. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reading doesn't mean decoding text. It includes exploring pictures, textures, sounds and actions and focus is mainly on engagement and meaning, listening and looking at pictures, reacting to the story.

		<p>Reading promotes language exposure, social connection, emotional connection and engagement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible reading formats; board or cloth books, adapted books, interactive, audio and switch activated books. • Communication supports; picture symbols (AAC, PCS), choice boards • Book report reviews that go home with families • Sensory story telling time, engagement through the sense (objects, sounds, textures, etc) • Many ways to read together, adult reads/student listens, adult read/student turns page, student selects pictures • Keep it short and engaging, repeat often, allow time for processing, celebrate all responses, follow all the students. No matter what format, every student can engage and enjoy! • Success may be smiles, eye gaze, reaching, vocalizing, anticipation • Reading is about connection not just comprehension, every child can be a reader and celebrate every small moment of engagement!
6. School Presentation (5 min)	Jen	<p>School Updates: Everyone is happy to be back, and settled back in the regular school routine. Due to the ATA Labour action there has been slight changes to the timeline of the remainder of the 2025 school year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 4th: New progress report date, with teacher interviews to follow • Picture day this week went well, retake day is in December. • The first lockdown was also this week, and it went well. It is important for students and staff to go through those processes. • Quest Theatre “Understandable Girl” • Field Trip - Sarah’s class went to the Calgary Philharmonic, and it was enjoyed! • December 10th - Winter Concert - please bring a donation for the Calgary Food Ban. To support the council the next meeting will be during the day, just before this event. Classes are working hard to prepare. • December 16th - Mr.Skinny, who performs circus pieces with bright visuals and a fun motivational energy, this will be a fun experience

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter break December 20th - January 5th
7. New Business (10 min)	Jen & Council	Annual School Councils Grant: The funds are now available from the Grant, this was passed to Nancy along with the guidelines for how the funds can be sent. Council to look into options, and bring ideas to the next meeting.
8. Carry Forward (0 min) <i>To be discussed at next meeting</i>		Nothing to note

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 7:06 PM

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULE FOR: December 10, 2025 @ 11:30 AM (NOTE TIME CHANGE)

Emily Follensbee School
EFS Children's Society

MINUTES OF MEETING

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT: 7:07 PM

ITEM	PRESENTER	NOTES
1. Minutes from Last Meeting (2 min)	Society	September 2025 Minutes: October Society meeting was cancelled due to ATA labour action. Nancy motioned, Ali second
2. Approval of Agenda (1 min)	Society	November 2025 Agenda: Nancy motioned, Sara approved
3. Financial Update (5 min)	Ali	October 2025: Casino Account: \$56,678.55 General Account: \$12, 562.74 Casino funds were deposited yesterday, approx \$90,000!!! We are approved for Q2 in 2027.
4. Fundraising Events (2 min)	Sara/Jen	Colibri Fundraiser Update: Orders were received and sent home. Funds raised: \$407.50 Purdy's Fundraiser: Currently at \$598 - this is open until November 23 get your orders in School Clothing Fundraiser: Online Store - February 2026 2025-26 Fundraiser Planning: Touch base in the new year for an additional late spring fundraiser
5. New Business (10 min)	Jen & Council	2025-26 School Wishlist: Built by Jen, with the inclusive ed team, teachers and aides to go provide input.

		<p>Nothing on the wishlist is for the pool, due to a 10,000 donation anonymously - thank you so very much to this donor!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$11,000 for fieldtrips (\$1000 per class) Fiddlers Green (Cliffside Maintenance), Prestige sprinkler maintenance - \$18,795 Annual Expenses - this can come from the AGLC account - Equipment Fine motor & cause & effect toys, p-pod rolling base, tuff tray, universal slings \$7450 - Furniture Adjustable/portable student bed, rifton compass chair \$1926.04 - Technology & Software Annual software renewals, iPad interface (Blue2 or APPLICATOR Switch Interface), Brain Computer Interface (BCI) & Headgear \$8600 - Learning Opportunities Mr.Skinny Circus, Indigenous Education, In-School Activities, National accessArts Dance Residency \$6523.75 - Other Items Misc Adapted student supplies Sensory based approach communication manual \$600 - Nancy motioned Sara second, Ali & Julie in agreement to this phase one, with the additional funds that came through from the casino there is room
6. Old Business – Carry Forward (10 min)	Jen & Council	<p>AGM Details & Open Positions: Vice chair and official fundraising coordinator.</p> <p>We will set up a table for the concert to welcome families and share about what positions are open.</p>
7. Carry Forward Items (0 min) (to be discussed at next meeting)	Council	

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 7:57 PM

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR: December 10, 2025 @ 11:30 AM (NOTE TIME CHANGE)