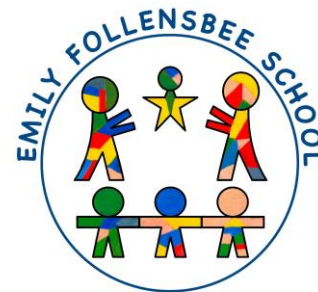


Emily Follensbee School  
School Council Meeting

**MINUTES OF MEETING**



**DATE |** Thursday September 18, 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), Nicky Jackson (Teacher), Inderjeet Chahal, Rhonda Okubu, Kristin Bradshaw, Alex Bradshaw and Julie Burghardt, (Parents/Guardians)

**REGRETS |** Jessica Cunningham (Vice Chair)

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT:** 6:50 PM

ITEM	PRESENTER	NOTES
1. Welcome & Introductions (1 min)	Council	<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction of Attendees</b>
2. Minutes from Last Meeting (2 min)	Council	<b>June 2025 Minutes:</b> Nancy motioned, Ali second
3. Approval of Agenda (1 min)	Council	<b>September 2025 Agenda:</b> Nancy motioned, Sara second
4. Land Acknowledgement (5 min)	Lanna	<b>Acknowledgement of the Land:</b> Lanna acknowledged the land on which we gather
5. Teacher Presentation	Nicky	<b>Building Bridges: The Power of Ongoing Communication Between Home &amp; School</b> This presentation highlights the vital role of consistent, open communication between families and educators in supporting students. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regular dialogue helps build trust, ensure a shared understanding of each child's strengths and needs, and foster continuity between home and school strategies.</li><li>• Parents will learn about practical ways to maintain effective communication with teachers, and how this collaboration leads to improved learning outcomes, greater emotional well-being, and a stronger sense of partnership in their child's educational journey.</li><li>• Shared goals - a team with school and</li></ul>

		<p>families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two way communication helps build trust, especially for new families and helps students transition to all of the new routines and environments</li> <li>• Parents can share key information which helps the team plan and support: Allergies or medical concerns, likes or dislikes, preferred activities and calming strategies, changes in routine, upcoming absences or early pickups, illness or emotional changes, family events or transitions.</li> <li>• School is committed to being reachable and responsive, tools they use: student agenda, emails, school apps, newsletter, weekly updates, scheduled check ins or parent meetings, report cards and IPPs</li> <li>• Learning conferences are super important so families can see the school environment and how their child is supported during the day, and get to know each other. Teachers, and support staff is all present at this conference.</li> <li>• Classrooms all have a similar student agenda, some with differences and are utilized by all - these are a wonderful information resource</li> <li>• Tips for effective communication; be honest and clear, no detail is too small, share changes as soon as possible, let us know how your child communicates or expresses needs, ask questions if you are unsure, stay involved</li> </ul> <p><i>"You bring unique insight, we bring professional support and your child brings potential and personality"</i></p>
6. School Presentation (5 min)	Jen	<p>Great start to the school year with structure and routines. Temp teachers have joined a few classrooms, and they have been a great addition.</p> <p>Calgary Philharmonic was here on Wednesday, Jen strives to have one in-house event per month, lots of exciting ones coming up!</p> <p>First fire drill this week, it is important to go through so students can hear the loud bells and staff work through the safety of their classroom should anything arise. There are 6/year. These are planned for fall and spring to try and avoid the snow as much as possible. There will be 2 police lockdown drills as well. Terry fox "Walk, Run or Roll" on Sept 23, parents are welcome to join. EFS ongoing collecting donations.</p> <p>AHS coming for vaccines for Grade 6 and 9. Flu</p>

		<p>vaccine is NOT available within the school this year - Jen did advocate for this (thank you Jen). Notices have been sent home to those eligible.</p> <p>Dylan comes three times a week for volunteer music, he connects well with the children - makes songs up to suit the different classes, plays the keyboard well. Everyone was excited to have him back!</p> <p>Learning conferences booking will open online on Monday at 7 AM, families are encouraged to come to the school if possible as the entire team is there - Teachers and EAs. It's very important to schedule! Following this the IPPs will be completed.</p> <p>Oct 1 - "Give a Cheer" whole school assembly. This first one is introducing new students. Monthly, these whole school celebrations are organized. Each class has a turn "hosting" and members from each class are recognized for achievements, both students and staff. It gives the opportunity for everyone to celebrate each other.</p> <p>Weekly updates &amp; the school newsletter highlight amazing things in the school and classroom - encourage parents to look at. Thank you Jill for your hard work on these!</p> <p>Pool construction has been around the clock, hopefully only another 10 days out before finished. CBE is covering this renovation, which we are all so grateful for!</p>
7. New Business (10 min)	Council	<p><b>Revised Meeting Dates &amp; Times:</b>  Sept 18 @ 6:45 pm  Oct. 23 @ 6:45 pm  Nov. 20 @ 6:45 pm  Dec. 10 @ 11:30 am (AM Mtg - Winter Concert)  Jan. 15 @ 6:45 pm  Feb. 19 @ 6:45 pm  Mar. 19 @ 6:45 pm  Apr. 16 @ 6:45 pm  May 21 @ 11:30 am (AM mtg)  Jun. 18 @ 6:45 pm</p>

		<b>ATA Updates:</b> Potential Strike action as of October 6. Negotiations are not just for teacher wages, but more support for all students in overcrowded classrooms - to be able to receive the education they deserve. EAs are not a part of this association, but the school will have to close if it goes to strike. Jen to send out a notice that EFS does fall within even though they are funded different than other CBE schools. They will update families as they know more.
8. Carry Forward (0 min) <i>(to be discussed at next meeting)</i>		

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 7:23 PM**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULE FOR: October 23 @ 6:45 PM**

**Emily Follensbee School  
EFS Children's Society**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT: 7:24 PM**

ITEM	PRESENTER	NOTES
1. Minutes from Last Meeting (2 min)	Society	<b>June 2025 Minutes:</b> Nancy motioned, Ali second
2. Approval of Agenda (1 min)	Society	<b>September 2025 Agenda:</b> Nancy motioned, Sara second
3. Financial Update (5 min)	Ali	<b>July 2025:</b> Casino Account: \$56,672.65 General Account: \$13,482.42  Angela said she would review the accounts again - thank you Angela!  Prestige had a few outstanding invoices that had been missed over the years, Ali is settling these invoices up via cheque. Jen will request that council be copied on future invoices.
4. Fundraising Events (2 min)	Sara/Nancy	<b>Casino Update:</b> Thank you all to those who volunteered behind the scenes and in person for the recent Casino. Jen will send a thank you e-mail out.  \$273 in donations received and deposited into our general account.  Paperwork has been submitted for the next Casino, which will be in approx 2 years.  In November there will be an update for how much this Casino generated for us! From there, 3 years to spend.  <b>Colibri Fundraiser Update:</b> Extended by 1 week, paper order forms due back to school Monday Sept 22, and online orders close that day. Sara will close out the fundraiser on Tuesday Sept 23. Orders ship to the school approx 2 weeks from there.

		<p><b>2025-26 Fundraiser Planning:</b> Purdy's fundraiser will be the next one, planned for before Christmas. Jen said she will register for this one. If everyone can bring ideas to the next meeting and a schedule to be decided on for the remainder of the school year.</p>
5. New Business (10 min)	Jen & Council	<p><b>2025-26 School Wishlist:</b> Jen is putting this school year's wish list together with assistance from Teachers, Inclusive Ed Team and Support Staff. Jen will present this next month and council will be able to approve so remaining Casino funds can be spent.</p> <p><b>School Fundraising:</b> Online clothing fundraiser - this is run by Jill &amp; Jen, and the funds stay within the school for staff to use - date TBD.</p> <p>Update that Jessica is stepping down from her role as Vice-Chair. Thank you Jessica for everything you have done for our school and EFS Children's Society.</p>
6. Old Business – Carry Forward (10 min)	Jen & Council	<p>• <b>Sept 29 &amp; May 15 Meet the Teacher/Development Day:</b> Council to provide food &amp; beverage for the entire team as these are the only two days during the school year they are all together. Nancy motioned, Sara second, everyone in favour.</p>
7. Carry Forward Items (0 min) <i>(to be discussed at next meeting)</i>	Council	To confirm AGM details, and open positions.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 7:56 PM**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR: October 23 @ 6:45 PM**