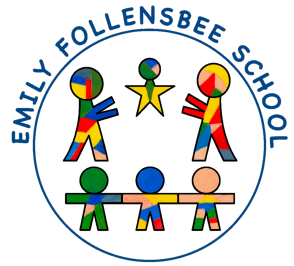


**Emily Follensbee School
School Council Meeting**



MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE | Thursday, March 19, 2026
TIME | 6:45 PM

IN ATTENDANCE | Nancy Koutselas (Chair), Sara Minshull (Secretary), Jen Hart (Principal), Lanna Myers (Assistant Principal), Colleen Russell (Teacher), Diana (Teacher), Jim Monk (Guest Speaker), Erica (Teacher), Lisa B (Parent), Amanda Freer (Parent), Kelvin Sheldon (Parent), Hayley (Parent), Frank & Anna (Parent)

REGRETS | Diana Hall (Ability Workshop), Ali Azam (Treasurer)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT: 6:46 PM

ITEM	PRESENTER	NOTES
1. Welcome & Introductions (1 min)	Nancy	Welcome & Introduction of Attendees Nancy started the introductions, and then round table for everyone to introduce themselves. Nancy noted the positions on council that are currently open; Vice Chair, Fundraising/Volunteer Coordinator. Please reach out to efscouncil@gmail.com if interested or with any questions!
2. Minutes from Last Meeting (2 min)	Council	February 2026 Minutes: Nancy motioned, Sara second
3. Approval of Agenda (1 min)	Council	March 2026 Agenda: Nancy motioned, Amanda second
4. Land Acknowledgement (5 min)	Lanna	Acknowledgement of the Land: Lanna acknowledged the land on which we gather
5. Teacher Presentation (5 min)	Guest: Jim Monk	Guest Presentation – The Ability Workshop: The Ability Workshop Society (AWS) is a fully volunteer-run charity that supports individuals with disabilities by designing and building customized adaptive equipment, as well as repairing assistive technology, switches, and adapted toys. During this presentation, AWS will introduce the services they provide, share examples of how their work has supported students at Emily Follensbee School, and how families can access their supports. <u>EFS Relationship with The Ability Workshop</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1994: Started as the Calgary Chapter of Tetra Society of North America - 2021: Became a fully independent organization and renamed - Receives 90+ new assistance requests per year - Provide custom assistive devices for a wide range of individuals - Partner with U of C engineering students, and partners with CP Kids and Families - 25 Years with EFS, and they repair of technology and adapted toys, sharing resources, council supports by donating

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Supports student access to learning; a great example of recent equipment that was received was the raised bed on wheels, that reclines; allowing students to be in different positions and at the perfect learning height, ease and safety for staff and students, learning can go also outside,- The corner in the gym is a recent project that was a collaborating with Teacher Erica - you will have to check it out next time you are in the school!- Feeding stands; a client could feed themselves but didn't have the strength to lift their arm. A raised turn table that was washable, so the child could have support to move their arm/hand while eating but not have the strength to lift- www.abilityworkshop.ca/ to find out more information, to request assistance, volunteer and donate!- Jim has been with Ability Workshop for 15 years, and he was previous chairman and now CEO- Their shop 2500 sq ft is located in Inglewood, and can work with metal, wood, plastic - any material.- They believe that everyone has an ability that can be improved, and everyone has the opportunity to increase their ability to do whatever they would like to do- All volunteer based, projects can range from 10 minutes to the longest project over 240 hours- Mentor students from the University- A demonstration of the Plinko Game that was donated over 10 years ago- Fill out the form online, you don't have to have the solution - but you can fill out the need that you are wanting support with. They want to fulfill the need with their experience and solutions, it just starts with- The volunteer will come out and go over the scope of the project, and price out the materials for the project and then you are provided with an estimate for the materials, it is a partnership. Once approved the project begins!- Some questions; sensory room adaptations, adapted bikes, personal care assistance, outdoor activities, visually impaired etc- Suggestion of a book to showcase all items that AWS has made for EFS families so ideas can be shared- Ideas are discussed collaboratively amongst the volunteers- If you have a child that has a need, they want to help find a solution.- Council donated to AWS recently, and they were very grateful
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6. School Presentation (10 min)	Jen	<p>School Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - February there were a lot of school activities Recently had lockdown practice with CPS, very important for staff and students - April will have Dance Residency, and a \$2000 grant was received and the remainder will come from council - May 1 will be a dance celebration for students to showcase what they have worked on - April 22 Quest Theatre : Whispers in the Air - May 21: Parent Appreciation Event and Art Walk, students have already started working on Art Presentations - Transitioning Planning is already in the works for students who are going to be graduating and class to class transitions - CBE and video surveillance, this has been approved for outside exterior and one at the inside front of the building - Federal Food Grant was received which has been well utilized to share healthy eating, and for the cooking aspect that some classes participate in (inclusive with smelling new smells, touching, trying new foods in the cooking, baking and cooking along with purchasing dry goods, cooking equipment and supplies
7. Old Business – Carry Forward (10 min)	Jen	<p>Interest in Guest Speaker? Shawn Graham: Free parent/guardian information session about the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP).</p> <p>What they offer, how they can be accessed, what it can mean for families/students. Jen will connect with Shawn to see when he would be available to book an information session.</p>
8. Carry Forward (0 min) <i>To be discussed at next meeting</i>		

MEETING ADJOURNED AT:

7:51 PM

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR:

Thursday, April 16, 2026

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MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT:

7:52 PM

ITEM	PRESENTER	NOTES
1. Minutes from Last Meeting (2 min)	Society	February 2026 Minutes: Nancy motioned, Sara second
2. Approval of Agenda (1 min)	Society	March 2026 Agenda: Nancy motioned, Sara second
3. Financial Update (5 min)	Ali	January 2026: Casino Account: General Account: February 2026: Casino Account: General Account: Ali is not in attendance and will send the numbers via team message, and these will be relayed next meeting.
4. Fundraising Events (2 min)	Jen	EFS Spirit Wear Fundraiser: Jill has received name of a new account manager at Big Mountain. She is currently awaiting updated information. This is still in the works, and it may be postponed to the fall.
5. New Business (10 min)	Jen & Council	The Ability Workshop Society: The cheque was given to Diane Hall on February 27. April 24th there is a Professional Development around Indigenous Learning; Children First and Actions to Reconcili-action, there are guests attending. Jen asked if the Council would provide a meal for the whole staff including the guests. 50 - 55 people. Ali, Nancy and Sara vote offline and determine details. Ali; Jill will have a list of expenses to be paid that will be sent to you as a request for a cheque from council for items that were already approved on the wishlist that have now been purchased. All field trips will continue to be tracked as one, and put in as a request at the end of the school year.
6. Old Business – Carry Forward (10 min)		Parent Social Survey: Not discussed at this meeting.

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7. Carry Forward Items (0 min) <i>(to be discussed at next meeting)</i>	Council	Parent Social Survey
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MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 7:57 PM

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR: Thursday, April 16, 2026