

Fultonvale School Council Meeting Minutes – Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

7:00pm

Gathering Space

Attendees: Natasha Karas, Kalyn Harrop, Shawna Russell-Spady, Chantelle Hinz, Dustine Vicic, Susan Miller, Jennifer Ference, Tenneil Akers, Amanda Arndt, Tara Beaupre, Kristen Rosato

1. Call Meeting to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Treaty 6 Acknowledgements

Treaty 6 was acknowledged.

4. Additions to and Approval of Agenda

- a. Amendment to the agenda: Adding Section 11 COSC Report

Motion to approve the addition & agenda: Shawna Russell-Spady

Seconded: Chantelle Hinz

5. Approval meeting minutes from April 15, 2025

Motion to approve the minutes: Shawna Russell-Spady

Seconded: Chantelle Hinz

6. Annual Report – Kalyn Harrop

2024/2025 Executive: Kalyn Harrop (Chair), Shawna Russell-Spady (Vice-Chair), Natasha Karas (Secretary)

Meeting Dates: September 17, 2024; October 15, 2024; November 19, 2024; January 21, 2025; February 18, 2025; March 18, 2025; April 15, 2025; May 20, 2025 (AGM)

The 2024–2025 school year began smoothly, and we continued to offer School Council meetings in both in-person and virtual formats. This flexible approach helped eliminate barriers to attendance and allowed more parents to stay engaged, especially those who may not have been able to attend otherwise. Rather than offering babysitting services, we prioritized accessibility through virtual participation—and we saw many families take advantage of this option throughout the year.

I want to thank our school administration for their time and commitment in attending our School Council meetings to report and answer any questions we had. This year saw a few transitions in leadership. Mr. Spady left Fultonvale in December 2024 to pursue new adventures, and Mrs. Vicic stepped in as Acting Principal for the remainder of the calendar year. In January 2025, we welcomed Mrs. Jen Ference as the new principal. Her leadership has been a great addition to our school. She quickly began utilizing our school website in new and effective ways, providing timely communication and resources for families—something that has been very well received by parents and staff alike.

One of Mrs. Ference's first and most meaningful acts as our new principal was guiding our school community through the heartbreaking loss of Mrs. Brzezicki, who passed away early in the new year. Mrs. Brzezicki was a beloved teacher and a true pillar of the Fultonvale community—her warmth, dedication, and unwavering

commitment to students left a lasting legacy. Her passing deeply affected staff, students, and families alike. In the face of this loss, the school came together with compassion and strength. Mrs. Ference provided immediate and thoughtful support to our staff, students, parents, and the Brzezicki family, ensuring we had space to grieve, remember, and celebrate her life. The outpouring of love and support was a powerful reflection of the kind of community we are, and a testament to the profound impact Mrs. Brzezicki had on all of us.

Throughout all the transitions, Mrs. Vicic remained a constant source of support and connection for our students. She continued her work with Student Voice, an initiative that remains a highlight for our parents, as we hear stories of students meeting with her and seeing their ideas make an impact in our school. At our April 2025 meeting, Mrs. Vicic announced that she will not be returning as Vice-Principal for the 2025–2026 school year as she moves on to bigger and better things. She will be greatly missed by staff, students, and parents alike. We thank her for her dedication, enthusiasm, and genuine care for the Fultonvale community.

Over the past two years as Chair, I've seen firsthand how open and consistent communication between parents and school administration continues to be one of our greatest strengths. This year was no exception. Together, we ensured school announcements were regularly shared on the Parents' Facebook Page and through the weekly FireWires, keeping families informed and engaged.

Our School Council continued to show appreciation to staff and individuals who contribute to the success of our children's education. The Fultonvale Staff Recognition Form remained popular. This free and simple way to acknowledge a staff member is shared weekly on FireWire and is always available on the Parents Facebook Page. We continue to receive positive feedback on this initiative and plan to keep it going.

This year, Michelle Uytterhagen represented Fultonvale at COSC and did a wonderful job keeping us informed and engaged. She was elected COSC Vice-Chair early in the school year and later stepped into the role of interim COSC Chair. Her involvement at the division level has been appreciated, and her leadership helped maintain a strong connection between Fultonvale and the broader division.

As we look ahead, we will be electing both a new Chair and Secretary for the 2025–2026 school year, as the current two-year terms have come to an end. I'm excited to see who steps into these roles and what new perspectives and energy they'll bring to our council.

Moving forward, I hope Fultonvale's School Council continues to work closely with our administration and staff, supporting school initiatives and maintaining a strong presence at COSC. I know we will keep asking questions, sharing feedback, and staying informed about decisions and developments at the school, district, and provincial levels. Most importantly, I'm confident we will continue to foster a welcoming, connected, and engaged school community.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our graduating Grade 9 families. Your contributions to the school community have been appreciated, and we wish your children the best in their next chapter. To our School Council members, thank you for your time, commitment, and support throughout this year. I truly appreciate you taking time away from your families to attend meetings and help shape the direction of our school.

Lastly, thank you, parents, for trusting me this past year as your Chair and advocate. It's been a pleasure getting to know more families, and I've learned so much from our students, parents, staff, and division leaders. I look forward to continuing to serve our school community in the coming year.

On a personal note, I want to thank our school administration team for their support throughout the year. Jen, it has been a pleasure getting to know you and watching the positive impact you've already had in your short time at Fultonvale. Your approachable leadership style, clear communication, and dedication to our school community have been incredibly appreciated. Dustine, your enthusiasm and passion for your role shine through in every interaction. You've been a joy to work with, and I truly admire the energy and heart you bring to our school. Thank you both for the support you've given me and the School Council this year—I look forward to continuing our work together in the future.

We've learned a lot this year and will continue to find ways to engage parents and families in the next school year. Our first meeting of the 2025–2026 school year will be held on September 16, 2025.

7. Elections

- a. Chair
 - i. Natasha Karas nominates Kalyn Miller as Chair for next term, 2026/2027/2028
 - ii. Kalyn Miller accepts
 - iii. No additional nominations were put forward
 - iv. Kalyn Miller elected via acclamation
- b. Secretary
 - i. Carry over until September meeting

8. Admin Report – Jen Ference

Thank you School Council for a wonderful start and year at Fultonvale

Fultonvale Parent and Student EIPS Survey Results

- The results for the 2024-25 EIPS Parent Survey conducted in March have been shared with the school. Thank you to all families who took the time to share their feedback with the Division.
- There were 75 parents who responded from Fultonvale, but 9 skipped most questions so 66 was the respondent total. Grade 9 students also completed the survey.
- The survey results for Fultonvale have helped us identify the following areas of strength and opportunities for growth.
 - Areas of Strength
 - Welcoming and Caring Environment o Students (94%), Parents (100%), and Staff (100%) all report that students feel safe and are treated fairly at school.
 - Strong consensus that Fultonvale is a safe and welcoming school.
 - Staff Collaboration and Care
 - Strong agreement that staff care about students and collaborate effectively.
 - Student Support
 - 91% of students feel they are cared for by one or more adults.
 - Parents agree that staff demonstrate care and support.
 - Learning Supports

- All stakeholder groups believe students are encouraged to do their best and are supported in their learning.
- Strong positive ratings in access to resources and supports when students experience challenges.
- Opportunities for growth
 - Student Voice and Engagement
 - Only 44% of Grade 9 students reported finding schoolwork interesting and that they were engaged in their learning
 - About ¼ of students report that they aren't given opportunities to be meaningfully involved in decisions and that they aren't informed of their achievement and progress
 - Suggests a need to enhance student agency, especially for those who may feel disconnected.
 - Parent Communication and Involvement
 - Parent participation in the survey was relatively low, which may suggest limited engagement or communication gaps.
 - While parents reported high levels of satisfaction, further engagement strategies could strengthen the home-school connection.
- The feedback gathered in the survey will help our school and the Division measure its progress toward meeting the priorities and goals outlined in the EIPS Four-Year Education Plan and develop strategies to better serve students and the wider community moving forward.
- It also serves to help us develop our School Education Plan
- Looking for feedback related to the areas of growth - Are there factors within our locus of control we can shift and change to improve parent satisfaction?

2024 - 25

- Since our April Meeting:
 - Successful junior high track meet
 - Senior, junior and elementary badminton tournaments
 - Junior High Drama production
 - Grades 1-3 Swimming
- In the next 6 weeks:
 - Many activities, events, and field trips will be in occurring for the remainder of the year.
 - Kindergarten Information Night next week
 - Grade 6 and 9 PATs
 - Grades 7-8 Common Exams
 - Athletic Awards evening
 - Grade 9 Farewell
 - Lunch on the Land
 - Awards Assembly
 - Grade 9 Activity Day
 - Elementary Track Day
 - Last Day Activity

2025-26 School Year

- Old Business: Bell Schedule will remain the same
 - 2 minutes will be “found” by reducing the morning and afternoon recesses by 1 minute each. 3 minutes added at the end of the day and we are removing attendance time and adding it to instructional time. All makes up for the additional 9 minutes added to each day to support collaborative Wednesday work.
- SEP – draft goals – work staff did during our May PL Day and staff meeting and will continue to refine
 - SEP Goal 1: Support Co-Regulation and Social-Emotional Competency Through Explicit Instruction and Schoolwide Practices
 - SEP Goal 2: Deepen Student Engagement and Ownership of Learning
 - SEP Goal 3: Improve Student Reading Comprehension and Fluency Across All Grades and Subjects
- Kick off the new year with Meet the Teacher on Wednesday, August 27
- 2025-26 Enrollment – 450
- Submitted our balanced Budget for next year – Allocations are based on student enrollment, inclusive education and complexity funding, and early learning funding. Budget for next year is 3 million dollars (compared to 3.3 million this year) – 94% of which is staffing
- Staffing Updates
 - Although it is still early in the staffing process, we know that our community likes to be kept informed as to what to expect for the upcoming school year.
 - We welcome Mrs. Kristen Rosato our new assistant principal and Mrs. Tracey Russell, our new counsellor to our Fultonvale team. We are also welcoming back, Ms. Janet Botterill who will be returning part time to teach Grade 5 and will be part time as a curriculum teacher.
 - We would like to thank and wish best of luck to Mr. Ceretzke, who has accepted a continuous contract at Lamont Elementary and Mrs. Seib, Ms. Umphrey, Mrs. Stanton, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Csernyanski, and Mrs. Marinaccio will not be returning next year.
 - We will be posting a temporary part-time Kindergarten teacher position as well as putting a call out for noon hour supervisors for next year. Work to communicate that we do have noon supervisors and noon supervision fees are used to pay for noon supervision. ~\$5000 unpaid noon supervision fees
 - Class configurations
 - Kindergarten A – teacher to be determined
 - 2 classes of Grade 1 – Mrs. Kihn and Mrs. Maroziak
 - 2 classes of Grade 2 – Mrs. Walker and Mr. Jorgansson
 - 2 classes of Grade 3 – Mrs. Vasseur and Mr. Bresden
 - 1 class of Grade 4 - Mrs. St. Jean
 - 1 class Grade 4 and 5 combined – Mrs. Molina/Mrs. Botterill (sharing with Mrs. Molina for the afternoons)
 - 1 class of Grade 5 – Mrs. Bauman
 - 2 classes of Grade 6 – Mrs. Mahoney and Ms. Babyn
 - 2 classes of Grade 7
 - 2 classes of Grade 8
 - 2 classes of Grade 9
 - Combine PE for Grade 8 and reconfigure Grade 7 and 8 Foods and Construction classes to balance budget

- Junior High Teachers: Mr. Buchert, Mr. Brzezicki, Mrs. Driedger, Mrs. Engel, Mr. Hazelhurst, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Slemko
- Class Placements
 - As the survey results also indicate, Fultonvale is genuinely concerned for the welfare and success of your children.
 - One of our goals is to maintain well-balanced classrooms while making the best use of the resources available to us. We sometimes need to group students together in particular ways in order to provide extra supports for their learning needs.
 - Aside from academic needs, we also take into consideration how to balance social, emotional, and behavioural needs in each group.
 - Our teams have the opportunity to see how your child interacts with others while at school and they use their collective professional judgment in determining how to place your child in a group that they feel will best benefit their growth. Classroom placements are the result of many conversations between all the teachers in a grade level, our counsellor and the administration team.
 - We ask for your support in allowing teachers to develop next year's grouping in the fairest way possible.
 - In the last three Fire Wire blog posts there has been an article related to Class Placements, providing an opportunity for families to make class requests for extenuating circumstances. Thank you to families who shared requests. We will do our best to accommodate requests while maintaining balanced classes.
 - Information regarding class placements for the coming year will be shared with families in the final weeks of this school year. Thank you for your support in helping us to create positive classroom configurations.

9. Student Voice – Dustine Vicic

Junior High Student Voice May 2025

What we like about FTV and what makes this such a good place to be?

- Nice teachers- approachable and kind
- The trees are amazing and we like to go on walks
- We wish that the principals and VP stayed longer
- Roller skating was great for Firebird Fun day but the movie wasn't great- but we liked going to the theatre just not the movie choice
- We like the Golf Club
- Concession at Track was awesome but it was a cold day- maybe hot chocolate and more hotdogs
- We like Film as an option for all grades
- Learning strategies is good- a study club helps

What would we like to see?

- Popcorn machine popcorn available at concession
- Creamsicles as a feature item
- Choice between Galaxyland or skiing Firebird Fun day
- Opa and Diary Queen as Hot lunch option
- Vending Machines

- Booster Juice not Jujo Juice please
- Birch Bay overnight as a grade 9 farewell- similar to the grade 6 idea
- We should have a travel option to learn more about a culture- similar to going to Quebec
- Hockey skills program out of SOC
- Why do we not have a Handball Team?
- More options similar to Rec- or a second gym class
- More gym time
- Can we have a spare- a time to catch up on work
- Last day of school, we should do an Olympics
- Can we get a sports for life program here
- We should do First Aid, Babysitting, Home Alone, Study for Learners Drivers License
- Free swimming lessons

10. Trustee Report – Susan Miller

Elk Island Public Schools prepares a budget in the spring based on projected enrollment funding initiatives and Board directed initiatives. In the fall, the annual budget is updated to reflect the actual September enrollment, the actual carry forward amounts and any changes in funding.

While Alberta has seen significant population growth, the majority has occurred in the Edmonton and Calgary metropolitan regions. EIPS has not yet experienced the same high levels of enrollment growth.

The Division expects student enrollment to decrease by 100 students dropping to 17,849 students in the fall of 2025. Enrollment remains a key metric we continue to monitor, as it directly influences funding and program planning.

EIPS receives >90% of its total funding from Alberta Education.

Salary and benefits comprise over 75% of the 2025-26 budget.

School budgets are at 95-97% staffing every fall and this is the biggest impact on their budget.

KEY BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR 2025-26:

LITERACY AND NUMERACY – EIPS will support the priority through its Leveraging Student Achievement Reserve, the Reading Enrichment and Development Program, and the Literacy and Numeracy Grant funding.

COLLEGIATE AND CAREER PATHWAYS – EIPS will support the priority through the new Campus EIPS, an ongoing focus on building and expanding Career Pathways opportunities and continued efforts to pursue a collegiate school in Fort Saskatchewan.

COMPLEXITY IN CLASSROOMS – EIPS will support the priority in the following ways:

- Address learning gaps using the Leveraging Student Achievement reserve funds.
- Build capacity through a new collaborative learning structure, built into the 2025-26 calendar, taking place division wide every Wednesday.
- A specialized support allocation, which is largely consistent with the previous year. Also, two READ teachers will be continued to be funded.

Two Elk Island students have won the gold medal in their event categories at the recent

Skills Alberta provincial championships. James Lowes won first place in Culinary Arts for junior high. Kayla Klita won first place in Fashion Technology. More than 550 competitors came from all regions of Canada to participate in over 40 skilled trade and technology competitions.

Red Shirt Day Takes place on May 28 – the Wednesday of National Access Ability Week.

Red Shirt Day is when people across Canada come together and wear red in schools and workplaces to show support for persons and families who are living with disabilities.

The Board of Trustees reviewed and approved the 25-26 transportation fees on May 1. Transportation fees are increasing in each category for the coming year. The increase is to help offset a reduction in grant funding from the province. Fees are due June 30, after this date, there will be an additional \$25.00 fee applied to each category.

<div> Proposed ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2025-26 TRANSPORTATION FEE SCHEDULE </div>		
DESCRIPTION	Early Incentive Rate (by June 30 th , 2025)	2025-26 Transportation Rate
Eligible - Students who meet the funding eligibility criteria as per Alberta Education. (Includes full-time Kindergarten)	\$100	\$125
Ineligible - Students who do not meet the funding eligibility criteria as per Alberta Education. (Includes full-time Kindergarten)	\$200	\$225
Kindergarten Eligible - Kindergarten students who meet the funding eligibility criteria as per Alberta Education.	\$65	\$90
Kindergarten Ineligible - Kindergarten students who do not meet the funding eligibility criteria as per Alberta Education.	\$130	\$155
Additional Bus - Additional stop required on a different bus route is non-refundable. (Includes full-time Kindergarten)	\$130	\$155
Kindergarten Additional Bus - Additional stop required on a different bus route is non-refundable.	\$100	\$125

ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2024-25 TRANSPORTATION FEE SCHEDULE		
DESCRIPTION	By June 30th, 2024	After June 30th, 2024
Eligible - Students who meet the funding eligibility criteria as per Alberta Education.	\$75	\$100
Ineligible - Students who do not meet the funding eligibility criteria as per Alberta Education.	\$150	\$175
Kindergarten Eligible - Kindergarten students who meet the funding eligibility criteria as per Alberta Education.	\$50	\$75
Kindergarten Ineligible - Kindergarten students who do not meet the funding eligibility criteria as per Alberta Education.	\$100	\$125
Additional Bus - Additional stop required on a different bus route is non-refundable.	\$100	\$125
Kindergarten Additional Bus - Additional stop required on a different bus route is non-refundable.	\$75	\$100

Eligible - Students who meet the distance eligibility criteria and are therefore funded regardless of whether they attend their designated or non-designated school.

Ineligible – Students who do not meet the distance eligibility criteria and are not funded regardless of whether they attend their designated or non-designated school.

School Transportation Regulation now aligns with the funding manual distance eligibility criteria. This change will allow us to claim students who do not access transportation in kindergarten to Grade 6 who reside 1.6 km or greater and students in Grades 7-12 who reside 2.0 km or greater from their designated or attending school.

11. COSC Report – Kayln Miller

APPROVAL OF THE AMENDED COSC OPERATING PROCEDURES

COSC members had a robust discussion regarding the amended COSC Operating Procedures. Several members expressed concern about not having enough time to review the procedures fully. COSC Interim Chair Michelle Uyterhagen went through each change with members to approve or amend the update. Due to a lack of time, the Organizational Meeting and Executive Positions Elections: In-Person and Virtual Participation section under Decision Making in the procedures will be addressed at the meeting in October. Members unanimously voted to implement the changes they approved.

BOARD REPORT

As EIPS Board Chair Cathy Allen had to leave the meeting early, Trustee Don Irwin provided the Board Report:

- On May 6, EIPS recognized staff at a long service and retirement celebration.
- In May and June, the Board of Trustees looks forward to attending school celebrations and year-end performances that showcase student achievement and dedication.
- EIPS Transportation Fees for 2025-26 have been approved. The deadline for families to pay these fees is June 30, 2025.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

EIPS Superintendent Sandra Stoddard presented the Superintendent report. The Board approved the budget allocations for 2025-26. As such, schools and departments can now begin to plan for the upcoming school year. Superintendent Stoddard also discussed the new collective bargaining agreement between EIPS and the ATA—it has not yet been ratified.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORTS: Due June 25

School Council Annual Reports are due to your school principal on June 25. As per legislation, these reports must summarize the activities of the school council in the previous year and detail the receipt, handling and use of any money by the school council in the previous school year. *NOTE:* All school councils, even if you work with a fundraising society, must report on the use of their Alberta School Council Engagement Grant. The grant belongs to school councils, not fundraising associations, so it should be included in your report.

For school councils struggling with how to structure their report, a sample from ASCA has been provided in the meeting package to use as a template. There's also an example of a report from Mills Haven Elementary's school council in the package.

DRAFT BUDGET AND NEW FUNDING MODEL OVERVIEW

Superintendent Stoddard provided an overview of the draft 2025-26 EIPS Budget and new funding model. She shared the Division's four-year education plan, budget priorities for the upcoming school year and went through the 15 major grant allocations EIPS receives. The funding model has changed from a three-year weighted moving average to a two-year average adjusted enrolment method. The presentation slides are available. The budget will be brought forward to the Board for approval at the public Board meeting on May 29.

CONSIDER RUNNING FOR THE COSC EXECUTIVE THIS FALL

COSC Interim Chair Uytterhagen encouraged any interested members to consider running for the COSC Executive for the next school year. Similar to school councils, succession planning remains vital for COSC too. For those interested, consider talking to someone on the COSC Mentorship Contact List to learn more about COSC and what an executive position would offer you.

12. Next Meeting will be September 16, 2025, at 7:00pm.

13. Meeting Adjourned

Kalyn Harrop adjourned the meeting at 7:56pm.