

ELIJAH SMITH SCHOOL COUNCIL
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
September 3, 2019
School Library

“School Council would like to acknowledge that we are on the lands of the Kwanlin Dun and Ta’an Kwach’an First Nation People and thank them for allowing us to live and work on their traditional land.”

Present:	Council Members:	Administration:
	Jeff Hunston: Chair	Jeff Cressman: Principal
	Sean Smith	Jim Snider: Vice Principal
	Rosemary Waugh-Wilson	
	Rachel Sutherland	
	Linda Moen	
	Jerry Zahora: Secretary Treasurer	

Regrets: Amanda Leas: Council Member

Guests: Chris Stacey: Superintendent of Schools, Dept. of Education
Kelsey Hyatt: Teacher
Chris Gleason: CELC

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:37PM
There were roundtable introductions
- 2. Adoption of Agenda:** Moved by Linda, second by Rachel, THAT the agenda be adopted. CARRIED
- 3. Adoption of Minutes:** Moved by Rachel, second by Rosemary, THAT the Minutes of AGM of September 4, 2018 be adopted. CARRIED
- 4. Report from Superintendent:**
Chris Stacey introduced himself. Provided a report for council.
The structure of the Dept. of Education is:
Deputy Minister: Nicole Morgan
ADM: Schools and Student Services: David Wipf (who use to be a Superintendent, however replaced Lorraine Taillifer who retired)
ADM: Policy and Partnership: Kelli Taylor
ADM: First Nations Initiatives: Lori Duncan
There are now only 3 Superintendents:
Chris Stacey for Area 2, which includes Elijah Smith

Paul McFadyen, for Area 1,
Kim Ramsay for Area 3.

There are 4 priorities for the Superintendents for 2019-20 school year.

1. Fiscal Responsibility: Support schools to efficiently utilize funding, align their spending within their budgets
2. Teacher Evaluation: A new teacher evaluation process based on modern research is being adopted. This was brought in last year and is now waiting for the approval from the YTA.
3. School Growth Planning: Schools will continue to use the Spiral of Inquiry approach to frame their School Growth Plans. Educators to use data from the classrooms which includes the observations in the classrooms as well.
4. Learning Support: To establish better connections within the department, schools.
 - Assessment changes, grading and reporting
 - inclusion of YFN perspectives and ways of knowing and doing

Schools follow the new curriculum based on the BC curriculum which include:

- Learning standards (what students should learn)
- Foundations skills (literacy and numeracy)
- Core competencies (the general skills the child is developing)
- Concepts across the grades and subject areas
Skills, content areas
- Hands on learning, personalized learning, finance careers and life skills.
- More Yukon content and Yukon resources to teach the curriculum, and
- Yukon First Nations ways of knowing, doing and being integrated into the curriculum in all subjects and grade levels.

Curriculum Changes:

2019-20: Gr. 11 and 12 start using the new school curriculum. Gr. 10 literacy assessment will be available in Jan. 2020.

All schools will have shifted to the new requirements for the reporting to parents on their child's learning. Schools can choose how many times and how to report to parents. They can use email, or face to face or telephone. This is to report on the most recent and consistent work. On-going feedback to parents throughout the year is to be done. However, there will be 2 reports provided to parents. This is K – Gr. 7. Will be done mid-year and at year end. There will also be 4 informal reporting provided. Teachers are to speak to parents re: student's strengths, or weaknesses to help improve students outcomes. Work habits will also be on both written reports. Students will be asked to self-assess on competencies. Communications, thinking and responsibilities to be done by students by 2020.

ACTION: Chris to email Jerry full report.

Linda inquired into the Auditor General Report with reference to the First Nations students. Is disappointed that there is no movement on the First Nations student's outcomes to be brought up to the level as the report shows that they are failing. How will the help be provided to help the First Nations Students so they can meet their needs? As well, how ill the First Nations ADM, Lori Duncan be effective?

ACTION: Chris will bring issues to the Department and advise.

The school is mee3ting with Student Support Services and are working with students that need the extra help starting at the Gr. 1 level and working to Gr. 4.

Sean discussed the Auditor General Report and feels the changes that were made from the 2009 report to the most recent report are very minor.

Discussions on the dollars for Elders and teachers (Cultural) which have to go through the department. Kwanlin Dun and Yukon Government just signed an MOU to address this issue.

School Year start in the middle of August was also discussed. This goes against the First Nations Cultural activities. Feel School should start later (Sept.)

Experiential: Funding cuts affect the cultural part of the FN cultural activities.

Catchment area: ES is losing students due to the change with Golden Horn catchment area.

Department of Ed. is reviewed this.

School Council feels all of these issues affect the quality of Education for our students.

School Council is looking forward to working with Chris. Chris appreciates the sharing of the concerns and will look into.

Jeff advised that these have been on-going discussions with different Ministers, people in the Dept. of Education. Discussed the catchment issues, staffing formula, etc.

Council thanked Chris for coming.

5. Report from Administration:

School Council welcomed Jeff as the Principal.

- Enrolment: 230
- working on initiatives
- Forest School training: was a great success, working with Shirley Adamson, to be continued
- Working with First Nations on cultural inclusion
- Met with Kwanlin Dun and will be meeting with Chris Gleason (CELC) every Wednesday, in the AM
- Carpets have been replaced
- there are 2 less staff members
- 4 less EA's, however, school is working to make sure ALL students have the supervision and their needs are met
- Code of Conduct is being shared with students, parents Guardian to be more pro-active
- Feeling in the school is positive
- New lighting throughout the school has been installed
- Full time Phys-Ed teacher is in place
- Class sizes are bigger
- Learning Together Program – starts AM and PM
- New administration: Morgan is gone, Holly replaces
- PA System: not working 100%, work in progress

Jeff thanked Jim Snider for his help during the transition between principals.

6. Report from School Council:

Jeff provided a report:

- Fire Pit Shelter: \$5,000. One time funding Provided by AYSCBC used to build.
- Staffing issues ongoing discussions. Council feels the Staffing formula does not work for ES
- Council and school building relationship with Kwanlin Dun
- School Council Conference held Nov. 15 – 17, Jeff is part of panel at conference
- Fire Pit Grand Opening with Elder William Carlick and Minister Dendys attending,
- Fire Smart Funding: discussed, School Council can obtain funding through program
- Forest School Funding received \$24,000. To be used in a 5 day intensive course. ES is the host school
- Learning Together program to be increased to full day in Aug.
- Discussions with Minister McPhee, Jeanie Dendys, MLA, Lorraine Taillifer, ADM, Nicole Morgan, DM, Dept. of Ed.
on: Staffing
PA System not working
Egress
EA #'s
Catchment Area
Learning together program
- New Principal hired: Jeff Cressman

School Council is looking forward to keeping the dialog moving. Appreciates the partnership with Administration, Kwanlin Dun, and Department of Education and is looking forward to this upcoming year.

Sean discussed the history of the Truth and Reconciliation report and the whole process of healing is generational. The support that Council provides helps with this and is in the best interest of our children. All kids to be successful.

7. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:45PM

Jeff Hunston: Chair

Jerry Zahora: Secretary Treasurer