

ELIJAH SMITH SCHOOL COUNCIL
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
September 5, 2023
MPR

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

Present: Council Members: Administration:
Megan Cromarty: Chair Jim Snider: A/Principal
Andrew Macleod
Lauren White
Doris Anderson
Jerry Zahora: Secretary Treasurer

Regrets: Haily Bill: Council Member
Absent: Linda Moen: Council Member

Guests: Trevor Ratcliff: A/Superintendent
Lori Choquette: School Council Liaison
Kelly Tobalt: ESW, KDFN (replacing Christine Pottie)
Shelly Sear: Parent

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:38PM
2. **Adoption of Agenda:** moved by Andrew, seconded by Lauren, THAT the agenda be adopted. CARRIED
3. **Adoption of Minutes:** Moved by Doris, seconded by Andrew, THAT the Minutes of Annual General Meeting, September 6, 2022 be adopted. CARRIED

4. Report from Superintendent:

Trevor Ratcliff provided a report:

The 2022-2023 school year saw the movement of RISE initiatives, update to the SOGI policy and actions toward Truth and Reconciliation. As well, movement in Dept. staff with a new Deputy Minister, Assistant Deputy Minister and Superintendents. As well, 8 schools shifted to the First Nations School Board, with Melissa Flynn as Executive Director.

Student enrolment is at 5900 students Territory wide

The Dept. of Education consists of:

- Minister of Education: Jeanie McLean
- Deputy Minister: Mary Cameron
- Assistant Deputy Minister of Policy and Partnerships: Kelly Taylor
- Assistant Deputy Minister of First Nations Initiatives: Suzan Davy
- Assistant Deputy Minister of Schools and Student Services: Cassandra Kelly
- Superintendents:
 - Marilyn Marquis-Forster: Area 1
 - Trevor Ratcliff/Linda Lamers: Area 2
 - Greg Kitchen, Special Projects.
- Director of Student Support Services and Director of RISE: Shanna Epp
- Director of Technology and Student Information: David McInnes
- Director of Operations: Chris Hanlin
- School Council Liaison: Lori Choquette

Special commitments from the Dept. of Ed: 2022-23:

- Safer Schools Policy and C3P Training
- Truth and Reconciliation work
- Literacy and Numeracy Strategy engagement
- Implementation of the Education Recovery Document
- Culmination of Communities of Inquiry for RISE

Focus for 2023-2024 School Year:

- RISE implementation
- Truth and Reconciliation/Education Agreements
- Implementation of CASA
- Implementation of Literacy and Numeracy Strategy
- Implementation Student Outcome Strategy
- SOGI Policy engagement

Council thanked Trevor for his report.

5. Report from Administration:

Jim provided a report:

- Thanked School Council for their support during the last year.
- Has been asked to be the interim A/Principal last year, (and again for this year)
- Rodent infestation – was dealt with
- Monthly assemblies were held throughout the school year
- Family nights were held. With trips to the Bowling alley, Theater, and an Opening BBQ.
- Meeting with KDFN, YFNED, worked together
- Spring Culture camps
- Looking and working at Numeracy and Literacy

- Code of Conduct was worked on
- Tracking of Student behavior
- Principal: Mr. Shipley, was hired, and resigned beginning of August.

Council thanked Jim for his work and dedication and helping out once again.

6. Report from School Council:

Megan provided a report:

- Council thanked the staff and admin of ESES for all their hard work
- Student enrolment continued to grow
- The loss of Jeff Cressman in the summer of 2022 made the 2022 – 23 start of school year harder, as school year started off with no permanent principal. Mr. Snider stepped up and took on the role of acting principal
- School Council with representatives from KDFN worked with Dept. of Ed to staff the position. It took 2 postings before a successful candidate was identified. Chris Shipley was hired and started in Jan. 2023
- Issues that were worked on with Dept. of Ed and Highways and Public works to address security issues. A walkthrough the school was done twice and locations for additional lighting and security cameras were identified and provided to the Dept. Council will continue to work on this until these safety measures have been met! Updates will be provided at regular council meetings.
- The failing PA system which has been an ongoing issue for MANY years. Members of Council are in regular communication with the Dept. and working on getting this repaired. Updates will also be provided at regular meetings
- Crosswalk at ESES has also been a concern for many years. A student got hit at the cross walk, fortunately the student was not harmed In the spring of 2023, additional crosswalk lights were installed. Council will continue to monitor
- Rodent Issue at the school was a great concern and was addressed by the Dept. Monitoring was ongoing, and is still ongoing.
- Council worked on increasing communication to staff and parents at ESES Facebook page was created to send info to parents and staff on a variety of issues. This will continue
- A rep from council is on transportation committee to ensure safety on buses
- This was the 2nd year, council discussed the option to move to the First Nations School Board. School Council requested and received presentation from Melanie Bennett, from the YFNED on the process and what changes this might bring for ESES. After lengthy discussions, it was decided that 2022-23 school year was not the time to make this move
- Several Family nights were hosted by ESES, which were attended and received very well by families. Council members have attended and helped to support staff at these events
- Some concerns received by council from parents in regards to bullying behavior at the school. Council worked with staff on a school of code of conduct, which

is still under review. Council will continue to monitor these concerns and work with staff on this, and provide updates as needed.

- Once again, we are in a position of starting a school year off with no permanent principal. Mr. Snider has once again, stepped in and as an acting principal until a permanent principal is hired.

Council would like to extend a huge thank you to all the staff at ESES. The past few years have been a roller coaster of changes, but because of their hard work and dedication to the students we are continuously moving forward.

Thank you! School Council

7. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:55PM

Megan Cromarty:
Chair

Jerry Zahora:
Secretary Treasurer