

ELIJAH SMITH SCHOOL COUNCIL
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
September 6, 2016
School Library

Present:

Council Members:	Administration:
Jeff Hunston: Chair	Melanie Bennett: Principal
Ranj Pillai	Jim Snider: Vice Principal
Sue Stokes-Nash	
Sean Smith	
Rachel Sutherland	
Jerry Zahora: Secretary Treasurer	

Regrets:

Linda Moen: Council Member
Lisa Ann Smith: Council Member

Guests:

Judy Arnold: Deputy Minister, Department of Education
Penny Prysnuik: Superintendent of Schools, Department of Education
Bob Walker: School Council Liaison, Department of Education
Carol Coote: AYSCBC,
Cynthia James: CELC

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:42PM
2. **Adoption of Agenda:** Agenda was passed.
3. **Adoption of Minutes:** Minutes of AGM of September 15, 2015 were deferred.
4. **Report from Superintendent:** Penny and Judy provided an overview of the direction of the Dept. of Education.
Ykn. Is following the BC curriculum, however it is moving to a personalized learning, which puts the student at the centre. This personalized learning motivates students by giving them more choice in what and how they learn, involving them in reflecting on and taking greater control of their learning.
This also means more learning opportunities which are connected to the student`s local context and individual experiences.
The Core Competencies which are sets of intellectual, personal and social skills that all students need to become educated and are able to engage in life-long learning. These include, thinking (critical and creative), communication (includes digital media) and personal and social responsibility (cultural identity).
These are skills which are fundamental to ALL learning. The Foundational Literacy is the ability to understand, critically analyze, create and use a variety of forms of

communication (reading, writing, speaking, listening, visual, digital, multimedia).
The Foundational numeracy is the ability to understand and use mathematical concepts, processes and skills to solve problems in a variety of contexts

All areas of learning have been redesigned based on the “Know – Do – Understand” model. This is:

KNOW: Content Learning Standards that reflect essential topics and knowledge at each grade level,

DO: Curricular Competencies that are subject specific and reflect the skills, strategies and processes that students will develop over time,

UNDERSTAND: Big Ideas which key concepts that students will understand at the completion of the subject curriculum for their grade.

The First Nations curriculum in Yukon will reflect the ways Yukon students learn, in the classroom, in the community and on the land. Teachers are encouraged to teach in ways that respect where the students are as learners and as citizens of their communities.

All students K-12 will learn about Yukon First Nations cultures, knowledge, histories and reconciliation.

Yukon Teachers are encouraged to develop more hands-on learning opportunities.

Find flexible ways to organize times and spaces when and where learning occurs

Create courses, modules units that are inter-disciplinary.

Enrich learning by involving community expertise to reflect local context, especially when learning about culture-specific contexts

Integrate technology to explore deeper understanding, creativity and ways to access global audiences.

Performance standards ensure that students are prepared for life after school and that their education is recognized by other schools and post-secondary institutions.

This enables teachers and students to identify where they are at in the learning, and where they need to go next and how they will get there.

Students also complete tests and projects to demonstrate their learning.

Focus on literacy is about using language skills, such as speaking, listening, reading and writing and to understand the world and our place in it.

Assessment for, as and of learning:

For: occurs during learning, enables students to receive descriptive feedback about their learning, and provides teachers with information about the next step in classroom instruction,

As: this occurs during learning, supports student to monitor their learning using feedback to assess and set learning goals,

Of: This occurs after learning, and is designed for students to demonstrate what they have achieved in relation to the curriculum outcomes.

Differentiation moving towards personalized learning.

Each student's learning is unique. The differentiation is: knowing your students, providing multiple pathways to learning, flexible instruction that allows for individual pacing and diverse needs. Is reflective instruction.

Differentiation is NOT: the streaming of students, or limited to students with IEPs or informed by achievement scores.

The Department of Education, Yukon, is a year behind the BC, by choice to make sure it is Yukon reflective. Full implementation should be next year.

Experiential learning: School Growth Plan is to continue. The Superintendents of Schools will be looking at.

At the school level, SGP process is to continue and to be reviewed.

The teacher evaluation committee is to support teachers, and their competencies.

The committee is made up of 4 Principals, YTA, and the Dept. of Ed. This is to evaluate teachers, provide a personal growth plan. Will be done every 5th year if it is successful. Revisions of this document are being worked on and are in draft to be provided to the administration and YTA for review. Teaching is life long learning. Once info is complete, will be shared with school councils. This is all part of the New Vision.

EA's competencies are to be ready in January. There are 3 online courses available that have to be taken.

Student Support Services, Elijah Smith uses, on how to line up, go to assemblies.

These early learning initiatives are to begin Sept. 13.

Custodial Services have been moved back to be under Dept. of Ed. Dwayne Wheeler is the co-ordinator for Whitehorse. There are a couple of staff retiring from Property management, Gord DeBruyn, and Chic Callas.

Facilities completed at ES: Computer lab, Flooring and handicap door.

There will be a meeting held in the fall with consultation on the K-12 Curriculum Redesign.

Grad rates are being worked on and once results are complete will be shared.

The New Vision document is available on line. This is a mandate from the Yukon Party and with the impending election in the fall, it is hoped the theme will continue.

Council thanked Penny and Judy for their report.

5. Report from Council:

Jeff provided a report on the doings of school council over the past year.

Some highlights include:

Council is part of several committees, such as:

- EA Allocation
- School Diversity
- Cultural Inclusion
- Transportation Advisory (Busing)

There were meetings with a parent who discussed conflict and the emotional part of conflict.

Yukon Child and Youth Advocates, Kwanlin Dun Director of Justice and Manager of Family and Children's Services attend council meeting to discuss children's rights, families rights, safety issues and the upcoming review of the Children's and Family Act document.

The Department of Education (DOE) is building a relationship with Health and Social Services (HSS).

Support in Old Crow is to be provided by the DOE and HSS.

School Council held elections in May with majority of council members returning for another 2 year term.

Jeff Hunston,

Sue Stokes-Nash

Sean Smith

Linda Moen (FN Guaranteed Rep, KD)

Rachel Sutherland (FN Guaranteed Rep, KD)

Lisa Ann Smith (FN Guaranteed Rep, KD)

Cynthia James, CELC, KD,

Jeff thanked members, past and present for their hard work and dedication, the support from administration.

6. Report from Administration:

Melanie provided a report.

Has been a good year.

The custodial issues at the school have been resolved and are great. Custodians came and cleaned the school over the summer, which was a great way to start.

The Early Reading Profile (ERP) is ongoing. The EA's have from K have moved to Gr. 1 with the students.

EA allocation is on a needs based model. Will be based on the needs of the school rather than a number base need.

There are 26 FTE. School tried to move the reading recover into the ERP however was not successful. The case load of the Reading Recovery is 2.

Computer Lab – a sink needs to be put in place in the classroom.

Staff room has been re-carpeted.

Gr. 6 and Gr. 7 are on the 4 block system.

Capital Projects: Outside paint needs to be redone.

Weekday Worriers – will use portable building

Experiential Program: is highly successful and is also moving to the 4 block system.

Work with Children's services is continuing.

Wireless upgrade has been completed; however, the building was struck by lightning over the summer and blew it out. The PA system has also been blown. This is linked to the bell system. Being worked on to rectify.

FOB System has been put in.

Handicapped door needs repairs as well, due to the lightning storm.

Council thanked Melanie for her report.

7. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Next AGM meeting, September 5, 2017.

Jeff Hunston:
Chair

Jerry Zahora:
Secretary Treasurer