

ELIJAH SMITH SCHOOL COUNCIL
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
September 6, 2022
School Library/Zoom

“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 would like to thank them for allowing us to live and work on their traditional land.”

Present:	Council Members:	Administration:
	Sean Smith: Chair	Jim Snider: A/Principal
	Megan Cromarty	Jill Mason: A/Vice Principal
	Jeff Hunston	
	Jessie Dawson	
	Doris Anderson	
	Rachel Sutherland	
	Jerry Zahora: Secretary Treasurer	

Guests: Marilyn Marquis-Forster: Superintendent of Schools
Lori Choquette: School Council Liaison
Pam Booth: Reading Recovery
Kari Unray: Gr. 2 Teacher
J. McArthur: Gr. 4 Teacher
Andrew MacLeod: Incoming council member
Lauren White: Incoming council member
Haily Bill: Incoming council member
Linda Moen: Incoming council member
Shelly: Parent

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:45PM.
There were roundtable introductions.
- 2. Adoption of Agenda:** Moved by Jeff, second by Jessie, THAT the agenda be adopted.
CARRIED
- 3. Adoption of Minutes:** Moved by Megan, second by Jeff, THAT the Minutes of Annual General Meeting, September 7, 2021 be adopted.
CARRIED
- 4. Report from Superintendent:**
Marilyn provided a report to council.
There are over 5700 students across the Yukon.

Schools opened in August 2021 with optimism during the COVID 19 pandemic. Mask mandates were lifted, vaccination rates were high, staff and students were eager to be back.

However, early in the school year, mask mandates returned, exposure notices escalated and major disruptions to student and staff attendance and programming began again.

School Councils worked diligently with their school communities to support learning either in person at school or via distance when required.

The State of Emergency in the Yukon ended on March 17, 2022 and a gradual reduction of safety measures was experienced in schools. By June, school communities were able to celebrate graduations and transitions with in person events!

The Dept. of Education consists of:

Minister of Education: Hon. Jeanie McLean

Deputy Minister: Nicole Morgan

ADM of Policy and Partnerships: Kelli Taylor

ADM of First nations Initiatives: Suzan Davy

ADM of Schools and Student Services: Ryan Sikkes

Superintendents of Schools:

Paul McFadyen: Area 1

Donna Miller-Fry: Area 2

Marilyn Marquis-Forster: Area 3

Director of Student Support Services: Karen Campbell

Director of Technology and Student Information: David McInnes

Director of Operations: Chris Hanlin

School Council Liaison: Lori Choquette

Release of the **“Review Inclusive and Special Education in the Yukon**, final report, which Yukon Education collectively embarked on a journey to ensure inclusion and success for each child and youth.

The goal of Yukon education is to work in cooperation with parents to develop the whole child, including the intellectual, physical, social, emotional, cultural and aesthetic potential of ALL students

School Growth Plans – where schools continue to use a disciplined inquiry approach to frame School Growth Plans. This approach focused attention around several key questions that staff move through to support growth:

- What is going on for our learners?
- What does our focus need to be?
- What is leading to this situation?
- How and where can we learn more about what to do?

- What will we do differently?
- Have we made enough of a difference?

This is designed to enable educators to plan effectively using measurable data and an inquiry process to support students and school growth. It aligns with curriculum design and is focused on improving student learning.

School Growth Plans are meant to be developed collectively by the school administration, school staff, School Councils, local First Nations and other representatives as appropriate.

Learning Support: working collaboratively with Curriculum and Assessment team to help implement the recovery plan which included:

- Ensuring that every student has some benchmark data collected (e.g. reading levels) within the first few weeks of school to inform planning and instruction for this school year. This coordinated approach with each school could be a powerful tool in establishing schools' resource needs and is an excellent data to use for School Growth Planning purposes.
- Inclusion of YFN perspectives and Ways of Knowing, Doing and Being
- Yukon follows the BC curriculum with adaptations to include:
 - o Yukon content; and
 - o Yukon First Nations' Ways of Knowing, Doing and Being

The goals of Superintendents in 2021-22 is to learn from and contribute to the Dept. of Ed. Senior Leadership Team,
 Respect and support First nations Ways of Knowing, Doing and Being
 Understand and Support School Councils and school communities through fostering relationships within the family of schools and be present and embedded within the work of school communities

These are some of the goals which will remain for the 2022-23 school year as well.

Yukon First Nation School Board:

During the winter of 2022, eight Yukon School Communities chose through referendum to join the Yukon First Nation School Board. In these, School Council has ceased to exist. Governance now falls to the First Nation School Board Authority. The FNSB is currently operating under an interim Board of Trustees with the first election of Trustees to take place November 2022.

Greg Kitchen, has been hired to be the Superintendent of Special Projects
 Marilyn Marquis-Forster is the Superintendent responsible for Elementary schools
 Trevor Ratcliff is the Acting Superintendent responsible for Secondary Schools for 2 years.

Marc Champagne is the Executive Director for Francophone Du Yukon
Melissa Flynn (interim) is the Executive Director, Yukon First Nation School Board

Council thanked Marilyn for her report. There were roundtable discussions.

Jeff H. feels that at the Dept. level, communicating with School Councils, schools needs to improve.

Sean felt it has been a very challenging year, (2020-21 as well) which have been impacted by COVID 19.

Marilyn advised that yes, it has been a challenging time, and the Recovery plan for 2021-2022 is to make sure that students get caught up in the Literacy, Numeracy.

5. Report from Administration:

Jim to email report to council

Some highlights were discussed:

The school and school community came together, holding Family Nights (which were attended by approx.. 450 – 500 people) and was very successful.

This includes games nights, Laser tag, Author visits school

Forest School: Was establish and is a Forest school classroom,

Reading initiatives, Math; language skills-is being focused on to move forward

There were discussions on the recent vandalism done at the school. The school is being renovated with a new roof, siding, windows, doors. Just prior to school opening up, there was inappropriate graffiti on the sides of the school. This was removed in a very timely manner.

Jessie wanted to say Thank you to the Dept. on the prompt attention to this. Suggest that working cameras on the outside of the may deter this from happening.

Marilyn thanked Jessie, and council for the positive feedback in cleaning up.

The importance of having cameras has been discussed at the dept. level once again.

As well, custodians at the school did an amazing job when there was a break in at the school over the summer.

Staff safety was discussed as well.

ACTION: Marilyn to share protocol with School Council, staff and KDFN

Sean spoke about school issues, maintenance. Has been frustrating in terms on how fast or not at Elijah Smith are being done or not being done. The lack of communication.

There is outdated equipment in the building, such as: cameras, PA system which does not work in all parts of school or yard. The recent upgrading to the building has taken over 3 years to be done.

The lighting at the school needs upgrading. The egress which council has been asking for many years, and feel would help alleviate the congestion at the entrance to the school. Council held discussions on safety around the school.

6. Report from School Council:

Sean to provide full report via Email:

Some highlights:

Has been involved with school council for a number of years. To provide support to the students so they can be successful in their studies.

Minister McLean and DM Morgan attend a special meeting to discuss catchment areas at ES.

The impact of the new school being built at Whistle Bend will have an impact on student enrolment at the school.

Staffing formula was discussed as well with the Minister and DM. It is felt it is not fair or accountable to students. A solution needs to be found to change the funding formula.

The Truth and Reconciliation needs to be brought into this as well.

The hiring process: it is felt that the hiring process is left too late in order to hire new staff

Jeff Cressman: Principal, is asked to act as a Principal at Jack Hulland school until Nov. 12th. Council is concerned that this deadline may not be kept.

Guaranteed Rep from Ta'an Kwäch'än, Amanda Leas, resigns, as she has become the Chief of TAC

Special meeting held with Dr. Jessie Kancir: CMOH, to discuss the spike of COVID cases at Elementary schools.

Jeff Cressman is asked to act as Principal at JH until Jan 6/22. Jim Snider to act as the Principal in the interim.

In Dec. council is advised that Jeff Cressman will be at JH fulltime until end of school year. Council requests a 1 FTE for ES, to be broken down:

.5 VP

.2 Principal

.3 to be determined,

Discussions again on the schools deficiencies, i.e.: siding, roof,etc. Parking lot issues, building of egress at the school, traffic circle safety, PA system

Pam Booth joins as the A/Vice Principal for the duration of the school year in March

Council thanked all outgoing council members for all their support and work.

7. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:24PM
Next scheduled AGM, September 5, 2023

Sean Smith:
Chair

Jerry Zahora:
Secretary Treasurer