

ELIJAH SMITH SCHOOL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
September 7, 2021
School Library

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

Present:

Council Members:

Jeff Hunston: Vice-Chair
Rachel Sutherland
Megan Cromarty
Rosemary Waugh-Wilson
Jessie Dawson
Amanda Leas
Jerry Zahora: Secretary Treasurer

Administration:

Jeff Cressman: Principal
Jim Snider: Vice Principal

Regrets:

Sean Smith: Chair

Guests:

Geraldine VanBibber: MLA, Porter North
Lori Choquette: School Council Liaison
Christine Pottie: CELC
M. Abbott: Parent
B. B? Parent
Parent

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:30PM
2. **Adoption of Agenda:** Moved by Rachel, second by Rosemary, THAT the agenda be adopted. CARRIED
3. **Adoption of Minutes:** Moved by Rosemary, second by Jeff, THAT the Minutes of Annual General Meeting, September 15, 202 be adopted. CARRIED
4. **Report from Superintendent: Donna Miller-Fry:**
Interim report from Superintendents: 2021-22:
The school year is starting under near normal conditions. Schools are open and teachers and students are reconnecting again.
In May, a new Minister of Education was appointed, The Hon. Jeanie McLean.
New Minister released the Review of Inclusive and Special Education in ceremony

on June 1.

Focus of Superintendents this year is to focus on ensuring students are healthy and safe, pandemic recovery, school growth planning and advancing the provision of more inclusive education practices in the Yukon.

Dept. of Ed:

Minister Jeanie McLean

DM: Nicole Morgan

ADM: Schools and Student Services, Ryan Sikkes

ADM: Policy and Partnerships, Kelli Taylor

ADM: First Nations Initiatives, Lori Duncan

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

Other 2 Superintendents are:

Area 1: Paul McFadyen

Area 3: Marilyn Marquis-Forster

and Area 2: Donna Mills-Fry

The approach this year is: there are over 5000 opportunities each and every day to make a positive difference in the lives of students, their families and communities. The Dept. is holding an unapologetic focus on excellence of teaching and learning through equity and inclusion.

The K to Gr. 12 Education Recovery Plan is designed to facilitate excellence in learning Through equitable and inclusive programming. The Office of the Superintendent is fully committed to serving schools as a unified team.

Focus areas for the 2021-22 school year:

- **Pandemic Recovery:** There were 3 surveys completed by parents/caregivers, students and educators across the territory. The Yukon K to Gr. 12 Education Recovery Plan Guidelines for Schools for the 2021-22 school year has been formulated to ensure clear expectations for all Yukon educators and provide support in the process each learner is on track.
- **Inclusive Education:** The release of the Review of Inclusive and Special Education in the Yukon final report, collectively embarks on a journey to ensure inclusion and success for each child and youth. Document is available on line at: gov.yukon.ca; Dept. of Education.
- **School Growth Plan:** schools continue using a disciplined inquiry approach to frame School Growth Plans. Some key questions that staff moves 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 enables educators to plan effectively using measurable data and an inquiry process to support student and school growth.

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

Learning Support: working with Curriculum and Assessment team to help implement the recovery plan including:

- ensure that every student has some benchmark data collected within the first 2 weeks of school to inform planning and instruction for the school year.
- Inclusion of YFN perspectives and ways of knowing and doing. Yukon Schools follow the BC Curriculum, with adaptations to include:
 - Yukon content; and
 - Yukon First Nations' ways of knowing and doing

The Departments support to the overall pandemic response by leading the implementation of the CMOH Guidelines for K – 12 School Settings through school operational plans; Yukon Education Recovery Plan for 2021-22; including benchmark assessments and local recovery initiatives in Yukon public schools.

The Dept. continues to adapt the curriculum and align teaching practices to our Northern context and Yukon's First Nations cultures and languages.

5. **Report from Administration:**

Jeff provided a report:

- Enrolment: 246
School is looking at more FTE's
- schools front was repainted, temporary. Design to be forwarded to council to review
- windows, roof siding to be done next year
- C-cans are used for storage
Furnace system in garage
- Outdoor education:
Classes are outside 3 x/week

- Working with JHES Growth Mind Set (maybe Carmacks as well)
Mtg. with JH Sept 8
- There is an “app” on Facebook that can be used by families to contact school if there is an issue at home to let them know that student might be late coming to school.
- Whole Child Program: requested more funding.
Before COVID was a great success
- Family BBQ – Sept. 8 - @5 – 7.
Rachel will help
- Jim Snider is down to .8 position (not in on Fridays)
- Council thanked staff re: COVID and the implementation of the operational plan last year. Great to see students following instructions
Also, staff and admin. have done a great job in being creative and making it WORK!
- There are 4 YNTEP students at the school. As well, there are 12 out of the 14 First Nations at ES
- Dance classes are to start
- Jessie D: ES has a great reputation and is a beautiful school, welcoming!
Suggested that perhaps “Cultural Day” be held at the school
- Staffing: PE and Art: New staff: Gr. 6/7 S. Malhorne,
Art Teacher: A. Bartle, .6 gym as well until Xmas.
F. Nieman: Phys Ed.
Darryl Tait: EA
J. Andre: EA
Guarddeep Pandher: EA
All classes have Phys ed. 5 x /week
Having 2 – 3 art classes
D. Bunbury: Southern Tutchone
Tara? FN Language teacher

Council thanked Jeff for his report

6. Report from School Council:

Jeff H. provided a brief overview:

- COVID proves challenging to the beginning of the school year. Council holds several special meetings to discuss, to ensure the safety of students and staff.
- adapted curriculum for a Forest School was an opportunity for school and staff to initiate into their yearly materials they will be teaching students which took them outside around the school area
- Mandatory masks for Gr. 4 – 7
- Review by the Dept. of the Inclusive and Special Education is done
- DM Nicole Morgan and ADM Ryan Sikkes present changes to the catchment area for ESES attendance area. Questions around how this will impact ESES funding formulas which were not clear at the presentation.

- Children's and Youth Advocate initiate an attendance study. Findings are that it describes systemic issues negatively affecting student attendance rates across Yukon communities.
- Council puts a request in to Ta'an Kwach'an and KDFN for new flagpoles to reflect both First Nations governments. It is also to build positive relationships between partners of ESES for inclusion for the benefit of students and families
- School council discussed and initiated safety arrangements for the student drop offs and pick up areas in from of the school.
- Council member Megan Cromarty arranged for the Black Cat program which is a traffic monitoring program that gathers information to be set up along Hamilton It assessed that there is heavy daily traffic flow in the range of 30,000 vehicles that move through the area
- 2020-2021 was a challenging year on every level for students, staff and the Dept. of Ed.

Jeff thanked council and administration for the hard work.

- 7. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:45PM
Next AGM, September 6, 2022

Jeff Hunston:
Vice Chair

Jerry Zahora:
Secretary Treasurer