

**ELIJAH SMITH SCHOOL COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**December 7, 2021**  
**ZOOM**

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

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Council Members:</b> Sean Smith: Chair Megan Cromarty Jeff Hunston Rachel Sutherland Jessie Dawson Jerry Zahora: Secretary Treasurer	<b>Administration:</b> Jeff Cressman: Principal Jim Snider: Vice Principal
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**Regrets:** Rosemary Waugh-Wilson: Council Member

**Guests:** Christine Pottie: KDFN ESW

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:38PM
2. **Adoption of Agenda:** Moved by Rachel, second by Megan that the agenda be adopted. CARRIED
3. **Adoption of Minutes:** Moved by Megan, second by Rachel, THAT the Minutes of Regular meeting, November 2, 2021 be adopted. CARRIED

Moved by Megan, second by Rachel, THAT the Minutes of COVID 19 Update Special Meeting, November 25, 2021 be adopted. CARRIED

- 3.1 **Discuss update on Jeff C. position:**  
School Council wrote a letter to the Dept. of Ed. addressing the concerns council has with Jeff C. being a part time Principal at Jack Hulland School. A response has been received from the Minister of Education, Jeanie McLean, Mr. Cressman will continue in the dual role as Principal of both Jack Hulland and Elijah Smith schools until January 6, 2022. Various options are being explored for both schools that could include extending Mr. Cressman’s dual principal role until the end of the school year. If this extension to Mr. Cressman’s appointment is to be extended, the Dept. of Education will work with the Elijah Smith School Council to develop a longer term backfill for Mr. Cressman.

Minister McLean assured School Council that they are aware of the trust and dedication School council and community have in Mr. Cressman. This will be front of mind as they work through the coming weeks.

As well, School council held discussions on perhaps shutting school down due to the outbreak of COVID – 19. This has now calmed down at this time, so therefore the school will not be shut down.

Council held discussions about the response from the Minister on the dual position of Mr. Cressman. Megan is not surprised at the response, however still feels frustrated at the lack of communication from the dept. on this issue.

As well, council inquired into what is being communicated to the staff at ES? Jeff C. advised, there has been no communication from the Dept. to staff.

Jeff H. echoed this as well. The Dept. needs to be more transparent and feels this backfill position will be extended longer. Would like to know what kind of resources will be provided to Elijah Smith to make sure there are no deficits at the school. More clarification is needed for this. And why aren't other principals asked to step in and do the backfill on a rotation basis.

Jeff C. advised that there were options presented:

1. 100% back at ES
2. 100% at JH
3. 80% at JH
4. 20% at ES
5. 50/50% at both ES and JH

That was the option that he pushed for. YTA and Dept. of Ed. are discussing this at this time.

Council held roundtable discussions on this further.

Council, Jeff C. and Jim discussed if this appointment goes past January what kind of supports will be put in place for ES. School Council does not want to sacrifice the team work of Jeff C. and Jim. The department is silent on things and there needs a solution to be provided. i.e.: substitute teachers, support. Elijah Smith School should be first in these.

Jessie echoed this as well. It is very disturbing at that is going on at the Principal level As a council we have a right to know what is going on. There has been no consultation with the community, parents when the Dept. chose to do this. Something needs to happen at the Council level.

Christine Pottie asked why the hiring process was not done like it was for hiring a Principal at FH. Why was this not a priority for ES?

Council is to respond to the letter from the Minister and request FTE's at Elijah Smith. This is in the best interest of the students at the school!!

Council discussed this. If a 1 FTE is received how will this be utilized. Input from Administration was also discussed.

Council honors ES admin and staff for their work and want to see Elijah Smith School to be supported until June 2022.

Proposed: 1 FTE =:

.5 FTE Vice Principal

.3 back-fill teaching

.2 Special Ed.

As well, Jim to be in an acting role while Jeff C is at JH. Council supports this!

As well, community and parents are to be advised of this. Jessie advised that Chief Bill should be CC'd in the response from the Minister.

**ACTION:** Sean to forward to all that were cc'd on letter from School Council to the Dept.

Suggested to meet with Ryan Sikkes next week to discuss the Principal position before Christmas break.

**ACTION:** School council to determine a date to meet. (Monday next week was suggested)

3.2 Discuss – In Camera: Not held

#### **4. Parent Concerns:**

Parents to be invited by Newsletter as well to attend.

Paper copies of newsletter to parents who have no access to internet, email, etc.

Everyone to be advised of this.

#### **5. School Administration Report:**

- Enrolment: 257 (9 new students coming in new year)
- Attendance down a bit as some parents are keeping students home
- Nov. 12: PD Day: Presentation by Shelly Moore on Special and Inclusive Ed.
- Nov 25 – 26: Student Led Conferences – went well
- School Based team holds discussions of Student concerns
- School Growth: is being worked on and hoping to have a regular meeting in Jan.
- Fire Drill held Nov. 24
- Lock Down drill held Dec. 7
- Two sea cans have been added behind the school for storage to make way for

- heating system going into the garage. Furnace to be pellet run
  - EA B. Dekysterhuis has resigned. Someone is in until Christmas
  - there is one non vaccinated staff member (1/2 time position). To be covered
- Discussions on how to move forward

**6. CELC:** Christine provided a report:

- Tutoring has been on hold since the end of Nov. No update as to when it will resume at this time
- Tutor Pkgs. To be taken out next week and will include work/activity, markers advent calendar, a couple of books and a couple of treats
- Pkgs delivered at teacher's requests to families who were self-isolating
- Christine supports Gr. ½ with a sewing project.
- Supports Gr. 4 at Takhini school on Wed. Nov 24. Takhini utilizes the Koyote Ski Club trails every Wednesday. Is support by the Language teacher, Mrs. Dawson. Students learn and talk about the area. In the new year, Mrs. Dawson requested a partnership with lands to do a series of lessons on survival skills
- Laptops: down to the last 40 laptops. These are going to new citizens and are being distributed. Hoping to have this wrapped up by late January
- Elijah Smith has signed up with RPAY again this year and Fran has arranged for Kick Sleds from Dec. 13 – 17
- A successful application for Jordan's Principle was prepared for a student to receive technology

**7. Reports:**

- 7.1 Transportation Committee: (Megan) No meeting held
- 7.2 School Diversity: No report (to be taken off agenda)
- 7.3 School Growth Plan: (Sean) Meeting to be held in January. Sean asked if other council members can attend and participate.

**8. AYSCBC:**

- 9. Treasurer's Report:** Balance in account is \$5, 913.62  
Fire smarting funding has been received.

**ACTION:** Jerry to provide a cheque to the school for this.

**10. Old Business and Correspondence:**

**11. New Business and Correspondence:**

- 11.1 Covid Issue: Exposures have calmed down. Parents are still keeping students at home. Parents are getting children vaccinated. School is not allowed to inquire if students are vaccinated or not.

Masks have not been an issue at the school. Masks are mandatory in common areas .

Council asked if masks are to be worn in the classrooms, or during gym classes.

ACTION: Jeff C. to look at and advise.

- 11.2 ESES Capacity: discussions on staffing re: COVID outbreak in November. Jeff C advised that maybe 10 staff were out. They were able to fill positions. Shortage is Territory wide at this time.
- 11.3 Student attendance rates: In November it was down due to the outbreak, however, this has gone up some since. Some parents are still keeping students home until they get their shot.
- 11.4 ESES funding formula: Minister and DM's attendance change update re: funding formula, as well, the inclusive and special education. The formula does not include or provide with the Truth and Reconciliation and student population. This is on the table and is being worked on. Discussions on any ideas on how to approach and develop a support for staff and students. Open invitation on putting ideas forward on this.
- 11.5 Parent involvement: discussions on. Some parents are involved and some are not. Would like to have all involved. Need to get word out and provide info to all. Via newsletter, emails, Facebook page.
- 11.6 Outside School plan: Developing Community:  
Sean discussed what he saw when he visited a community in BC. There was a strong connection with the community. This is something to look at here and perhaps bring ideas forward. This is not the same here, and needs to be brought forward more. Need to start to engage more with language. Someone who is learning the language but was not allowed to teach. This is being worked on.

Megan: Perhaps a parent night would include parent involvement. Is hoping to start these nights in the new year when lock downs are lifted somewhat.

Face book page from council is up and running.

- 11.7 Traffic Report: Update:  
Black Box: (Black Cat) was put up on light pole by 60km/h sign . This was at the coming out of traffic circle going to Copper ridge.

As well, reflective tapes for backpacks were discussed.

ACTION: Selkirk School Council to be contacted on how to obtain these.

ACTION: Set up Zoom meeting for Monday, December 13, 2021 at 6:30PM.  
Invite Ryan Sikkes to discussion.

**12. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:47PM

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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Sean Smith:  
Chair

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Jerry Zahora:  
Secretary Treasurer