

ELIJAH SMITH SCHOOL COUNCIL
Minutes of Regular Council Meeting
February 2, 2021
Via 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 people and thank them for allowing us to live and work on their traditional land.”

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

Regrets: Amanda Leas: Council Member

Guests: Nicole Morgan: Deputy Minister, Dept. of Educ.
Ryan Sikkes: ADM, Student Support Services
Christine Pottie: CELC, KDFN
Heidi Harry: Teacher

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:37PM

2. **Adoption of Agenda:** Moved by Rosemary, second by Megan, THAT the agenda be adopted. CARRIED

- 2.1 **Guests:** Deputy Minister Nicole Morgan introduced Ryan Sikkes in his new role as the ADM, Student Support Services.
Provided a bit of background on the work that has been and is being done by the Government, Dept. of Education.
The projected building of the school in Whistle Bend.
The Elections of School Councils which were held in the fall.
As well, thanked administration for the work that has been done especially now during COVID 19 times.

The attendance challenges that have been on-going are being reviewed. This is to address issues on how attendance is done. Areas have popped up where they are not in attendance area initial policy.

Ryan Sikkes thanked for the invite to attend meeting. With the building of the school in Whistle Bend, this will have an impact on attendance at the Takhini School and Jack Hlland School.

The current attendance areas have been in place since 2008 – 09 school year. As the school communities change due to residential developments and/or student enrolment, a review of attendance is necessary to ensure planning for the future is being done.

In 2019 a geomatics firm was contracted to compile information of Whitehorse attendance areas. Some tools used were enrolment information to assess where student's primary residences are compared to where they are attending school. A detailed imagery of the attendance area for the purpose of providing updated maps to the Chief Electoral officer to support school council election process.

It is now recommended by the Dept. to move neighbourhoods along the Alaska Highway, south of Robert Service Way to the Golden Horn Elementary School attendance area. At this time, there appear to be NO students from these areas that are registered at Elijah Smith.

Neighbourhoods include:

- Canyon Crescent
- MacRae
- McLean Lake
- Paddewheel Village

Jeff H. provided a quick background on the changes to the catchment area for Elijah Smith in the past. The school population has gone down since this change was made in the past. However, he feels that a process should be put in to "flat-line" this, so that it is equal across the board and not affect the staffing at schools.

Takhini School was the overflow school for Elijah Smith (ES). ES would like to see our student numbers stabilize as this will help in alleviating some of this problems.

As well, feels that the Staffing formula should be moved to a needs base system instead.

Jessie asked if parents and community have been advised, or asked about this.

Ryan advised that is the reason they are at this meeting tonight to discuss and to ensure that the Guaranteed Reps. from the First Nations hear this feedback and information.

Christine Pottie, CELC, KDFN, inquired in to the students in the Robert Service way area. There are no students in this area at this time.

Megan asked about students who are out of catchment area. Would like to make sure that students go to the schools that are in their catchment area and not elsewhere.

Ryan advised that north end schools are crowded due to students not in the area.

Moving forward, the Dept. is advising families that students need to attend schools in their catchment areas.

There needs to be an improvement on the staffing formula. The Dept. is preparing to work on this, however, not at this time yet.

Jeff H. agrees this needs to be looked at as it has an impact on the population at Elijah Smith. Council is looking forward to working on this.

Ryan advised that his #1 is to re-engage the staffing allocation and look at the enrolment trends. There has been a 6300 increase in the school population in Whitehorse.

Hillcrest and Valleyview would be added to Elijah Smith attendance area on the Ministerial Order.

Council was asked to advise the community of these catchment changes and provide thoughts and questions to the Dept. attention Ryan Sikkes, by February 19, 2021.

Sean asked when the Ministerial Order will be completed. The team (Nicole and Ryan) have one more council to provide info to and then a decision will be made.

Sean also discussed the Staffing allocation process. This formula was done before the Truth and Reconciliation was completed and he would like to see adequate resources put in place. Ryan again advised his commitment to look at the formula.

Jeff C. asked if the transition position that works with Elijah Smith and Porter Creek School and Kwanlin Dun students will continue next year?

Nicole advised position will be held until the work is done to correct the staffing formula. ES has exemplified how the formula is not working, as well, with reference to the Reconciliation piece. Made a commitment to ES to hold the transition position

Will advise in a couple of weeks the results of attendance review results. Nicole and Ryan will discuss further the transition position.

Ryan and Nicole thanked council for the invite and will be in contact with reference to staffing

School council held roundtable discussions on how to advise parents and get feedback from the community and get input from parents on the attendance area review changes and the catchment area changes.

Perhaps do a survey, using Survey Monkey; paper contact, website; Facebook, etc.

This is to be a 3 way process: 1. Questionnaire, 2. Response, 3. Provide info to dept.

ACTION: Jessie to call Ryan to see if there is anything on file from past on this that could be shared with council.

Discussions on perhaps setting up a special meeting to discuss further.

3. Adoption of Minutes: Moved by Megan, second by Jeff, THAT the Minutes of Regular Meeting, January 5, 2021, be adopted. CARRIED

4. Parent Concerns:

Jessie discussed the wildlife that has been roaming around the community, school; i.e.: lynx, foxes, coyotes and others.

This should be put in the newsletter to make parents aware and cautious. Christine P. advised that due to the lynx scare, she walked a student home. This is a serious issue and is a safety issue for students!

Send a special note to parents to be more cautious and aware. Perhaps get a Conservation Officer to come and speak with the school about safety and about what to do.

ACTION: Jessie will call Conservation Officer tomorrow to discuss issue.

ACTION: Megan to put on Facebook and as well to advise

5. School Administration Report:

- Enrolment: 241 (projecting 255)
 - Jan. 29 – 100th Day of School
 - Jan. 12: PD day, met with YFNED and discussed framework and the K – Gr. 7 progress
- Have been granted to work in some schools. ES is waiting for Director from the Dept. to see if the students that may need assistance can or if they are already getting help not get duplicate. To be advised

MOA signed with KDFN – need to speak with first before working with YFNED

- Lions club is interest in working with KDFN re: kitchen food program
- Property Mgmt. advised the Roof is a priority and to be done in summer 2021
- New doors, windows, siding to be done over 2 years
- Summer: Garage in back is to be converted to pellet
- Blinds to be put up during March Break in classrooms which will help with lockdowns
- two more water stations have been ordered and may be installed during Spring Break, one for K – Gr. 1 and Gr 3 – music room area
- J. Leamon resigned Jan 29. Posting in the works to replace
- PA system still not working properly at the school. Has been an ongoing issue for a number of years!!

ACTION: School council to write a letter to address the PA system issue!!!

6. CELC:

Christine provided a report.

- Laptops were handout. Rosemary helped
- Wednesday meeting with administration
- Went to fish camp with Takhini School
- YFNED held a conference
- obtained 19 kick sleds, P/u 8, weather turned cold had to postpone
- Tutors on line since the 2nd week of January. Lost 2 tutors, only 1 left now
- Tutoring session has been added at Takhini School
- Is continuing visits, meet parents, getting to know the students
- visited Selkirk School, went skiing with a group of students from Selkirk
- Started handing out water bottles for KDFN students as an attendance initiative
- COVID survey, has been difficult for people to answer without WIFI
- Feb. 16: CDC invited to bring info to those parents whose children are not at Duska's daycare and reach out to them.
- Christine is working on a brochure with HR to have something in print for families to have information

7. Reports:

- 7.1 Transportation Committee: (Megan) Meeting has been postponed until Feb. 16 – 17.
- 7.2 School Diversity: No report
- 7.3 School Growth Plan: (Sean): Meeting to be held in February, Jeff C. to invite Sean

8. **AYSCBC:**
\$2000. Funding received to be given to the school for SWAG
9. **Treasurer's report:** Funding has been received, Balance in account is \$7,121.84. T4A info provided to the Dept. for processing.
10. **Old Business and Correspondence:**
Sean to write letter to the Mayor, City of Whitehorse with reference to the "Speed Cart" to be placed on Hamilton Blvd. by the school to monitor the speed of vehicles. Will request a timeline on the placement of these.
11. **New Business and Correspondence:**

ACTION: Megan to forward email re: Black cat program to all council members

12. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:24PM
Next regular meeting, March 2, 2021

ACTION: Jerry to contact council members prior to meeting to see if it to be held via Zoom or face to face.

Sean Smith:
Chair

Jerry Zahora:
Secretary Treasurer