## **ELIJAH SMITH SCHOOL COUNCIL**

# Minutes of Regular Meeting February 7, 2017 School Library

Present: Council Members: Administration:

Jeff Hunston: Chair Melanie Bennett: Principal Rachel Sutherland Jim Snider: Vice Principal Sue Stokes-Nash Sean Smith

Linda Moen

Jerry Zahora: Secretary Treasurer

Regrets: Lisa Ann Smith: Council Member

**Guests:** Honourable Minister of Education: Tracy Ann McPhee

Penny Prysnuk: Superintendent of Schools

Bob Walker: School Council Liaison

Johanne Koser: Destination Imagination, Yukon

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM

There were roundtable introductions.

2. Adoption of Agenda: Moved by Linda, Second by Sean, THAT the agenda be adopted.

**CARRIED** 

#### 2.1 Honourable Minister of Education: Mrs. Tracy Ann McPhee:

Mrs. McPhee introduced herself and provided a brief background. She has served on a School Council in the past so is familiar with their role. Came to ES to listen to the concerns, or issues. It is great to see the co-operation and working together with the council, administration and the First Nations.

The First Nations conference is to begin tomorrow.

Jeff thanked Mrs. McPhee for attending and spoke of the great school that Elijah Smith is. The great work with Kwanlin Dun and the teamwork and the consensus basis as well.

### 2.1.1 Hamilton Blvd. Egress:

There are traffic issues on Hamilton Blvd. whenever there is a function at the School, especially due to the traffic circle being at the entrance to the school. It has been suggested and discussed in the past with the previous MLA and Minister that perhaps an Egress be built, which would be a connection route from the parking lot to Hamilton Blvd. so that people could avoid going into the traffic circle.

There has been a commitment from the previous MLA that \$'s would be set aside for this, however has not happened. Council would like to revisit this issue and as well if costs are an issue, perhaps there could be other ways of making this happen. This could be used as an educational/training for students attending Yukon College, or securing some funding from the Federal Government. There were roundtable discussions on this.

- Experiential Programs: Elijah Smith School was the pioneer school that established the Bison Hunt every year. Other schools are now following suit.
   Not all students learn in a confined space and the outdoor environment is excellent.
   This is especially true from the First Nations perspective.
- 2.1.3 Cultural Inclusion Budgets: Getting funding has been a challenge and the school has to scrape for dollars to do the above hunt, or other programming. Council and administration would like to see this be inclusive in the budget. They see it as part of the Reconciliation process or it could be part of the new curriculum. Dollars for the experiential programming have to come from parts, cultural funds, Donations from other FN, such as CAFN, Carcross, or Fish and Wild Life, North of 60 Super Store and fundraising.

Approximately \$9,000. - \$15,000. is the cost of the hunt. This does not include the road clearance. This year there were 41 students who participated. Some other programs that have happened are:

- Kluane Hike Gr. 6
- Walking field trips Gr. 4
- Canoe trip, dogsledding Gr. 5

This year's Bison hunt was partnered with the Porter Creek Secondary School where Some students participated as well. This is a great way for them to participate, and earn some community credits. There were 4 Gr. 8 students this year, (Part of the LEAD program at PCSS). In total 45 students participated. They were successful in getting a bison.

Stacy's Butcher comes and processes the bison with the students.

Also, the cultural component of the hunt is the elders participate, students do some ice fishing, rabbit snaring. This year there was also some fat tire biking and x-country skiing. This is the 18<sup>th</sup> year of the bison hunt.

Mrs. McPhee agrees this is an important part of education and will be discussing further.

The application process if very time consuming and could be a line item in the School budget which would cut back on the time spent in processing this. This

time could be used to teach students.

Penny advised it is being looked and worked on at this time at the department level.

An interim report has to be prepared for this in May and finalized in Sept.

The application gets prepared, then goes to School Council, then to the Superintendent then to the Department, then to finance and then to administration.

If it was a line item it could be reported on after it is done.

Mrs. McPhee will discuss and advise.

2.1.4 Shelter for Fire Pit: Outdoor Experiential: The fire pit is used for a variety of functions. It is used as part of outdoor experiential to teach students. It is a challenge in the winter time due to the cold temperatures. Perhaps a shelter such a gazebo could be built (\$25,000.cost, have to fundraise to obtain).

The Kwanlin Eagles, Park Eagles (Boys and Girls Club) also suggested that there be planter boxes there as well, with traditional plants, which matches the school. Kawsha also does lots if instruction there, the Brownies, Sparks use it as well and so does the community.

2.1.5 Kitchen, Furniture: Some in need of replacing due to age are:

Desks, chairs, kitchen. This could be done one class at a time however it would wipe out the budget for the school. Some of the desks could be replaced with the stand-up desks, which are now being used elsewhere, however the cost is very high. The school is now 25 years old and the replacement of furniture has been identified by staff as well.

The kitchen is 25 years old as well and is wearing out. It does not serve the size of the school anymore. It is used for experiential as well. This helps the students transition to the high school level when the experiential teachings are done.

ES is doing teaching by subject. There are hour long blocks, there is FN teaching This will be monitored to see how successful it is in 2 year's time. Gr. 6 is being watched very closely to see how this helps them transition to high school and if it helps them.

Penny advised the transition process with the PC family of schools is to help the student's transition. PC offers LEAD program. They are also offering FN sports Hockey, soccer, as well hairstyling, esthetics, to help students stay engaged and pursue other things.

Mrs. McPhee advised the department is working on the school calendar packages which should be provided shortly. It could be a 4 year calendar to coincide with the new curriculum which will be a 4 year process.

Jeff feels things should not have to be cut back to make things work, and take away from one area for another.

Mental Health for both administration, staff and students is needed more, it is a challenge. There were roundtable discussions re: challenging students, challenges at the school to ensure the students are successful.

Linda discussed the "Totem Pole" in the centre of the roundabout in front of the school. This was in the original plan when the school was built. She feels it would help the student population have a sense of feeling like they belong.

It was suggested that maybe get funding as part of the Canada 150 celebration, and

Council thanked Mrs. McPhee for attending and are looking forward to working together.

2. Adoption of Agenda: Moved by Linda, second by Sean, THAT the agenda be adopted.

other things such as the Truth and Reconciliation.

**CARRIED** 

- **3. Adoption of Minutes:** Moved by Rachel, second by Sue, THAT the Minutes of Regular Meeting, January 10, 2017 be adopted. CARRIED
- **4. Parent Concerns:** Some parents have expressed an interest in having FN languages at the school. For students to have exposure to the different languages to be offered at the school Tlingit, Southern Tutchone were some suggested.

#### 5. School Administration Report:

- Enrollment: 289
- Feb. 28 Family Breakfast
- Bison Feast Thursday, March 2, for Gr. 7 and families
- Debriefing to be done on the hunt today. Went to Mile 29, couldn't go all the way due to the road not cleared,

Harry Smith CAFN – was the shooter

3 students came back earlier,

Team is putting an "I-book" of the camp which can be purchased or will be given as Gifts

There will be a presentation as well. Album of the hunt/camp will be on the website

- Kindergarten class: The Dept. is looking at the bigger influx of K students which is being anticipated. Will advise at a later date. Registration to begin on line
- Hockey Championships: ES got 1<sup>st</sup> place Gold and 3<sup>rd</sup> place Bronze
- The PBIS is being effective and a success
- **6. CELC:** A report to be provided at next meeting.

#### 7. Reports:

7.1 Transportation Advisory (Busing): No report

	7.3	School Growth Plan: Meeting to be held April 1	1.
8.	AYSCBC: No report		
9.	Treasurer's Report: Balance in account at end of January, \$5,784.45		
	<ul> <li>Old Business and Correspondence:</li> <li>New Business and Correspondence:</li> <li>11.1 Destination Imagination Presentation: Johanne Koser: Deferred to next meeting</li> </ul>		
12.	-	rnment: Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM egular Meeting: March 7, 2017	
Jeff Hunston:		on:	Jerry Zahora:
Cha	air		Secretary Treasurer

School Diversity – Meeting to be held

7.2