

**ELIJAH SMITH SCHOOL COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Regular Council Meeting**  
**June 2, 2020**  
**Via ZOOM**

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

**Present:**

**Council Members:**

Jeff Hunston: Chair  
Sean Smith  
Rosemary Waugh-Wilson  
Richard Bradford-Andrew  
Rachel Sutherland  
Amanda Leas  
Jerry Zahora: Secretary Treasurer

**Administration:**

Jeff Cressman: Principal  
Jim Snider: Vice Principal

**Guests:**

Lori Choquette: School Council Liaison  
Chris Gleason: CELC, KD

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:38PM
2. **Adoption of Agenda:** Moved by Richard, second by Rosemary, THAT the agenda be adopted. CARRIED
3. **Adoption of Minutes:** Moved by Richard, second by Sean, THAT the Minutes of Regular Meeting, May 7, 2020 be adopted. CARRIED
4. **Parent Concerns:**  
Sean discussed the challenges during this time. What is the plan with reference to Education now? How are we moving forward? Health and concerns, etc. with reference to COVID 19. When is education starting up again?
5. **School Administration Report:**  
Plans for re-entry from the Dept. Discussions on where it will be. 100%, 75%, or less? in August when school is to resume.

Will it follow the 25 per class guidelines max, or maybe have 12 at a time or maybe 75%? What about transitioning in the halls? 6 ft. apart? Plastic dividers between students? There are lots of discussions to be had, on whether students are going in part time, full time, or at different times? Maybe some on Mondays, some on Wednesdays, or Friday? Or the other days of the week?

What about the prep times for the teachers?

Will students come in at 9 to 12, the next at 1 to 3?

A lot of questions. What about the essential workers whose students (children) who may need to be in school full time....

EA's, who are also essential workers. What happens there?

Teacher at the school have young children as well. What happens with them?

Maybe have a rotation schedule for the students to come back in.

There are lots of questions to be answered and worked on at this time.

Hoping to have things in place or some kind of plan by the 12<sup>th</sup> of June (last day of school). Hoping to have committees in place during the summer to put things in place for the beginning of school in August.

The School has been cleaned out and are ready for the students. But cannot do anything until they hear from the Dept.

Sean also inquired as to what happens if a second wave of COVID 19 happens.

Who is responsible then?

There are no answers to this at this time.

Lori Choquette advised that it is up to the Chief Medical Officer at this time to provide guidelines and then everyone has to provide a plan.

Sean is having reservations on sending his daughter to school, especially if a 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of the virus is expected. This is where he would like to know about the opening of the school, maybe later on? Perhaps the end of September or even October?

August 19<sup>th</sup> is the opening date but is negotiable at this time.

Sean does not feel comfortable with August 19<sup>th</sup> start date at this time.

What about the health and welfare of the students?

Jeff H.: yes it is a "mixed bag" at this time. There could be more home schooling, start date could be delayed.

Perhaps gym times could be delayed or even cancelled, or music as well. The staff for these classes could be used to help with students to space out, etc. Ideas are being discussed. Such as: outside time (weather permitting), forest school, etc. There are different scenarios that are being discussed.

There were roundtable discussions on the precautions, safety of students, teachers, Health, etc. to keep the students and teachers safe and to teach the students about the precautions, safety.

Jim advised that \$19500. Has been received for outdoor education and attendance.

2 more proposals for: Fire smart and Whole Child funding has been submitted.

Reflections: put in to receive funding, Culture to reflect more. To purchase items for the Elders Room. Pictures of Elders or Chiefs . Need dollars available for pictures, videos, etc.

Elder's room: Glass room attached to the library will be an Elders Lounge. Trying to get tables for it.

Art pieces to do with language are being worked on.

Portable is now: ½ storage – snowshoes, outdoor equipment, etc.

½ is classroom: Usable spare space to be used for outdoor classrooms.

June 10: Celebrate Gr. 7: Noon to 1:00PM:

Drive in front of school,; Parents will then alphabetically drive students. There will be an eagle feather and mask with silk screen. Pizza and a dessert will be offered to take home. Plus a gift certificate. Students have fundraised \$16,000. Which equals to \$100. for each student: to purchase: backpacks, or shoes, etc.

You can watch, but stay in your car, (10 person guidelines are in place)

Other teachers are doing:

Gr. 6 BBQ ( on Friday) will be pre-ordered: hamburger, or hotdogs.

Staffing:

French Teacher: B. Cooper has retired.

.5 Gr. 1 teacher

.2 French Teacher

.2 ADS teacher, all closed today. Temporary jobs for the year

2 teacher are away on secondments. Waiting for clarification on these.

Transition teacher: School council can contact Superintendent to discuss #'s if they feel this is a concern.

Start date for school is August 19<sup>th</sup>. The Dept. has projected that the enrollment to be at 237. This is as per the staffing allocation formula.

To date it will be at least 253. If the school has the extra 17 students, staffing should be increased.

Breakdown for 2020-21 for the allocated 21.5FTE'S is:

K – Full

Gr. ½: Overfull (23)

Gr. 2/3: Overfull (23)

Gr. 4: 23 at this time

Gr. 4/5 (Protective classroom): 17 – 18 – can have 25: however, most are on IEP's or plans.

Gr. 5: 25 full

Gr. 6: 23

Gr. 6/7: 6 at gr. 6, rest Gr. 7: 3 spots left

Gr. 7: 23: 2 spaces left

There are only 2 spots left in the grade 4 level. (this is between Gr. 1 – 4)

The school is working with the superintendent on this issue.

School council to respond to Education re: staffing issues.

There were discussions with reference to staffing numbers, vs. students. And what EA's look like in determining FTE's for the school.

There are 13.5 EA's allotted to the school

8 students are on a One on One

4 ½ EA's are to be shared through the school

There are a 21.5 FTE's for the school.

The school could use 2 Counsellors as well.

Rosemary spoke with the Chief, Doris Bill and the Chief is willing to discuss issue with the Minister.

KD Council is to meet on Thursday to discuss with reference to the Staffing formula.

**ACTION:** School Council Jeff H) to write a letter to the Dept. (Chris Stacey) with regards to the staffing, transitioning position, (teaching position), with CC: to Lori Duncan, ADM, First Nation Initiatives, Chief of KD, Doris Bill, to engage all including the Minister of Education with reference to staffing at the school, and to invite all to future meetings.

**ACTION:** Letter to be written ASAP! before school ends to get things in motion.

Richard feels that the department will want to invest more when school resumes in the fall. This should happen sooner rather than later, as it will be more challenging after.

**MOTION:** Moved by Sean, second by Richard, THAT the ELIJAH SMITH SCHOOL COUNCIL makes a MOTION to write a letter to Chris Stacey, Superintendent of Schools, with Cc:s to Lori Duncan, ADM, First Nations Initiatives, Chief Doris Bill, KDFN, David Wipf, ADM, with reference to the transitioning position at the school, staffing formula.

**CARRIED**

**ACTION:** Letter to be sent to council members prior to forwarding.

**6. CELC:**

In contact with families and providing support where needed.  
Working with the school and KD to make things work.

**7. Reports:**

7.1 Transportation Advisory (Busing): No report

7.2 School Diversity: No report

7.3 School Growth Plan: Plan is to make student feel that they belong.  
This is being (was done) with drumming with the students, doing opening prayers,. Will be included in the plan. This should be written up prior to June 12.

ACTION: Jeff C. to email Jerry to distribute to all school council members

**8. AYSCBC:**

8.1 Spending of \$2000. Received: Deferred.

Jim advised that perhaps to help student with how they see themselves at the school or a smudging, or an elder's tea, or elder's room, or painting of a wall by the K room, is where the funds could be used.  
To be discussed further at a later time.

8.2 School Council Elections: Deferred to Oct. 5, 2020.

Lori Choquette School Council Liaison, advised that due to the elections being deferred until Oct. means the Contribution Agreement for School council funding will also reflect this by the extra 2 months. Paperwork for the elections will be available on line.

**9. Treasurer's Report:** Balance in account \$3,842.59. (This does not include the \$2000 from the AYSCBC)

**10. Old Business and Correspondence:**

Letter to be written by School Council !!!

**11. New Business and Correspondence:**

11.1 Council Meeting dates and times for 2020-2021:  
School Council to hold meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month  
At 6:30PM.

11.2 AGM tentative date: September 1, 2020:

AGM meeting date to be held: September 1, 2020 at 6:30PM, to be \ followed by Regular Meeting.

- 12. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:48PM.  
Next regular meeting, September 1, 2020

HAVE A GREAT AND HEALTHY AND SAFE SUMMER

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Jeff Hunston:  
Chair

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Jerry Zahora:  
Secretary Treasurer