

**ELIJAH SMITH SCHOOL COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**June 7, 2022**  
**School Library/Zoom**

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

**Present:**

<b>Council Members:</b> Sean Smith: Chair Megan Cromarty Jessie Dawson Jeff Hunston (Zoom) Doris Anderson Jerry Zahora: Secretary Treasurer	<b>Administration:</b> Jim Snider: A/Principal Jeff Cressman: Principal
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**Regrets:** Rachel Sutherland: Council Member  
Christine Pottie: ESC, KDFN  
Pam Booth: A/Vice Principal

**Guests:** Marilyn Marquis-Forster: Superintendent of Schools, Dept. of Ed.  
Melanie Abbott: Parent  
Andrew McLeod: Incoming Council Member  
Lauren White: Incoming Council Member

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:37PM
2. **Adoption of Agenda:** Moved by Doris, Second by Jessie, THAT the agenda be adopted.  
CARRIED
3. **Adoption of Minutes:** Moved by Doris, second by Jeff H. THAT the Minutes of Regular Meeting, May 3, 2022, be adopted.  
CARRIED
4. **Parent Concerns:**  
Megan said she was disappointed that Jeff Cressman was moved to Jack Hulland School permanently until the end of the school year. As well, the fact that it was discussed in the Legislature prior to letting parents/school council/school know.  
Feel this is short sighted to move the principal. Have lost faith in the Dept.

Melanie Abbott, a parent, has also voiced her concerns with the lack of communication or delay of communication to parents from the school. However, school administration

were advised by the Dept. that communication would be coming from the Dept. of Education, Communication team to the school first, then it can be shared with parents.

Jessie also voiced her concern with the lack of communication. Council was assured that Jeff Cressman would be staying at ES however, that is not happening. She has also heard from students who are upset and disappointed about this.

Jeff H. agrees. Lack of communication. Council did ask Mr. Sikkes at the previous Council meeting about what Plan B would be if JH cannot staff the principal position. We were assured it would be. Suggested we put some recommendations into the letter to the Department voicing concerns.

**ACTION:** Megan to write a letter for school council to Minister of Education voicing our concerns about the Principal ship for Elijah Smith, and Jack Hulland.  
To be CC'd to Chief of Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Chief of Kwanlin Dün First Nation.

Discussions on EA allocation for the school were discussed as well particularly the timing of this. This year the allocation process was earlier than in the past, however, it is felt it is still too late.

Allocation for 2022-23: 15.75 (13.5 for 2021-22)

Discussions took place with reference to safety in and around the school after the shooting which took place in Texas at an elementary school. Questions such as, communication, mental health, properly working PA system; safety issues.

Marilyn Marquis Forster, Superintendent will be bringing forward to Facilities about installing outdoor cameras and the PA system at the school to be repaired so it works properly in and around the school in all areas.

There is a presentation of Safe and Caring policies if council is interested . Administration and Dept. of Ed. could bring forward if School council would be interested. To be discussed at the Sept. meeting.

Andrew McLeod, incoming council member, suggested that a Code of Conduct Policy be provided, as it will go a long way towards educating students. It was suggested that perhaps Council form a committee to help work on this.

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

- Enrolment: 265
- May 11 – Kindergarten orientation, enrolment: 45, 3 K rooms
- Takhini is now part of Elijah Smith as home school

- May 26 – Family Games Night and Supper: Great turn out, Author from Vancouver came and spoke with students and parents, Families went home with games to play
- Jeff C. to speak at the Grade 7 graduation  
Email sent out to all parents re: events at the school
- BBQ, on Tuesday, from 12:00 – 1:00, Sports day from 1:30 – 3:00
- Thurs. June 9<sup>th</sup>, Family night to be held  
Details to be provided
- Tell Them From Me survey was done in May for Gr. 4 – 7
- Classroom compositions take place
- June 10 - Pink Eagles going to Harbottle Ranch
- Pink Eagles to Lumel Studios, (19 girls)
- Various activities and field trips during month
- June 8 – last day of experiential learning
- May 2 – PD Meeting on: Social Emotional Learning – ACCEPTS MODEL, and on how to help kids and staff with anxiety
- Krista Strand: is now, Manager of Education at KDFN
- Reading specialist in school 3 days per week for month of May
- TV's are being installed around the school showing announcements, etc
- Indigenous Art on walls
- Boards will be put over windows for the summer
- Tender for outside construction has been signed
- Sept/Oct: furnace to be completed  
Roof / siding will be worked on until snow flies
- Gate is being installed for Paramedics to enter soccer field
- Elder Parking spot has been established
- FOB system is being installed on staff door
- 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the school opening is to be held in the fall
- Clocks in school need fixing
- New application to be put in for Fire smarting
- Sensory room: working with consultant at DOE for high needs student(s) coming (i.e.: cushions, swing, etc.)

#### **6. CELC:**

- Students work on Graduation Vamps
- Welcome new Manager of Education: Krista Strand
- Youth Outreach workers make several connections with students in May
- Attend Gr. 8 transitions program information meeting to give parental support and introduce parents to Brandie Chetcuti: ESC at Porter Creek Secondary
- Continue to provide transition support to KDFN families that have K students entering in the fall
- Arranging for Duska to be invited to May 11<sup>th</sup> K open house, support parents with paperwork and attending Childhood Development meetings at parents request
- KD has begun work on Orange Shirt Project for Education Agreement schools for fall

More information coming in August

- Working on ensuring all KDFN students that need busing fill out forms
- Provide continued parental support through Jordan's Principle applications by collecting letters of support from Classroom teachers and LA teacher
- Hand Games tournament held May 27 at Jack Hulland School. Elijah Smith entered a student led team. They won 3/5 games
- Provide classroom support for Gr. 7 to work on Graduation Vamps when time allows
- Crosswalk continues to be a challenge.
- Parents are being informed about student placement. Confusion about proper procedures has created some challenging situations as work continues to get Gr. 7 students transitioned into Gr. 8.
- Christine is able to introduce to parents of 11 children that are entering K in August 2023 and have permissions slips for 8

## **7. Reports:**

7.1 Transportation Committee: (Megan): Apr. 26 meeting was held, discussions on installing cameras on buses, visibilities on buses

7.2 School Growth Plan: (Sean) No meeting held.  
Jim provided survey results to council

## **8. AYSCBC:**

- Spring Conference held May 28, 2022, at Yukon Inn. Approx. 14 schools were represented
- Elaine Taylor Executive Director, and Meagan Land, Legal representation, presented on the proposed changes to the AYSCBC Constitution and Bylaws, which are required to bring the Association into compliance with the new Society's Act.
- Reports presented by Chair of AYSCBC, Sandra Henderson, Elaine Taylor, Exec. Director and Treasurer, Amy McKinnon
- 2022-23 work plan is discussed
- New members of the Association:  
Amy KcKinnon, Haines Junction  
Sandra Henderson, Whitehorse  
Brent MacDonald, Dawson City  
Heather Milford, Whitehorse  
Robin Smarch, Teslin  
Jessie Dawson, Whitehorse
- School Councils hold Roundtable discussions with opportunity to present on the challenges and successes felt by each council this past year. Many councils described frustration with the Dept. of Ed. Particularly with communication and the "Revolving door" of Superintendents.
- Cynthia Lyslo, presents on the proposed Education Planning Initiative which is being done jointly between members of FH Collins, Selkirk and Ecole Whitehorse Elementary. Project is looking at catchment areas, student enrolment numbers,

facility capabilities and programs as they pertain to these schools. Once this phase of the project is completed, the intent then is to look at other “groupings” of schools to see differences and similarities and present this information to the Dept. to use as a tool moving forward.

9. **Treasurer’s Report:** Balance in account \$2,418.62

10. **Old Business and Correspondence:**

11. **New Business and Correspondence:**

11.1 Proposed AGM Date: September 6, 2022, at 6:30PM to be followed by Regular Meeting. Agreed.

School Council thanked administration for all their hard work and all the challenges that they had to endure.

12. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:34PM  
Next Regular Meeting, September 6, 2022, following AGM

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER

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Sean Smith:  
Chair

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Jerry Zahora:  
Secretary Treasurer