

**ELIJAH SMITH SCHOOL COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**March 1, 2022**  
**School Library**

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

**Present:**

<b>Council Members:</b>	<b>Administration:</b>
Sean Smith: Chair	Jeff Cressman: Principal
Jeff Hunston	Jim Snider: Vice Principal
Jessie Dawson	Pam Booth: A/Vice Principal
Megan Cromarty	
Rachel Sutherland	
Doris Anderson	
Jerry Zahora: Secretary Treasurer	

**Regrets:** Rosemary Waugh-Wilson: Council Member

**Guests:** Christine Pottie: KDFN ESC (Education Support Co-ordinator, CELC)  
Melanie Abbott: Parent  
Courtney MacLeod: Parent  
Shelly Sear: Parent  
Kari Unrau: Teacher  
Kelsey Hyatt: Teacher

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:03PM  
There were introductions around the table. Doris Anderson, the Ta’an Kwach’an Guaranteed Rep was introduced.
  
2. **Adoption of Agenda:** Moved by Megan, second by Jessie, THAT the agenda be adopted. CARRIED
  
3. **Adoption of Minutes:** Moved by Megan, second by Jeff, THAT the Minutes of Regula Council Meeting, January 4, 2022 be adopted. CARRIED  
  
Moved by Sean, second by Jeff, THAT the Minutes of Informational meeting of February 1, 2022, be adopted. CARRIED
  
4. **Parent Concerns:**

## 5. School Administration Report:

- Enrolment: 265 (as of end of February)
- Admin/Mental Health training (Feb 9 , 10, 11)
- Feb 18: Super Hero Day
- Feb 23: Pink shirt Day
- Feb 25: Report Cards go home
- Added class: More interest – no room at this time.
- K registrations on going, 24 at this time
- FN Art work at Carcross that was done, to be done at ES as well  
FN Art Work: suggested a committee to be formed to decide as to what art work to be done (School Council). Input from KDFN and Ta'an Kwach'an as well to form a committee to work on.
- Jessie advises that meeting with city have been held to discuss Traffic circle issue  
Will be looking into to discuss further with City.
- Jeff has met with city engineers to discuss. Looking at moving the flashing lights lower to make them more visible. Move the cement barriers..  
Sean discussed the dangerous speeds when coming out of the traffic circle.  
Suggested that both KDFN and TKCFN write and contact the city with issues.
- Pam Booth has been hired as the new VP
- Staffing: Megan inquired on how things are going at the school. With reference to staffing at the school? Jeff advised things re not ideal, but are better with new VP Pam Booth on board.
- There are 10 – 14 staff away almost every day. Staff is working hard to keep things going.  
Kari Unray (teacher) discussed these issues. LAT are being pulled for supervision and teaching duties, so students are not getting the support as much as they should be getting. Students and staff are struggling and it is very hard.  
There is a shortage of staff across the country due to COVID, staff and teachers are feeling burnt out.  
There were roundtable discussion on the staffing issue. Long-term plans were discussed.  
How much have students lost in the curriculum during these times?  
Special needs students, are they getting the support they need?  
How can School Council help?  
Administration: At this time they have no ideas to put forward, have been discussing with the Dept. of Ed. Feeling is that pay the TOC's (Teachers on Call) and EA's (Education Assistants) better which may help. Advocate to the Dept. Advocate even after the negotiations for the Teachers contract is finalized.  
Recruitment of EA's and TOC's is to make it better. Not just with emails, but perhaps go outside of the Territory to recruit more.  
Staffing is down 3 ½ EA's at this time at the school.  
Discussions on perhaps having volunteers on file that could come in on a regular basis, or perhaps email to invite to come in and assist. Perhaps put in the newsletter, was suggested by Andy MacLeod (Parent). As well, they would need

to be vaccinated and have a criminal records check. What can parents do to help the school out?

- Next year, school would like to continue with Family Nights, invest in the Parents/caregivers to help with i.e.: reading, etc.

Parent: Melanie Abbott: how about help with recess supervision; there is a need in bodies in the school to help and support students and teachers.

- School Council elections: Nomination are April 11, 2022, with Polling Date of May 2: May 3, results will be declared.
- Seeing as COVID restrictions are being lifted, after spring break, things will be different. Reading groups will happen again, with masks, hand sanitizing, School Council has no objection to this.
- Jeff Cressman advised that he is coming back to Elijah Smith School for next School year.
- Kari Unrau thanked council and Jeff for everything that is being done for the School to make it successful.
- suggesting that perhaps the School Newsletter be brought back; This will be looked at after spring break. Some families do not have access to internet, so cannot read it on line.
- Food at the School: working on, and will be looking at the menu. These needs to be tidied up  
Scheduling of food on a weekly basis. Students are wasting their lunches now. Healthier menus need to be shared
- Exterior painting, roofing, siding to be done within a year. Contractor has been hired to design the school renovations.
- On going problems with PA system
- Two sea cans have been added behind the school for storage and to make way for the heating system going into the garage.

## 6. CELC:

- Awaiting update from House of Learning re: tutoring
- support teachers and families by making connections continues, especially families that may not have Internet. Making sure paper copy of emails with information with important dates and "Fundraisers" is delivered to those
- K class goes skating on Feb. 8u. Tied skates and help a few on the ice
- Cross Country skiing is made possible with the help of KDFN Koyote Ski Club and RPAY . Got enough boots/ski's for both the Gr. 6/7 SM and Grade 4M to take them cross country skiing several times in February
- Kick sleds are also available from Feb 7 – 18<sup>th</sup>, with the focus on Primary Grades and students with that work 1:1. There were 12 small kick sleds and 4 large kick sleds (older students)
- support to classroom in Takhini

- Assist grade 3 and 4 teachers at Koyote Ski Club, several times in Feb
- Feb. 21 – 24 – no bus #12, No Bus #32 on Feb 21. Communication continues to be an issue
- Work on Attendance Initiative continues, with tracking student attendance
- Challenges: Attendance is continuing to be a challenge. COVID and Opioid crisis continues to touch many families

**7. Reports:**

7.1 Transportation Committee: (Megan)

Megan attended a meeting held on Feb. 15. Chris Hanlin, Lori Choquette attend as well. Dept. of Ed. handle the scheduling, taking of minutes of meeting. Will provide as soon as available.

Chris acknowledged that it has been a tough year for Standard Busing causing issues. Hope is next year is better.

Bus Planner app is available. Are working out the kinks to be able to work with Aspen.

Issues on bus: suggestions, do a bus boot camp, Standard offered. The Dept. of Ed. would cover the costs.

Next meeting scheduled in April.

7.2 School Growth Plan: (Sean):

No meeting has been held. To hold a meeting after spring break.

**8. AYSCBC:** No report. Working on a Spring School Conference.

School Council Elections are scheduled for April 11: Open of Nominations.

April 21, Close of Nominations

May 2: Polling day, and May 3<sup>rd</sup>, results to be declared

**9. Treasurer's Report:** Balance in account is \$, 141.62.

**10. Old Business and Correspondence:**

10.1 Traffic Update: Discussed under Principal's Report

Letter to be prepared between the 2 First Nations, KDFN and Ta'an Kwach'an to be included.

**ACTION:** Megan and Sean to work on.

10.2 SWAG update: (Megan). No update

**11. New Business and Correspondence:**

11.1 Teacher Appreciation:

Megan to reach out to parents to get some info

**ACTION:** To be checked into and see what can or could be done to show appreciation to the teachers

11.2 Support to staff member: To be discussed in camera

**MOTION:** Moved by Rachel, second by Jessie, THAT the Elijah Smith School Council moves into camera at 9:02PM **CARRIED**

**MOTION:** Moved by Rachel, second by Jessie, THAT the Elijah Smith School Council moves out of camera at 9:18PM. **CARRIED**

**12. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:19PM  
Next Regular Meeting, April 5, 2022

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Sean Smith:  
Chair

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Jerry Zahora:  
Secretary Treasurer