

ELIJAH SMITH SCHOOL COUNCIL
Minutes of Regular Meeting
March 6, 2018
School Library

Present: **Council Members:** **Administration:**
 Jeff Hunston: Chair Jim Complak: A/Principal
 Sean Smith
 Sue Stokes-Nash
 Linda Moen
 Rosemary Waugh-Wilson
 Jerry Zahora: Secretary Treasurer

Regrets: Rachel Sutherland: Council Member
 James Snider: Vice Principal
 Cynthia James: CELC

Guests: Bob Sharp
 Souhail Soujah: A/Superintendent of Schools

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:38PM.

2. **Adoption of Agenda:** Moved by Sean, second by Linda, THAT the agenda be adopted with the following addition: Add: #11.7: Contribution to the Johnstone Family CARRIED

2.1 Presentation: Bob Sharp:
Bob introduced himself briefly and provided a bit of background info. Was an educator in the Territory for many years. Now he is building greenhouses with his son and has been gardening since the 60's. Is designing greenhouses for cold climate. Has donated a greenhouse to Elijah Smith which unfortunately got destroyed. He suggested that he can repair it and maybe revamp it. However, it will still probably get vandalized. There were roundtable discussions as to the location of the greenhouse on the school property so it is more visible as this may prevent future vandalism. Other suggestions, perhaps community gardening which might be another solution to this.

The greenhouse could be used to teach students from K and up on growing. Could be part of the experiential learning. It would teach students how they can start from seeds, grow, harvest and then enjoy what they grew.

Bob suggested he could repair greenhouse. Costs would be paid by the school to do so.

ACTION: Jim to discuss further with staff and then advise.

2.2 Souhail Soujah:

Souhail advised council that the new Deputy Minister of Education, Rob Wood, is working on a new strategic vision and will be sharing this with the Principals in May. After their presentation, it will be shared with rest.

ACTION: A letter to invite Deputy Minister, Rob Wood to the June Meeting. Jerry to prepare.

There is a bit of “extra” funding available at this time which could be accessed before year end.

A laser cutter is available to Elijah Smith which can do plaques, engraving, etc.

The position for the Principal to be posted was discussed. This is to be discussed further once more info is available.

Elijah Smith School lost 1.5 FTE. The Department is looking at the allocation of staff at the school. Elijah Smith School is a unique school and it is felt that the staff cuts are not in the best interest of the school. There are approximately 60 students with needs at the school and this should be looked at as well.

Souhail will discuss this with the staffing allocation committee.

ACTION: A letter to invite Minister Dendys to the April/May meeting is to be prepared by Jerry.

ACTION: School Council to write letter with reference to the staff allocation and the cuts to staffing at the school.

3. Adoption of Minutes: Moved by Rose, second by Linda, THAT the Minutes of Regular Meeting, January 9, 2018 be adopted. CARRIED

Moved by Sue, second by Sean, THAT the Minutes of Regular Meeting, February 6, 2018 be adopted. CARRIED

4. Parent Concerns: No Report.

5. School Administration Report:

- enrolment 264
- Feb 1: Polar Games Gr. 6 completion Dance at ES – (Approx. 350 students attend) was a great success
- Feb 2: Valentine’s Dance with other schools (Approx. 200 students) great success
- Feb 14: Performance at the KDCC by the Chunday Dancers was excellent.

Theme was “Together today for our children tomorrow”. Was noted in the local newspaper.

- Feb. 21: Another performance by the Chunday Dancers at the Westmark
- Facilities: leak in ceiling of stage. Temporary fix to stop leak. A new trap door in music storage area to allow access for a permanent fix at a later date.
- There is still no communication with office and teachers, who are using their own cell phones, PA system not working properly. This is a liability for the students and staff.

ACTION: Jim to send an email to Trevor at the Property Management with a cc: to Souhail.

- School is to receive 75 new iPads, 50 laptops, 20 IMacs, which are to be received and in place for beginning of new school year.
- Gr. 4 classroom teacher has been hired. New EA to replace teacher going on Mat leave.

MOTION: Moved by Linda, second by Sue, THAT the Elijah Smith School Council makes a Motion to approve a field trip to Kluane, Muskrat Camp, for Gr. 6 in May.

CARRIED

6. CELC: Deferred until next meeting.

7. Reports:

- 7.1 Transportation Advisory (Busing): No report
- 7.2 School Diversity: No report
- 7.3 School Growth Plan: No report

8. AYSCBC: Reminder for council members to register if they are attending the Spring School Council Conference.

9. Treasurer’s Report: Balance in account at end of February, \$6,255.95.

10. Old Business and Correspondence:

11. New Business and Correspondence:

- 11.1 AED. EPI Pens: This will be discussed further with the MLA.
- 11.2 Traffic Infrastructure: Letter from Dept. of Education:
A letter was received from the Dept. of Ed. with reference to traffic safety around the school. The school and council has requested in the past, that an outbound access at the West end of the parking lot to reduce parking lot congestion when there are a large amount of vehicles leaving at the same time. This is very evident at the end of the school day, or after a community or school special event. Council held roundtable discussions regarding this issue. To be

discussed further at April's meeting. Deadline for response to the Dept. is April 6, 2018.

- 11.3 School Zone Traffic Infrastructure: Council discussed how to slow traffic around school and through the traffic circle.
- 11.4 Early Childhood Education: School is looking at perhaps offering something at the school such as a Montessori program for pre K or Jr. K. These are early discussions and the school will look at different options. To be discussed further once more info is available.
- 11.5 Code of Conduct: Discussion on how students are treated on a variety of behaviours when they enter the high school. Students at ES learn one way, and the PC school handles this differently. School would like to look at this so there is a "flow" between the schools and more of a consistency in dealing with this. This is to help students transition into the high school better. The Code of Conduct is on the PC website and as well the Pelly school, Eliza VanBibber's website.

ACTION: Jim Snider and Jim Complak to work on.

RCMP are coming to the school in April to speak with students regarding Cyberbullying, sextexting.

- 11.6 Staff Allocation: KDFN Letter of Support. Discussed with Souhail at beginning of meeting. Chief Doris Bill supports Council and school in the staffing at the school.
- 11.7 Contribution to the Johnstone Family:

MOTION: **Moved by Linda, Second by Sean, THAT the Elijah Smith School Council makes a MOTION to donate \$150.00 to the Johnstone Family to help.**

CARRIED

12. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:43PM
Next regular meeting, April 3, 2018

Jeff Hunston: Chair

Jerry Zahora: Secretary Treasurer