

ELIJAH SMITH SCHOOL COUNCIL
Minutes of Regular Meeting
May 3, 2022

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

Present:

Council Members:	Administration:
Sean Smith: Chair	Jeff Cressman: Principal
Jeff Hunston	Jim Snider: Vice Principal
Rachel Sutherland	Pam Booth: A/Vice Principal
Doris Anderson	
Jerry Zahora: Secretary Treasurer	

Regrets: Jessie Dawson: Council Member
Megan Cromarty: Council Member
Rosemary Waugh-Wilson: Council Member

Guests: Ryan Sikkes: ADM: Student Support Services, Dept. of Ed.
Lori Choquette: School Council Liaison: Dept. of Ed.
Christine Pottie: CELC, KDFN
Marilyn Marquis-Forster: Superintendent of Schools
Melanie Abbott: Parent
Andrew McLeod: Parent (incoming council member)

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:42pm
There were introductions around the table.

2. **Adoption of Agenda:** Moved by Jeff H. second by Rachel, THAT the agenda be adopted.
CARRIED

2.1 Guests: Ryan Sikkes: ADM. Student Support Services:
Ryan introduced himself and thanked council for letting him attend. Shared the history about Jeff Cressman at the school, and helping out at JH School as well. As there is still a criminal investigation going on at that school, plus other issues, Jeff C. is to remain at JH full time until the end of the school year.
Jim Snider will be the full time A/Principal at Elijah Smith in the meantime.

Jeff C. will come to ES when he can for things such as K-orientation, hiring of new staff, staff meetings, or when he is needed.

Jeff H. supports this as it is only for 7 weeks, and is doable and has great confidence in

Jim. The only concern is the outcome of the hiring of the new principal at JH. If this does not happen, then what.

Ryan advised that Jim and Pam are a good team and work well together and at this time this is in the best interest of JH and ES. Jim has confirmed this as well.

Sean also confirmed that the great teamwork of Jim, Jeff C. and Pam has been very positive.

There have been names put in for the principal ship at JH. However, no other info can be provided as this is a confidential HR part and will not be shared at this time.

There is a meeting on May 5th, to discuss findings. With reference to JH findings.

Sean inquired into what is Plan B? re: Principal recruitment.

Ryan advised that he is very optimistic the hiring will happen, and the process is early enough to be successful.

Council thanked Ryan for attending and providing info.

- 3. Adoption of Minutes:** Moved by Jeff, second by Doris, THAT The Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 5, 2022, be adopted. CARRIED

4. Parent Concerns:

1. Supervision on Playground: Concerns were brought up with younger kids being bullied on the playground by older kids. Such as, swearing, bullying, pushing which has escalated recently.

This is being dealt with by administration. (student is also doing on bus) Is being helped with an EA and not allowed outside during recess.

Andrew McLeod (Parent, incoming council member), has had children at his house recently who have mentioned the bullying going on as well.

Jeff C. advised, that they look at each of these incidents case by case and work on resolving them.

Patrick Whyard, Counsellor at the school is also working on.

If there is a physical altercation at the school, the first time, the student goes home. Comes back to school with a parent and no outside recess allowed.

If it continues, then 3 days no recess, and there are conversations with student and parents.

If it still continues, then 5 days no recess, and very serious conversations take place to try and figure out why this is happening.

Administration works with families and student to help and to communicate.

Code of Conduct: Jeff C. and Jim have started working on this almost 3 years ago; will be looked at again in the fall.

Sean has heard about these issues as well. The behavioral issues around the school. Wondered if perhaps it is the time of the year as well, or a specific age group. This could be a number of things, such as, anger, frustration; sadness; disfunction;

Discussions were held about the impact of Music, art, creativity and finding ways of engaging students in their feelings in a positive way. Perhaps look at changing some of the curriculum in order to support these students and help them to regulate their feelings, etc.

Some of this is being done already, such as the Growth Mind Set, which the School Growth Plan is working on. YFNED is also bringing in some of the Cultural programming into the school. This is all to make students have the feeling of belonging at the school.

This was also discussed at the recent PD Day, with social/emotional, coping skills Jim suggested that perhaps we need to help parents as well to help “train them up” in order to meet the needs of the students, parents and families.

Doing the Family nights is also very helpful. This is to encourage positive feelings. Will be doing things such as: pizza night, bowling, board games.

Marilyn Marquis-Forster (Superintendent) also spoke about the “psyche of the arts” which is very helpful. As well, phys-ed, arts.

2. Staffing Issue: There were 5 teachers out one day; which is creating some anxiety amongst some students.

Andrew McLeod (Parent incoming council member) can appreciate the staffing shortages which are everywhere at this time.

This is being dealt with as best as can be as well. Admin is aware and working on. A new phys-ed teacher has been hired. As well, ES has an Arts Teacher! There will also be more cultural programming at the school.

Jeff H. spoke of the importance to have these as well. Especially music. Feels this should be provided by the Dept. of Ed. as this helps students And of course teachers are required for this.

5. School Administration Report:

- Enrolment: 265
- Family breakfast held April 14 – Great turn out. YFNED helped as well by cooking, etc.
- Earth Week – April 19: School Yard clean up / litter free lunch held
- River to Ridges – April 29 – spoke to classes (2/3F)
- Health and safety meeting held April 21
- School Growth Plan meeting held April 22
- PA System: still not working properly: School is not doing announcements in the am or bells;

ACTION: Admin. to contact Marilyn Marquis-Forster with info on the PA system and the issues.

- Tender for outside construction closed on March 31/22: When show is gone, it will start. Renovations to include, windows, siding, roof, insulation, doors.
- 3 large TV's have been installed in each wing
- Work in MPR is under way. New screen projector and speakers to be installed. Waiting for motor
- New curtains on stage
- Sept. is the **30th Anniversary of Elijah Smith School opening.**
- Heating system: Needs to be flushed once school is done for the year
- Jacob ? – hired as the new Phys Ed teacher
- Interview EA today
- June 14: Farewell for Gr. 7
- June 16: Last day of school

6. CELC: Christine provided a report:

- Transition meeting held with CDC on Apr. 14, successful and well attended
Good turnout of parents. KD Families were invited by Michelle King from the CDC to come to ES. Duska provided meal and meeting as as ES school. There was an intro to Student Support Services and KD Education Support Co-ordinator (Christine)
- Support teachers and families by making connections with families that do not have internet or phone
- Provide support to students and families that have to self-isolate by providing student work and keeping parents connected with teachers
- Work on Attendance Initiative continues, tracking student attendance. Once this is wrapped up a draw for a bike will be done
- Provide classroom support to Takhini Elem. Several times per month Gr. 2/3 explore area behind Koyote Ski Club, Gr. 2/3 and Gr. 4 had George Bahm out to explore fire making. Gr. 4/5 and Gr. 6 make shelters
- KDFN hires a New manager of School Age Children to start on May 9.

- Also, approval to hire another Ed. Support Coordinator. Competition will be going out soon. This person will be designated to Elementary School and will share the office space at ES. This is to help at the Elementary school level.
- Class room support: Fish dissection – Gr. 5/6, Saved the skins to do skin tanning
- Support provided to Duska to give better direction to their circle time to ensure that students coming into Kindergarten program have practice with vocabulary that will help them see success in K, and to also become familiar to the students.
- Planning with KDFN ESC's and KDFN Cultural Coordinator for Orange Shirt has begun, This is for the fall
- Ensuring that KDFN students are getting opportunities to enhance their transition into K classes and as well, going from Elementary to PC high school
- In coordination with the Gr. 2/3 teacher, a Language Assessment was completed in March.

7. Reports:

7.1 Transportation Committee: (Megan) Deferred to next meeting

7.2 School Growth Plan: (Sean) Concentrating on the Growth Mind Set Family night, breakfast, looking at doing next week.
This is to include games for the kids, speaker to speak to the parents.
Author of "Raising Strong Daughters and Strong Children" is set to speak.
The School Growth Plan is a living document and being updated at all times

8. AYSCBC: There is an AGM being held on May 27 – 28 at the Yukon Inn. It will be electing new executive members. There will also be opportunities for school councils to speak and bring forward their accomplishments. For more info, check their website.

9. Treasurer's Report: Balance in account, \$3,071.62

10. Old Business and Correspondence

11. New Business and Correspondence:

Sean discussed attending a Zoom meeting held by the AYSCBC and FH Collins to discuss the Education Planning Document. This is to engage Yukon School Councils in a broader community discussion about education priorities (programming and infrastructure needs) and possible solutions. Areas to assess (but not limited to) could include: catchment areas and a review of school assets to determine what is possible programmatically and/or determining which students should be served by different programs and limiting or expanding resources for them. The scope of the work is to identify school councils which may want to participate in this review, as well, assemble an advisory committee comprising of representation of interested school councils to help guide the review including the finalization of the scope of work for this project.

This meeting was held over Zoom and all of ES council members were invited to attend.

12. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM
Next Regular meeting: June 7, 2022

Sean Smith:
Chair

Jerry Zahora:
Secretary Treasurer