

**ELIJAH SMITH SCHOOL COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Special Meeting**  
**August 19, 2020**  
**Via ZOOM**

*“School Council would like 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.”*

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Council Members:</b> Sean Smith: A/Chair Richard Bradford-Andrew Rosemary Waugh-Wilson Rachel Sutherland Jerry Zahora: Secretary Treasurer	<b>Administration:</b> Jeff Cressman: Principal Jim Snider: Vice Principal
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**Regrets:** Jeff Hunston: Chair

**Guests:** Chris Stacey: Superintendent of Schools, Dept. of Ed.  
Lori Choquette: School Council Liaison  
Therese Lindsay: KDFN

**1. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:35PM

**2. Discussions:**  
Chris Gleason: CELC, has left his position and started a new position for the FN Initiatives.

Cynthia James will resume her position as the CELC.

Sean discussed the issue of wearing masks and why are they not mandatory at the school. There will be times when social distancing is not possible. The countries that have made masks mandatory have seen lower numbers in the cases of the virus. He has heard concerns coming from parents, teachers. Feels there has not been enough engagement on this issue.

Chris Stacey thanked Sean for all his concerns expressed. Did emphasized that the Dept. is concerned about all the students and staff at the schools. The Dept. of Ed. is taking direction from the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) on this important issue. The health and safety from his direction is a National direction as well. This also changes every day. If this changes and the advice from the CMO changes, the Dept. will enforce the use of masks as well or any other direction provided.

Lori C. discussed the use of masks. The Robert Service School Plan: There were conversations with the School Council and the FN community. And at this time, masks are not mandatory. However, there may be times when the use of masks is necessary.

As a School council, will have to do consulting with the community to see if it is to be made mandatory using masks.

If School Council makes this decision then they will also have to enforce this. The disposal of masks will have to be very safe and stringent as well.

Richard agrees that masks are a great idea, especially with people who have compromised systems. This can be a great tool; however, kids can be terrified of this as well.

Rachel agrees with wearing of masks. Plus having the sanitizers in each classroom, and throughout the school to help.

Jeff C. advised there are now red lines and arrows in the school. There is also foot activated sanitizing stations. There were 5 more purchased by Elijah Smith School.

Every entry door, each class has one as well. Every classroom in the school has a sink as well. This is to help with washing hands, plus the sanitizing. A video of Betty Burns is being shared to show how to properly wash hands.

These measures have been planned all summer to ensure the safe return of students.

Rachel advised that her daughter is having a hard time with masks. As they are in Vancouver at this time, she advised that there is sanitizing everywhere and masks have to be kept on at all times.

Jeff C. advised there are enough masks at the school. If a student wishes to have a mask then they can. Some teachers and staff are wearing them as well.

Rosemary is in Calgary and advised that masks are being worn there at all times as well.

A concern shared by council is recess, walking the hallways. It will be hard to keep students apart during these times or in the playground. Perhaps keep masks on at that time.

Chris advised that the outside environment is safer than the inside environment.

Sean appreciates every ones input in to the wearing of masks. He did point out that in BC masks are worn outside as well. Feels that there are still people who are

downplaying the seriousness of the pandemic. Feels we have to come together as a whole to fight this Virus!!!!

Chris suggested that perhaps someone from the CMO office could come and discuss with council. Suggested that perhaps Katherine Elliott, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, as she may be able to provide additional resources to the school(s)?

There is allocation of staff, extra cleaning, etc. in place. Custodians had a meeting as well, as there will be extra cleaning done at 10:30 am and before 8AM and until 5:00PM when necessary.

If a student shows symptoms of illness, there will be extra cleaning done there as well.

There are discussions re: teaching staff and extra funding.

Sub Teachers: when teachers are away due to illness. Financial resources are being discussed for extra teachers, and cleaning supplies for the school as well. It is the hope to obtain extra funding.

Therese Lindsay, KDFN advised that she has discussed this with the Deputy Minister. Was advised that at this time there is no extra funding but the Principals should keep a good record of any expenses including sub teachers.

Sub teachers are being moved between schools as necessary. A discussion with the CMO office was held prior to this being done. This should not pose a health risk.

Lori C. advised that information was shared with the Chairs of Schools Councils during Meetings in the summer, i.e.: COVID expenses.

These are unprecedented times and everything that is being done is to help keep students and communities safe.

Sean also voiced his concern about teachers “burning” out. Would like the school to monitor this.

Chris and Lori will discuss the CMO’s office attending the meeting on Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>.

Busing issues: Numbers of riders at ES are down. This is due to the 3.2km enforcement of being able to take the school bus. This will be an issue as Transit only allows 11 people on their bus. School buses only seat 2 students in a seat, unless they are from the same family. Standard has added 3 more buses to help out.

There were roundtable discussions with reference to the busing issues, such as, the lack of, 3.2km, limit of students.

Jeff C. feels the Dept. needs to start enforcing some things and not leave everything up to the schools to deal with.

Lori C. hears the concerns and advised it has been very tough! Made a suggestion that someone from the dept. be at the bus stop to help out. Chris and Lori to discuss and work on.

Sean suggested that maybe there is a "Bus Monitor" on the bus to help in training students on how to be on a bus. At this time, there are no bus monitors on the buses.

**3. Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 7:56PM

Next special meeting scheduled: Tuesday, August 25, 2020, via Zoom

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Sean Smith:  
A/Chair

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Jerry Zahora:  
Secretary Treasurer