



MINUTES
REGULAR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Date: February 16, 2021
Time: 5:30 p.m. (via Zoom call)

In Attendance

Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cassandra Wheeler (Chair) • Amy McKinnon (Treasurer) • Marsha Sparvier (Councillor) 	Staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian Eleniak (Vice-Principal)
Regrets: M. Mann (Principal)	Guests: N/A
Minute Recorder: Laurette Sylvain (Secretary)	

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

With the addition of “*CAFN guaranteed representatives*” to the agenda, it was moved by Amy McKinnon and seconded by Cassandra Wheeler that the agenda be adopted as amended. All approved.

3. Approval of the Previous Minutes

B. Eleniak identified the need for a correction to the first bullet under “Other general discussion” on page 4. “Food program” should be corrected as being “food cooking course”. It should read as follows: “*She added that a way of offering food cooking courses to high school students is still being explored. Art 10 and 11/12 is being offered in place of a Food course.*” It was moved by Cassandra Wheeler and seconded by Amy McKinnon that the minutes of January 19, 2021 be adopted as amended All approved.

4. Community Input

N/A

5. Principal's Report

Further to the Principal's report sent by email to Council members on February 16, 2021, B. Eleniak added the following information on behalf of M. Mann:

- Semester change-over is an especially important part of the year for educational purposes because February and March seem to be more productive months as compared to April and May.
- The students from Grades 1-12 really enjoyed the Aboriginal Sport Circle PE sessions facilitated by Eric Porter on Jan. 28-29.
- He went over the other activities and meetings from the report.
- Attendance at staff meetings are being split; elementary and high school.

B. Eleniak expanded on the items under "Information/Discussion" as follows:

2021-2022 Staffing Allocation and Staffing Plans – Feb 25, 2021

Staff need to submit their plans for next year before Feb. 25, 2021. We will have 15 full-time teachers but there is no indication of an increase in staffing for the 2nd LAT position which we would like to have.

2021-2022 Para-professional Requests - March 5, 2021

The requests for Education Assistants, which involve quite a complex formula, are due March 5th. This is a tight timeframe as we are already Feb. 16th and there are student conferences this week.

Foundation Skills Assessments (Gr 4 and 7) – Feb 15th – March 12, 2021

The foundational skills assessment is going ahead. M. Mann received all the documentation for that for Elementary and Intermediate grades.

Yukon Education Early Learning – Full Time Kindergarten and K4

YE is moving forward with the full-time kindergarten. There are a lot of unknowns such as whether we will get extra personnel to make that happen and whether we will have adequate space for them, especially with COVID guidelines. B. Eleniak explained that his understanding is that if there are 18 kids or less in K4/K5, one teacher is assigned. If there are 19 students or more, the class can be split in two classes with one teacher per class. B. Eleniak said it would be nice to have a split class and extra staff, especially with students in that age group.

Amy McKinnon inquired as to whether any parents from children in this age group have raised concerns as she heard that other communities have identified concerns.

B. Eleniak responded that he has not heard from parents, but we might hear more.

A. McKinnon asked if M. Sparvier had concerns as it would impact her at a personal level. M. Sparvier commented that she thought it was good and that it was needed, as more learning needs to be done before students start in all-day classes. C. Wheeler thought that perhaps kids coming out of daycare might be better prepared as opposed to kids from home who may find the transition a bit more difficult.

B. Eleniak encouraged Council members to refer any parents who may have concerns to contact the school's administrator.

Special Education/Inclusive Education Review: YTA Grievance

YTA has filed a grievance which is primarily based on lack of consultation on the IEP process. L. Sylvain mentioned that the grievance was emailed to Council members by M. Mann today, and B. Eleniak thought that it was sent to staff as well. It outlined the impacts to students but also staffing needs and reduced resources. B. Eleniak expressed that there are legal differences between an IEP and a SLP (Student Learning Plan). He said that Council would be kept informed as to the outcome.

St. Elias Technology Refresh for 2021 – Planning Process

Technology is being refreshed as old computers are being replaced with new ones. The new computers do not have the ability to use USB sticks, but rather have a plug-in component. The move is towards working in a Cloud. B. Eleniak said he preferred a zip drive and said that there is more capacity with desktops. Numbers of iPads vs. laptops are being reviewed on a spreadsheet. There may not be as many as in the past, which is unfortunate because things are getting more digital, especially during COVID. He added that a WiFi upgrade will be done to increase WiFi capacity. *Amy McKinnon requested that this item be brought forward to the next meeting to follow up at next month's principal report and learn more about the formula.*

B. Eleniak will provide numbers of computers with the refresh. It may be possible for these to be emailed by M. Mann before the next regular meeting in March. If numbers are low, Council will discuss the need to write a letter to the Department.

Every Student Every Day Attendance Initiative - Update

Last year, funding in the amount of about \$10K was received from a proposal submitted by E. Charlton to provide a comfortable safe space for complex-need students, including seating and devices.

B. Eleniak asked if there were any questions regarding the report presented. L. Sylvain mentioned that there was a glitch in accessing Yukon Education's job postings from hand-held devices, and after reporting the issue to M. Mann, this was rectified by IT. B. Eleniak said it has been difficult to fill certain positions.

Amy McKinnon requested specific numbers in terms of numbers of computers received as a result of the refresh. *B. Eleniak confirmed that those numbers would be provided to Council.*

6. Treasurer's Report

Further to the Treasurer's report sent by email to Council members on February 15, 2021, Amy McKinnon shared the following:

As of February 15, 2021, the School Council ledger account balance is **\$1,124.86**. We have over-expended our operating grant as we had not yet received the new funding.

Amy McKinnon stated that Cassandra Wheeler has recently received a cheque for the new funding. Therefore, the section on "2020-21 Funding" can now be updated to reflect

that the cheque in the amount of \$6500.00 has been received. A. McKinnon mentioned that we average around \$600 per meeting. Our expenses are not too high due to COVID.

2020 Tax Year Honoraria Summary

On January 28, 2021, the Department of Education contacted Chair Cassandra Wheeler to request a summary of all honoraria paid to St. Elias Community School Council members for the year 2020 with a deadline of January 29, 2021 (the next day). It appears a November 2020 request had been made but had never reached us. This summary has now been completed and was submitted to the Department.

Amy McKinnon voiced her concerns to Lori Choquette that we had not received the letter and that communication needs to improve.

7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

a) Standing Items (refer to agenda)

- **All members:** brainstorm how to make use of our professional development (PD) and breakfast club funds.

It was suggested that each member bring ideas to the next meeting.

- **L. Sylvain:** will submit J. Chambers and A. McKinnon's names to Amanda Daub for representation on the Advisory Committee on Yukon Education (ACYE).

L. Sylvain contacted Amanda Daub who informed her that a selection for a rural representative has not yet been made but that the meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 7th. If St. Elias School Council was selected, only one representative would be chosen but the other could act as alternative.

- **M. Joe:** will follow up with Marlaine Joe on the selection of the new CAFN school council members. (done)
- **M. Mann:** will ask the President of YTA for a copy of the Policy grievance re: IEPs.

M. Mann emailed members the grievance forwarded from YTA.

b) Advisory Committee on Yukon Education (ACYE) representatives –

C. Wheeler/L. Sylvain (done)

c) Bookkeeping Support – A. McKinnon

This was deferred to the next meeting, although L. Sylvain did offer to assist Amy McKinnon in the interim, as required.

8. New Business:

- a) Member's Roles – deferred to next meeting when we have our CAFN representatives.
- b) Fundraising – after looking at bank balance, C. Wheeler suggesting that fundraising will need to happen if we want grad gifts for this year. M. Sparvier suggested a virtual silent auction. M. Sparvier asked if the students were doing fundraising and B. Eleniak responded that the grad committee may have done a bit of fundraising although he did not think that there were plans in doing pizzas this year. Amy McKinnon said there was quite a bit in the kitty already, as there would be some funds remaining from last year. Last year, the budget was close to \$3K for moccasins, etc. *B. Eleniak will follow up with M. Mann regarding current money available for 2021 grad. C. Wheeler offered to ask Isabelle Piche as she has done some online fundraising and how she sets that up; e.g. online bingo. Each of us can bring ideas to the next meeting.* It was clarified that School Council does not draw on the grad class fundraising but rather fundraise separately for gifts. C. Wheeler added that Council could help pitch in on their grad activities.

B. Eleniak will follow up as to see the money available for 2021 grad, as well as provide the number of students graduating and a list of their names.

- c) Every Student, Every Day Attendance Initiative –

B. Eleniak mentioned that M. Mann is canvassing staff for proposals for the above initiative. The deadline is March 10th. \$150,000 will be distributed amongst successful Yukon applicants and those will be announced in April. B. Eleniak invited members to share ideas. He shared examples of possible requests for such items as sewing machines, shop equipment, drum kits, etc.

Amy McKinnon shared that School Council may not be able to apply for funding but suggested supporting any school's proposal(s). She suggested that we could offer administrative support with polishing up proposals from school staff in terms of updating the application form. L. Sylvain offered that she could provide administrative support to assist with the review and completion of any proposals being submitted by teachers and/or staff, as long as enough notice was provided before the deadline. *B. Eleniak will pass that offer onto M. Mann and will remind her to solicit ideas from staff.* B. Eleniak said we would be aware of what proposals are being submitted when assisting with finalizing the application forms.

- d) CAFN guaranteed representatives –

Council members voiced concerns about the lack of communication from YE about CAFN representation especially as there has been past precedence. Following the AGM, some were of the understanding that the current representatives could continue until a decision was made by CAFN regarding new elected representatives. Furthermore, approved minutes are sent to L. Choquette and nothing was mentioned until an inquiry was made regarding CAFN representatives' status. Why wasn't Council made aware at the AGM or following the AGM that Millie Joe and Jacquie

Chambers would not be able to continue as CAFN representatives? The Chair informed Millie Joe and Jacquie Chambers that after inquiring about continuation with CAFN representatives from the AGM held in October, she had just been informed today that, since we do not yet have guaranteed CAFN representatives, that they can participate in meetings but do not have the right to vote nor will they be entitled to honorariums. Everyone expressed dissatisfaction that they were not notified of this earlier and most were under the assumption that they could continue as voting members until CAFN representatives were elected. Members were disappointed that J. Chambers and M. Joe were notified of this prior to the start of this meeting and that as a result, J. Chambers and M. Joe then made the decision not to attend this meeting. Everyone is also questioning why a decision by CAFN has not yet been made. The lack of CAFN representatives impacts on decision-making and ultimately the students.

M. Sparvier expressed her desire to speak with the Chief and D. Beattie regarding lack of CAFN guaranteed representation. She had suggestions for names. C. Wheeler clarified that employees working in the school would be ineligible to be representatives. Amy McKinnon asked that this item be flagged to prepare a letter from the Chair of School Council to CAFN to address the issue and the importance and urgency of having CAFN representation on Council.

L. Sylvain offered to draft a letter on behalf of the Chair to CAFN.

9. Correspondence

None.

10. Next Meeting

Date: March 9, 2021 (if Maggie is available)
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: via Zoom

11. Adjournment

Amy McKinnon moved to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Marsha Sparvier. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cassandra Wheeler, Chair