



MINUTES

REGULAR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Date: April 26, 2022

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Location: via Zoom or Room 9 of St. Elias Community School

In Attendance

Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cassandra Wheeler (Chair) – in person Attending via Zoom: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Amy McKinnon (Treasurer)Tracy Kane (Councillor)Tinha Chambers (Councillor)	Staff (in person): Nicholas Vienneau (Principal) Brian Eleniak (Vice Principal)
Regrets: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Marsha Sparvier (Councillor)John Fingland (Councillor)	Guests: Via Zoom: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Melissa Flynn, Interim Executive Director, FNSB, DOEMarilyn Marquis-Forster, Area Superintendent, DOEErin Pauls, Director of Education, CAFNKatharine Sandiford, Director of Communications, YFNED In person: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Lori Choquette, School Council Liaison, DOEEleanor Charlton, Learning Assistance TeacherKiana Ruddy, K4-7 PE Teacher
Minute Recorder: Laurette Sylvain (Secretary) – via Zoom	

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Amy McKinnon suggested that we move item 8.a) to in-camera. It was moved by Amy McKinnon and seconded by Tinhá Chambers that the agenda be adopted as amended. All approved.

3. Approval of the Previous Minutes

It was moved by Amy McKinnon and seconded by Tracy Kane that the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 22, 2022 be adopted. All approved.

4. Community Input (welcoming of guests/others from the community)

C. Wheeler welcomed the guests. M. Marquis-Forster expressed that she has enjoyed working with School Council. She will be visiting the school tomorrow as her and Lori Choquette will be going to Kluane Lake.

Kiana Ruddy gave a presentation on the garden and mural project. (see link below as well as on the School Council's website). For the mural, it is hoped that they can start painting in 2 weeks. Erin Pauls offered to assist with purchase of soil or other items and expressed her appreciation for the Leadership Team's great work.

[Garden and Mural Project by Kiana Ruddy](#)

K. Ruddy left the meeting.

5. Principal's Report

The report emailed to Council members on March 22, 2022 (link provided below) included additional information shared during the meeting in bold.

[Principal Report April 26 2022](#)

6. Treasurer's Report

Amy McKinnon shared the following Treasurer's report:

Finances

As of April 25, 2022, the School Council ledger account balance is **\$1,486.37**.

Class of 2022 grad gift

The grad hoody details have been finalized and the order is ready for pick-up in Whitehorse. C. Wheeler offered to pick them up in Whitehorse.

7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

a) Standing Action Items

- **C. Wheeler** – will speak with M. Chiblow to follow up regarding the tutor's concerns. (yet to do).

- **B. Eleniak** - will provide the amounts for high school awards to C. Wheeler. (yet to do – he has been away).
- **N. Vienneau** - will ask Kiana Ruddy to present on the two projects at the next School Council meeting: the community garden and the mural. She should be able to share the design for the mural idea at that time. (done)
- **N. Vienneau** – K. Ruddy will contact Susan Smith, who was the Manager of the Program at CAFN to discuss their program.

Nick added the following:

Mishka Soter submitted a proposal to N. Vienneau to create a mural in the weight room. He outlined the reasons including that:

- the weight room has frequently been accessed this past year;
- it will increase attendance for people who use the room;
- it's an incentive for attendance.

The paint cost is approximately \$200 and the school budget can cover that.

Action: N. Vienneau will email the final design to School Council and seek School Council's approval before moving ahead with the painting.

Action: C. Wheeler mentioned to M. Marquis-Forster that N. Vienneau's performance appraisal has yet to be done.

Before M. Marquis-Forster left the meeting after item 7.c) at approx. 5:30 p.m., she expressed that it was a pleasure working with N. Vienneau this past year.

b) First Nation School Board (FNSB) – Melissa Flynn

M. Flynn, the Interim Executive Director of the YFNSB, addressed the meeting by speaking Southern Tutchone and the Han language. She introduced herself by saying that she is currently living in Whitehorse but is from Dawson City. She introduced Erin Pauls who is the Director of Education at CAFN but now also holds the role as Trustee on the Board and Katharine Sandiford, as Communications Officer of the YFNED. She acknowledged how thoughtful the members were in their involvement with the change in the Haines Junction community. She appreciated that Council members who were also parents, expressed their own aspirations. She is here to see how the FNSB can better support the school and the community.

She then read the letter dated April 25, 2022 sent to the School Council with questions asking for input. (see link below).

[Guiding Questions M. Flynn](#)

M. Flynn opened the floor to discuss the following 3 questions previously emailed and input is noted as follows:

1) What are your aspirations for children and youth who attend St. Elias school?

- Build a stronger foundation for numeracy and literacy
- Improving graduation rates for First Nation students
- Achieving greater learning success
- Better meeting students with special needs
- Increasing opportunities for rural students
- Bringing FN's ways of bringing, learning, and doing every day in addition to more standard curriculum so that it complements each other
- More direct community involvement
- Allowing the community to have a bit more authority in how the school is operated and being able to more effectively make change when it's warranted.
- Seeing a change in the authority in terms of funding and staffing resources. e.g. more than just a .3 EA, school needs repairs, etc. Hoping for that to change very quickly.
- Strive to have more localized control and more accountability.
- The community committee have different thoughts and input. Looking forward to having the community committee look more like our community. Have a committee be more like an advisory group. I hear that it's hard to make meaningful change. Hopefully that level of authority will really make a difference.
- All of the children should have a sense of belonging in the school and more hands-on learning. It will help with their numeracy and literacy.
- Phenomenal language teachers
- Integrating language and culture in the school.

2) Right now, what is going on for children and youth in the learning environments at St. Elias School?

- a) Areas of strength and success:
- Culture week is good and would like to see more of that
 - Outdoor building and learning
 - Great staff
 - N. Vienneau coming in for a year and he rose to the challenges
 - Our long-term principal Maggie Mann is really strong
 - A lot of dedicated staff
 - Parental involvement
 - Our community meetings encourage voices from parents
 - CAFN presence in the school with the Southern Tutchone class
 - We are starting from a strong foundation
 - Grateful for the openness that Nick gave with CAFN; e.g. grad, outdoor classroom. This was the first year we were part of staffing and creating calendars; involved in supporting all learners. Appreciated the shared and collaborative leadership.
- b) Areas that need more support:
- Allocation of supports: EAs, LATs, counsellors, etc.
 - Need a Clinical Counsellor

- Need a budget that will allow for providing necessary resources and programs such as technology and cohesive math and literacy programs
- Staff are not fully equipped to do everything they want to do because of our financial limitations and restrictions
- Budgetary issues such as financial and human resources
- Mental health support; counselling support (more consistent)
- Capacity to fully implement learning plans for students with specific needs
- More staffing in general
- Foundational supports for math and reading
- More space especially due to the addition of K4 classrooms
- Adequate technology and supplies
- Opportunity to learn on the land and with elders. Building on things that are already working well. Build and enhance it and across more subjects.
- A wonderful place for our food program so that we can continue to feed nutritional food to our children.

N. Vienneau said that regarding calendars, working with Erin and Muggie, we are wanting to incorporate more local CAFN culture into the curriculum for English 10-11-12 and we're working on that for next year.

3) CAFN and the St. Elias school team make the best decisions for the children and students. To help the FNSB, please share with us the areas that most need additional support in creating safe, successful learning environments for all students.

M. Flynn invited community and school council members to answer questions at their leisure and return to her. She added that trustees are having conversations about vision and mission.

Other questions and discussions included:

Q - When might we be meeting with YFNSB again and what about the community committee? Any thoughts as to how School Council can help with that School body before the start of the 2022/23 school year.

A - M. Flynn said they were the interim governance until November when the elections happen across the Yukon. The creation of school councils will happen after that. Governance will prepare the information. Once the Board is elected in, one of their first orders will be to enter the community and start the process in developing those community committees.

Q – When can parent advisory committees start?

A - Parent advisory committees can exist in any school. M. Flynn has seen principals develop that and we can start working with them in the fall. Differences between community committees and Parent Advisory Committees need to be clear. Parent advisory committees can happen at the school level.

Q - This School Council serves before the beginning of the next school year so do we have to interact with the FNSB this summer?

A – L. Choquette said this Council doesn't have to meet over the summer unless there was some emergency and that they would have to be part of a decision. They technically still have those authorities until the day before the first day of school until the School Board takes over.

Q - What will school look like in the fall?

A - M. Flynn said we still act under the B.C. curriculum. Schedules are set already and N. Vienneau included CAFN in the decision-making. It's not going to look that different. Bell system and classroom structures are still the same. We don't have the ability to buy furniture this year. We invited the Chief Councils on Education and they suggested we have ceremonies in each community.

It was suggested that the FNSB communicate with the community before the start of the school year and offered their assistance as members of School Council during the transition.

M. Flynn thanked everyone for their input. They will be in Haines Junction on Friday so they will be spending the time with the staff on Friday and look forward to building the relationship.

- c) Grad 2022 (this was discussed before 7.b) – A. McKinnon said there had not been any grad parent meetings lately. She shared that the community supported the last 2 grad fundraisers with the pizza sales and races at Pine Lake and thanked the community and CAFN for contributing the groceries. N. Vienneau added that he thought they raised over what they needed for this year's graduation.

L. Choquette said she enjoyed working with School Council and expressed her thanks and appreciation to School Council. She recognized their great connections with the community and wished everyone all the best.

Melissa Flynn and Lori Choquette left the meeting approximately at 5:45 p.m.

8. New Business

- a) Reading Levels – Eleanor Charlton – moved to in-camera
- b) Projects from Grade 12 Leadership Class – Kiana Ruddy – see #4 above.

Action: C. Wheeler will email School Council members to complete an evaluation on Nicholas Vienneau and she will forward to M. Marquis-Forster. The deadline is today.

9. Correspondence

N/A

10. In-Camera/Out of Camera

Motion: A. McKinnon moved to go in-camera at 5:47 p.m. and T. Kane seconded.

T. Kane left the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Motion: A. McKinnon moved to go out-of-camera at 6:33 p.m. and T. Chambers seconded.

11. Next Meeting

Date: May 17, 2022 (tentative) –
An email will be sent to check members' availability.
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Location: TBD

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cassandra Wheeler, Chair

Minutes approved at meeting held May 24, 2022