



## **MINUTES**

### **REGULAR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**

**Date:** January 18, 2022  
**Time:** 4:30 p.m.  
**Location:** via Zoom or phone

#### **In Attendance**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Members:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cassandra Wheeler (Chair) – in person</li><li>• Amy McKinnon (Treasurer) – in person</li><li>• Tracy Kane (Councillor) – via Zoom</li><li>• John Fingland (Councillor)</li><li>• Tinha Chambers (Councillor) - via Zoom</li><li>• Marsha Sparvier (Councillor)</li></ul> | <b>Staff (in person):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nicholas Vienneau (Principal)</li></ul> |
| Regrets: N/A   | <b>Guests:</b> None   |
| <b>Minute Recorder:</b> 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**

It was moved by Amy McKinnon and seconded by Tracy Kane that the agenda be adopted. All approved.

#### **3. Approval of the Previous Minutes**

It was proposed that changes be made to:

- Special meeting of Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> – correct the date to Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>
- Special meeting of Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> – add John Fingland as being present

It was moved by John Fingland and seconded by Marsha Sparvier that the minutes of regular meeting held on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> and the amended minutes of Special Meetings on Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> and Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> be adopted with the above changes. All approved.

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

N/A

## 5. Principal's Report

Further to the Principal's reports emailed to Council members on January 18, 2022, Nicholas Vienneau shared additional information as follows:

1. Art Project – C. Wheeler said she has not yet received any decisions about the Mural Art Project.
2. Outdoor Learning Space – still working out the logistics - sent in plans to the department.
3. Graduation update – A bake sale is being organized by one of the teachers in the second semester and selling of goods will be done in a covid-safe way.
4. Reading Levels – E. Charlton has been away since the last week of December and is expected back Jan. 26th.
5. Semester two – Starts Jan 25 with Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> being a PD day; exam week will be challenging – Counsellor situation;

The School Counsellor, C. Segriff's last day is Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> and R. Buck is not returning until the beginning of February so there will be lack of support with students selecting classes. A request was made before Christmas and sent to Human Resources (HR) to extend C. Segriff's assignment for at least another 2 weeks or until March break because that's when R. Buck returns full-time.

In response to a question about shortage of HR staff, N. Vienneau responded that St. Elias School's designated HR personnel has left.

Support was shared by members for the request for extension and it was mentioned that at least one student have voiced their desire to continue working with C. Segriff on their Grade 12 career education.

If the Learning Assistance Teacher does not return on Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>, both the Counsellor and LAT positions will be temporarily vacant. C. Segriff has been performing dual roles (LAT/Counselling) in the interim.

**Action:** N. Vienneau will contact M. Marquis-Forster, the area Superintendent, tomorrow, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>, to follow up regarding the request for C. Segriff's extension.

6. Scheduling options for Grade 9-12 classes – original schedule will be kept to provide options for this semester. Decisions will have to be made for next year.
  - A suggestion was made to review other programs such as the WISE program in the discussions regarding scheduling.
  - The results of the vote for the FNSB may have an impact in terms of future funding.
7. Jan 24<sup>th</sup> will be a PD day – the one following is in April.

8. Rate of absenteeism is being posted on the school's website so that parents are aware.
  - A request was made to keep the daily attendance numbers posted for the week and not just daily numbers. N. Vienneau agreed to keep daily numbers posted for an entire week.

## 9. Covid and Omicron

This has been very challenging for the school. Teachers are expressing that they are tired so there is concern about mental health. People across the territory are feeling the pressure. On a positive note, B. Eleniak is expected back on Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>.

### *Additional Information:*

It was shared that parents were expressing concern about kids not social distancing and/or not wearing masks in the playground. This included messaging on Facebook but it was also raised with the Administrator who sent out a reminder to all staff about ensuring that COVID protocol be followed and students must stay in their bubbles.

[Principal Report January 18](#)

[Principal Report 2](#)

## 6. Treasurer's Report

Further to the Treasurer's report emailed to Council members on January 15, 2022, Amy McKinnon shared additional information as follows:

School Council ledger account balance is **\$3,476.37**.

A. McKinnon will be preparing honoraria cheques for those who attended the special emergency meetings on January 5<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Arrangements will be made for pick-up.

### **Income tax reporting**

Lori Choquette with the Department of Education (DOE) has requested submission of total honoraria paid and SIN forms for all school council members in 2021 by the end of January 2022. Due to receiving the request in January, the deadline was extended from Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> to Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>. These forms need to be sent or given to the Treasurer ASAP. The Treasurer will then prepare and submit spreadsheets with this honoraria information to DOE.

Note: School council members have the option of donating their honoraria to the school if they wish to. Forms to donate honoraria can be provided by the Treasurer upon request.

[Treasurer Report January 18 2022](#)

## 7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

### a) Standing Action Items

- **All members:** brainstorm how to make use of our professional development (PD) funds. It was suggested that the funds could be used towards: we have been using funds towards FNSB communication and information.
- *Meetings for Discussions about First Nation School Board (ongoing)*
- *Special meeting to discuss School Growth Plan (pending)*
- **All Members** - should read the *Inclusive and Special Education Review, including Child and Youth Advocate Attendance* reports on their own time and this item should remain on the agenda for discussion. The reports were emailed to members and can also be accessed on YE's website. (ongoing)
- **M. Marquis-Forster** - to follow up on My Math Path order. (Hard copies will soon be available). *N. Vienneau said he hasn't yet heard anything about that and that they are still accessing online.*
- **L. Sylvain** – to email Cindi O'Rourke to extend an invitation for 1 or 2 representatives from the student council to attend our next regular meeting on January 18th. (done) Cindi said they have not had any meetings but will invite students to attend at our February meeting.
- **C. Wheeler** - will email out the literacy and numeracy results.(done)
- **All** – to determine who will give opening remarks for FNSB Zoom meeting on Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. (done and there were opening remarks from School Council members at all meetings)
- **C. Wheeler** - to send the information on the Review of Inclusive and Special Education focus groups and Shelley Moore's podcasts. (done with the exception of Shelley Moore's podcast which members can access by googling Youtube).
- **C. Wheeler** - will sign and send the updated package for Mural Arts Project to GY on Dec. 15, 2021 (the deadline). Done.
- **N. Vienneau** - will provide Literacy and Numeracy results to parents. (This has not yet been provided and N. Vienneau will ask if high level data can be shared in the School's newsletter).
- **L. Sylvain** - to draft a letter to the Minister of Education regarding teacher and EA allocation and send to School Council for review. (not yet done due to Christmas break and shortage of staff due to COVID at the start of the school break. L. Sylvain will draft letter once E. Charlton returns so she can work with her on the numbers and information).
- **C. Wheeler** - will invite M. Bennett and R. Sikkes to attend a meeting and ask the Village if the Convention Centre has Zoom capabilities, if needed, and if we can book that space. (unable to since an in-person meeting could not be held last week).
- **A. McKinnon** - will inquire at **Computec** Embroidery in Whitehorse to obtain costs for hoodies for 12 graduates. (yet to do)
- **C. Wheeler** - will draft a letter to be reviewed by Council members. (done)

### b) First Nation School Board

C. Wheeler shared that there were concerns that people who were isolating could not vote. Elections Yukon have a procedure in place for those isolating, which C. Wheeler will share as soon as she gets it.

There was also concern when Elections Yukon did not update their schedule online and voters were not aware of the change in date from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>.

The FNSB flyer was placed in everyone's mailbox.

Voter turnout appears high.

There was concern about the confidentiality and privacy with the method of voting at the advanced poll; that is, voters having to place envelopes in other envelopes and writing their names and addresses on the outside. For referendums in advance polling, that is the standard practice. Some expressed that there was a lack of information and did not want to return to vote. Champagne Aishihik First Nation provided information on their Facebook page and included reminders and links back to Elections Yukon. All were encouraged to share those.

Another concern raised by some residents were that information seemed biased towards voting in favour and that there should have been more communication around both pros and cons. All support the democratic process. School Council passed a motion to give the community the voice. Government of Yukon (GY) has a lot of resources available online. While some residents are saying that YFNED, CAFN, School Council and GY's messaging is to vote in favour, members felt that we can communicate as much as possible, although we cannot control the information that is published by GY and others.

IF the referendum result is in favour of establishing a First Nation School Board, members' terms would continue until the end of August. New elected members would start at the beginning of the school year.

- c) Grad 2022 – tentative date of June 9<sup>th</sup> is not available and they may change to June 8<sup>th</sup> instead and that was fine with the Administrator.

## **8. New Business:**

### **a) Tutoring Program – C. Wheeler**

There was a request to have more flexible times for tutoring. N. Vienneau commented that it depends on the tutors and when they are available. Shawn Allen and M. Chiblow are the organizers. A tutor felt that they were not allowed to tutor outside of certain hours.

**Action:** C. Wheeler will obtain procedures from Elections Yukon as to how those who are isolating can still vote.

**Action:** C. Wheeler will speak with M. Chiblow to follow up regarding the tutor's concerns.

### **b) COVID-19: school safety and continuity – A. McKinnon**

At a AYSCBC meeting attended by A. McKinnon last night, those in attendance voiced similar concerns of those from St. Elias School Council regarding school safety and continuity. The Yukon Association of Education Professionals (YAEP) recommended that School Principals have more decision-making when it comes to

staffing issues and safety. Decisions may need to be made before the end of the school day so that families are made aware before the end of the school day; there is little time for the Administrator to receive a decision from DOE on very short notice.

Another suggestion was that the Operational Plan should be updated in light of Omicron. Members asked whether we could request that DOE update their overarching plan which was based on Delta, and also update our School Plan. Do we prepare a plan or do we wait for YAEP to get approval for Principals to have more decision-making? It has been very much appreciated that our Administrator has kept us very current, despite being extremely busy. Members felt that we should proceed in drafting a letter in line and in support of YAEP's request. N. Vienneau shared that they are doing their utmost to keep students safe with such things as providing students with masks, putting in Hepa Filters, etc.

**Action:** L.Sylvain will draft a letter to the DOE for members' review to:

- echo what the teacher's association has requested in terms of principals having a voice in decision-making and emphasize that the Principal is in a better position to make the best decision when it comes to urgent situations.
- request that the DOE and CMOH review and update the overarching Operational Plan and COVID protocols to include changes as a result of Omicron.
- request that DOE provide clarification or define criteria such as "majority" and "significant" in the matrix/table provided by DOE. The difference between elementary and high school also needs to be identified and a distinction needs to be made, in particular for rural schools.

**Action:** While N. Vienneau has begun the work of updating the School's Operational Plan, him and B. Eleniak will review, revise, and discuss with School Council.

c) Communication Approach with Department of Education

In the emergency situation in early January with the shortage of staff and cold temperatures in the school, there was immediate concern about the safety of the students. As Council had not received a response from the Department to address the urgent concerns, it was decided that our School Council issue a communication notice to the families, students, and parents to ensure they were made aware of the situation. Members worried about potential safety of the students and felt parents should be informed. Following that communication, the DOE responded quickly.

There was discussion about whether all important requests sent to the DOE be published. It was decided that since all minutes get posted on our School Council website and letters of importance get posted as well, that we could reference our School Council's website as a link in Facebook for the public to reference; i.e. "please read minutes and correspondence at the following link". A heading entitled "Correspondence" could be added on our website. In addition, such information can be posted in the school's newsletter.

## **9. Correspondence**

N/A

## **10. Next Meeting**

Date: February 22, 2022  
Time: 4:30 p.m.  
Location: TBD

## **11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cassandra Wheeler, Chair