



School Council
École Whitehorse Elementary School
Kwanlin Kets'edan Ku
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Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 23, 2026 @ 6:30 pm – EWES Staff Room & Teams

Ashley O'Brien, Vice-Chair Kelly Jiang, Member Sheila Merkley, Member Micah Quinn, Member Johanna Havelaar, Treasurer, via Teams	Charmaine Cheung, Member Nicole Stark, Secretary Sharon MacCoubrey, Principal Valerie Long, Vice Principal Richard Poirier, School Council Liaison
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1. Call to Order – 18:31

2. Land Acknowledgement

- a. We are meeting on the traditional territories of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. We recognize their deep connection to this land and express our gratitude for the opportunity to live and work here.

3. Adoption of Agenda

- a. "School Calendar" was added to correspondence.
- b. **Motion 26.02.01:** Adopt agenda as amended.
 - o Moved by Kelly; all in favour.

4. Adoption of January Minutes

- a. **Motion 26.02.02:** Adopt January minutes as presented.
 - o Moved by Ashley; all in favour.

5. Council Member Updates

- a. **Acknowledgement of New Voting Council Member – Charmaine Cheung**
 - o Council formally recognized Charmaine as full voting member.
 - January motions passed unanimously; correction did not affect outcomes.

b. Resignation of Chair

- Effective February 23, 2026, by email to Secretary and Treasurer.
- Discussion took place regarding an appropriate token of appreciation for the outgoing Chair; conversation to continue.

c. Selection of New Chair

- Council noted the preference for a Chair intending to serve next year.
- **Motion 26.02.03:** Appoint Nicole as new voting member.
 - Moved by Ashley; all in favour.
- **Motion 26.02.04:** Defer selection of Chair to next meeting.
 - Moved by Micah, all in favour.
- **Action 26.02.01:** Johanna will update Council WhatsApp group to reflect current membership.

6. Recognition of Community Members

- a. Richard Poirier, School Council Liaison

7. Council Members' Conduct

- a. Concerns about a member's conduct in previous meetings were discussed, specifically regarding tone of discourse and certain interactions.
 - Council discussed the importance of maintaining a positive and supportive environment.
 - Council noted the responsibility of the Chair and Vice-Chair to foster a positive atmosphere that allows all members to be comfortable and to participate, as outlined in the AYSCBC School Council Handbook.

8. Correspondence

a. Crossing Guards

- Emails were responded to; see Administration Report for further updates.

b. Panago Pizza Fundraiser - Nicole

- **Action 26.02.02:** Nicole will confirm whether all pizzas or only those purchased by the school community qualify.
- Council discussed potential fundraising initiatives, including tree planting in the playground or contributing to a future school playground.

c. Yukon Archives

- Johanna will work with Yukon Archives to store council records.

d. School Calendar

- The adjustment date will likely change to end of the school year.
- A proposed bell time change from 3:07 to 3:05 was accepted subject to further calendar updates.
- The three-year calendar will move forward, and the Minister will engage with Council this spring.

9. Reports

a. Administration Report – Sharon

- A lockdown drill was successfully completed; a new EA was hired.
- Kindergarten enrollment was conducted by lottery; there is a two-student waitlist.
- February’s Superhero theme is “kindness”.
- Crosswalk update: Transportation engineer is reviewing the feasibility of implementing a Leading Pedestrian Interval (LPI) for all pedestrian heavy downtown intersections.
 - **Action 26.02.03:** Ashley will update parents on communication with the city.
- The Yukon Drinking Water Monitoring Program update was sent out; all fixtures that contained lead have been removed, and monitoring will continue.
- A Yukon digital mobile device policy is forthcoming; WES currently has its own policy but will benefit from territorial support.

b. Financial/Treasurer Report – Johanna

- **Action 26.02.04:** Johanna will remove Gary as a signing authority.
 - Three signing authorities will remain for the remainder of the year.
- Council discussed allocating “School Needs” funds toward the purchase of a tree; discussion will continue.

c. Report from AYSCBC – Kelly & Micah

- Physical copies of the December 2025 AYSCBC School Council Handbook were distributed to all council members.
- Meeting was held on February 18 with Minister Kent in attendance.
- Themes included recruitment (especially rural), operations (safety/security, portables, PA systems), school capacity and infrastructure, and council engagement.
- The digital mobile device policy is expected to include a cellphone ban; anticipated for fall 2026.
- A Department of Education review is forthcoming.
- Paul Moore was appointed Deputy Minister of Education.
- Follow-up meeting is scheduled for March 25.
- The AYSCBC AGM will be held on April 18.

10. New Business

a. Radon Testing – Ashley

- Radon testing is not currently conducted.
- Item was deferred to next month pending further updates from Richard.

b. Grade 7 Graduation

- Proposed gift: gym bag with candy.
 - Budget: \$1500 for 67 students.
- **Action 26.02.05:** Johanna will obtain a quote and order bags.
- **Action 26.02.06:** Kelly will order candy.

c. School Council Elections

- Elections will be held May 11; nomination period will begin approximately two weeks prior.
- **Action 26.02.07:** Ashley will confirm whether Charmaine is eligible to run while away.

d. Tumbler Ridge

- Council will send card to Tumbler Ridge Secondary School.
 - **Action 26.02.08:** Sheila will purchase the card and bring it to the school for signatures.
- Schools Assistant Deputy Minister Carolyn Lewis-Shillington will be meeting with Minister of Justice Laura Lang for an in-depth discussion on school security; Richard will update Council at the next meeting.
- EWES is considering locking the front door and is obtaining quotes for a live video feed as the building lacks reliable CCTV.
 - Administration emphasized the need to consider the historical trauma associated with locked schools; discussions with Indigenous partners and RCMP will follow.
- A moment of silence was held.

11. Standing Business

a. French Second Language – Ashley

- Next meeting will take place in May.

b. Project Advisory Committee: New School Build

- A public survey (École Whitehorse Elementary School Replacement Project- Public Engagement Survey) will be sent to EWES parents regarding the three potential new build sites.
- Council will determine whether additional PAC members should be added at the next Council meeting.

c. School Growth Plan – Sheila

- Next meeting will take place on March 2.

d. Transportation Committee – Micah

- Representatives from Standard Bus attended.
- Some communities use staff riders to increase adult presence on buses; this could potentially involve EAs in Whitehorse if compensated.
- Enforcement of items such as skis on buses remains inconsistent and dependent on individual drivers.
- Capacity guidelines (K–3 = 1; Gr. 4–7 = 1.5) are enforced for field trips but not daily routes.
- A pilot project to track buses is underway; privacy considerations are being addressed.
- Next meeting will take place on May 28.

e. Community Events

- School Dance – Ashley
 - Difficulty securing music; outreach to potential performers will continue.
 - **Action 26.02.09:** Secure quotes and availability for Claire Ness and the Pelayo Family Band.
 - Proposed dates: April 10 or 17 from 5:00-7:00 pm.
- School BBQ
 - **Action 26.02.10:** Ashley will book the barbecue for June 10.

12. Next Meeting

- a. March 24 at 6:30 pm.
 - **Motion 26.02.03:** Moved by Ashley; all in favour.
- b. Charmaine will be away for the remainder of the year but plans to attend virtually in April, May, and June.

13. Adjournment of Council Meeting – 21:29