



School Council

École Whitehorse Elementary School

Kwanlin Kets'edan Ku

4181 4th Avenue, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 1J7

Phone (867) 667-8083

Fax (867) 393-6211

Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 15th @ 6:30 pm – EWES Staff Room & Zoom

Gary Whittle, Chair Ashley O'Brien, Vice-Chair Kelly Jiang, Member Sheila Merkley, Member Micah Quinn, Member Johanna Havelaar, Treasurer	Charmaine Cheung, Member Nicole Stark, Secretary Sharon MacCoubrey, Principal Valerie Long, Vice Principal Colleen Madore, ESE SC chair, via zoom Christine Franes, Superintendent, via zoom
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1. Call to Order - 18:37.

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. **Motion 25.12.01:** Amend agenda to move School Board Discussion with ESE and FHC to Correspondence and add resignation of Johanna as Secretary to New Business.
 - Moved by Gary; all in favour.
- b. **Motion 25.12.02:** Amend agenda to add Earthquake School Closure to New Business.
 - Moved by Micah; all in favour.
- c. **Motion 25.12.03:** Adopt agenda as amended.
 - Moved by Gary; all in favour.

4. Adoption of November Minutes

- a. **Motion 25.12.04:** Adopt November minutes as presented.
 - Moved by Sheila; all in favour.

5. Recognition of Community Members

- a. Christine Franes, Superintendent
- b. Colleen Madore, Chair ESE

6. Correspondence

a. School Board Discussion with ESE and FHC

- o Phone call held with Gary, Colleen Madore (School Council Chair, ESE), and Mike Etches (School Council Chair, FHC).
- o Selkirk SC decided not to pursue joining the First Nation School Board due to school composition and French Immersion commitment; forming its own board has not been discussed.
- o Independent school board could procure additional funding, authority, recognition.
 - Two mechanisms: council resolution and petition of electors.
 - Possibility of collaboration among three schools for one shared board.
- o Micah: Opportunities may exist to shape the Education Act under the new government.

7. Reports

a. Administration Report – Sharon

- o Crossing guard concerns at 4th Avenue and Black Street.
 - Liability coverage for school will be determined by Christine.
 - Possible traffic light changes at intersection (e.g., no right turns on red).
 - Sharon will contact the City re options.
- o FSA results – positive.
- o Sledding event postponed until January.
- o Winter fire drills are not conducted (cause undue stress for students).

b. Financial/Treasurer Report – Johanna

- o Honoraria payments.
- o Budget.
 - **Motion 25.12.05:** Reallocate \$1,000 Student Wellness Budget to BBQ Budget (\$500) and Community Engagement (\$500).
 - Moved by Johanna; all in favour.

8. New Business

a. Addition of New Members to EWES School Council

- o Charmaine Cheung, member
 - **Motion 25.12.06:** Ratify recommendation to Minister to appoint Charmaine Cheung to School Council.
 - Moved by Gary; all in favour.
- o Resignation of Johanna as Secretary.
- o Nicole Stark, Secretary
 - **Motion 25.12.07:** Appoint Nicole Stark as Secretary.
 - Moved by Gary; all in favour.

b. AYSCBC Meeting – Micah

- Updates from school communities, allergy policies, revisions to School Council Resource Guide, and challenges of school council elections.

c. Meeting with Minister of Education – Gary

- Meeting held with Scott Kent, Minister of Education, Gary and Sharon.
 - Minister will attend next council meeting on January 12 and present three possible locations for new school build for consultation.
- **Action 25.12.01:** Sheila will send email to council re issues to raise with Minister (e.g., allocation of EAs, interim facility funding until new school build).

d. Earthquake Closure

- Structural assessment requested by Administration following earthquake on December 6.
- Department of Education decided to close school to prevent students waiting outside during assessment.

9. Standing Business

a. French Second Language – Ashley

- Advisory Committee meeting attended by Sharon, Val, Ashley.
- EWES participates in multiple cultural partnerships.
- Funding supports after-school tutoring program.

b. Project Advisory Committee: New School Build

- Nothing to report.

c. School Growth Plan – Sheila

- Nothing to report.

d. Transportation Committee – Micah

- Meeting attended November 27; ongoing route and timing challenges discussed.
 - No representatives from Standard Bus present.
 - Next meeting scheduled February 12.
- Policy change prevents students from using notes to change bus stops.
- Extraordinary bus cancellations Dec 8–12 due to extreme cold weather.

e. Community Events

- School Dance – Ashley
 - Planned for April.
 - Local DJ contacted; other musical options (e.g., Marie-Maude and family band) to be explored.
 - Possibility of fundraising at dance discussed.

10. Next Meeting - January 12, 2025

11. Adjournment of Council Meeting - 20:53