



School Council
École Whitehorse Elementary School
Kwanlin Kets'edan Ku
 4181 4th Avenue, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 1J7
 Phone (867) 667-8083
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Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 17 @ 6:30 pm – EWES Staff Room

Gary Whittle, Chair Ashley O'Brien, Vice-Chair Kelly Jiang, Member Sheila Merkley, Member Micah Quinn, Member Johanna Havelaar, Secretary-Treasurer	Sharon MacCoubrey, Principal Valerie Long, Vice Principal Nicole, parent Richard Poirier, School Council Liaison, via zoom Charmaine, parent Nicole, parent
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1. Call to Order - 1831

2. Land Acknowledgement

- a. We are meeting on the traditional territories of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'an 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 25.11.01** to adopt by Micah, all in favour

4. Adoption of October Minutes

- a. **Motion 25.11.02** to adopt by Kelly, all in favour

5. Recognition of Community Members

- a. Nicole, parent
- b. Charmaine, parent

6. Correspondence

- a. Department of Education reply to EA Allocation e-mail
 - Response similar to Gary's letter to the minister regarding the CBC article
- b. Pre-planning of School Calendars
 - Richard: department is aware and trying to bring that back, many councils and parents have requested this

7. Reports

a. **Administration Report – Sharon**

- Parent-teacher conferences
- Scholastic book fair
- Completed 3 fire drills and an earthquake drill
- Sound of the toilets near kindergarten rooms is now quieter
- Head lice – has returned
 - Kids in affected classes receive an e-mail
- School clothing sorting:
 - Can council help? Yes
 - Late December or early January

b. **Financial/Treasurer Report – Johanna**

- Sarah Gallina – past chair
 - Gift and honouraria
 - **Action 25.11.01** Johanna will buy gift card for \$100 to Coast Mountain Sports for Sarah
- Budget review
 - Adjustments needed? Discuss at next meeting
 - In bank account now: approx \$19 800

8. New Business

a. **4th & Black Crossing Guard – Sharon**

- Only 3 responses: only one maybe able to commit time in December. No one willing to coordinate
- **Action 25.11.02** Ashley contact parents and let them know that there has not been a lot of volunteers
- Sharon re-send e-mail to parents

b. **AYSCBC Chair Meeting and Forum – Gary**

- Memorandum by Gary sent to council members, will be sent on to Sharon and Val
- Representatives from all three parties were present
- Upcoming review and amendment to education act regarding school councils – move toward school boards (no reason was given)
- Gary inquired about funding: response from all parties was that budget needs to be set first

c. **School Boards and Councils – Gary, Micah**

- Micah talked with a person who helped set up the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon
 - Lots of work: expensive, external help and consultants (experience 30 years ago)
- Gary would like to see council have more power
- Richard: school elections happening in the spring, setting up a school board is a lot of work, seems to be support from current government for councils to have more power
- Potentially: All immersion schools form a school board?
 - **Action 25.11.03** Gary will reach out to the chairs at Selkirk and FHC to discuss school boards. Richard to provide contact information for Selkirk & FHC school councils

d. **Council vision for 2025-26**

- Form a vision for school council
- Ideas: respond to admin and staff to help the school, school needs, etc, school events, community building, create more opportunities for community engagement
- Charmaine: facilitated planning session? Have a separate meeting?
- Make it known that council is available to the community/teachers/administration
- Discuss in January?
 - **Action 25.11.04** Ashley will send out an e-mail to council

e. **Position available on council**

- Nicole and Charmaine: both interested but also happy to wait for the upcoming election
- Nicole: new to Yukon and new to school community, kid in kindergarten, wants to become involved, has time to contribute (whether on council or not), has taught ESL
- Charmaine: wants to contribute to school, used to be on the Chinese community association board, child in kindergarten, long time Yukoner
- Council will discuss after meeting

f. **DTKK Allergy Awareness and Anaphylaxis Plan – Gary**

- New policy for DTKK that was shared with Gary
- Sharon: movement away from banning peanuts in select schools.
 - EWES is not yet prepared. Lack of sinks is an issue. Kids are required to wash hands before and after eating; the kids have to travel a ways to find a sink in the current facility.
 - New building code has a sink in every classroom. Can have the discussion again when we have a new school.
 - Currently have 10 kids in this school with nut allergies

g. **School yard safety**

- Container with sharps found near the school yard
- The situation has improved in the last 10 years (needle exchanges and safe injection sites have helped).
- Grounds are visually swept every morning

h. **CBC Article**

- Table until superintendent at our meeting
- **Action 25.11.05** Invite superintendent to the next meeting

9. Standing Business

a. **French Second Language – Sharon, Ashley, Val**

- Lots of different programming
- Canadian Parents for French: no longer a chapter in the Yukon. Disbanded because there were not enough members
 - Will share info on BC Parents for French in next school newsletter including information that the Yukon chapter has folded
- Ashley will connect with Sharon and Val to discuss programs that are available for our school – Ashley will provide a summary to council at the next meeting
- Council should continue to send a representative to the FSL meeting, Ashley received a warm welcome

b. Project Advisory Committee: New School Build

- Nothing to report

c. School Growth Plan – Sheila

- The plan is available on school website
- Structured literacy and numeracy
- PD Day: supporting students with exceptionalities
- Department is not providing as much support as is desired
 - Continue to monitor the “overhaul” at the department

d. Transportation Committee – Micah

- Meeting postponed at the last minute - again
- Response from Superintendent on moving kids from bus 8 to bus 11: adding a stop would require an overhaul of the whole bus schedule – that is not possible at this time

e. Community events

- Book Fair – Ashley
 - Report was sent to all council members
 - Raised \$ 3,238.72 for the school!
- Family Movie Night – Ashley
 - Cheque for YFS
 - Good turnout of 72 attendees
- School Dance – Ashley
 - January: Family dance
 - Council to choose a date so that the gym can be booked

10. Next Meeting - December 15th, 2025

11. Adjournment of Council Meeting – 20:34