

# **GOLDEN HORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of Regular Council Meeting**

### **January 12, 2023**

### **GHEs Library**

*“School Council would like to acknowledge that we are on the lands of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, the Ta’an Kwäch’än Council and Carcross/Tagish First Nation and would like to thank them for allowing us to live, learn and work on their traditional land.”*

**Present:**

<b>Council Members</b>	<b>Administration</b>
Amber Hirsch, Co-Chair	Jesse Ward, A/Principal
Emily Woodruffe, Co-Chair	Emily Quarton, A/Vice-Principal
Jessica Boyd	
Caitlin Knutson	

Shelly Peters, Secretary/Treasurer

**Regrets:** Christine Aikens

**Guests:** Jenoa Esquiro, Andrea Mansell, Scott Kent, MLA for Copperbelt South, Kate Keough (Zoom)

**Arrived at 7:** Emmi (unknown last name), Nicole Berger, Anna Crawford, Michelle Christensen, Katharine Sandiford, Chera Hunchuk, Rebecca Molnar (Zoom)

#### **1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 6:34pm

##### **Adoption of agenda:**

Move First Nation School Board to the end of the agenda to allow for longer discussion.

*Moved by Emily, seconded by Caitlin THAT the agenda be adopted. CARRIED*

##### **Adoption of December minutes:**

*Moved by Caitlin, seconded by Jessica THAT the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting dated December 1, 2022, be adopted. CARRIED*

#### **2. Administration**

##### **Action Item Review:**

- 1) Glass doors - have been installed and no further work identified at this time. Action – complete
- 2) Nut/seed allergies – it was communicated in the December newsletter that there are currently no life-threatening allergies in the school and nuts/seeds will be allowed at the school. Action – complete
- 3) First Nation language teaching position has been filled. Action - complete
- 4) Student conduct plan – is not current and has been distributed to council members. Council will review and report back at a later meeting. Action – carry

- 5) Council liability insurance – still waiting on Department of Education and the School Council Liaison, other schools are also requesting information. Further discussion later in meeting. Action – follow up in first week of February
- 6) Heat issues – major heat issues seem to have been cleared up, HPW facilities is coming by to check daily. Action – complete
- 7) Parking lot – a meeting has been requested with Trevor and Chris, waiting to hear back. Action – carry
- 8) Fundraising – wish lists are coming in, more discussion later in meeting
- 9) Post incident communication guidelines – communication was sent in the December newsletter and incidents are being reported. Action – complete
- 10) Yukon First Nation Education Directorate/Yukon First Nation School Board presentation – carry
- 11) Revision of student conduct plan – carry
- 12) RCMP presentation/visit – administration will reach out the RCMP and community liaison officer to tentatively book a presentation/visit. Action – complete

**Secretary/Treasurer Update:** Barb resigned as council Secretary at the end of December, the position was offered to Shelly, and she accepted. Council would like to thank Barb for her time as Secretary.

**Financial Report:** As of December 31, there is \$22,050 in the bank account; this includes the \$8,100 from Every Student, Everyday grant. On January 13 we are issuing a cheque for \$8,920 to pay for the skis, bindings and boots that were ordered, and YG will release the \$900 holdback to us once we complete the interim report. We have already purchased \$965 in camp stoves for the GOES program in September, we will have spent \$9,885 towards GOES enrichment.

We raised \$220 from the centerpiece fundraiser, after the \$20 in additional fees to accept E-Transfer the gross money earned is \$200; this should be allocated towards the \$250 agreed upon in May to aid the school with the purchase of a new sound system.

### 3. Correspondence

**School Council Chairs/AYSCBC Meeting:** Christine attended and will speak further when she returns.

**Directors Liability Insurance:** Nothing further from YG and the School Council Liaison, Lori Choquette. Other schools are requesting information. **Action:** *Jessica to follow up with Lori before February's meeting.*

**First Nation Representation on Council:** Council received an email from Jenoa Esquiro who is interested in joining council as a First Nation representative. Council thinks this is a great opportunity. Lori Choquette has advised that due to the election period being closed, the parent will need a direct request to be sent to the Minister by their First Nation. The process is a bit unclear at this point, but Jenoa will follow up with Lori to continue efforts to make this happen. Scott offered to draft a letter and submit to the Minister of Education to assist the process. In the meantime, the parent has expressed interest as attending meetings and providing input as a parent.

4. **Guest Presentations:** Currie Dixon attended the FH meeting for December and has confirmed that FH will be receiving two new portables for next year, hopefully; for the time being this will alleviate the overcrowding and allow space for incoming students next year.

**5. A/Principals Report:**

- 247 students currently enrolled.
- Specialist teaching position filled by Saakéenyaa (Stefanie Sidney) teaching Tlingit, she had a tour of the school on January 12<sup>th</sup> and will slowly increase the following week.
- Two EA positions still vacant; previous applicant chose not to accept the position.
- 0.25 Admin Assistant position is vacant.
- Staff were informed that there is capital money available to spend on GOES activities/supplies, Jesse asked for staff to have their requests in before March.
- Heat issue with the school seems to be slowly getting better; facilities is monitoring it.

**6. Student Transportation Committee:** Next scheduled meeting is January 26<sup>th</sup>, any concerns please advise Amber. Previous bus concerns seem to be sorted and buses appear to be running well with few cancellations.

**7. School Growth Planning:** Not much since November due to Christmas. Next scheduled meeting is January 25<sup>th</sup>, and the plan is to continue to meet the last Wednesday of every month. Further updates will follow in February.

**8. Community Engagement:** will continue to defer

**9. Capital Planning & Infrastructure:** still waiting to hear back from YG for a meeting regarding the ongoing parking lot issues. Pylons were received and have been put into place as a stopgap solution for the time being.

**10. Fundraising:** Meadow Lakes Golf Course has been booked for a golf tournament on August 26<sup>th</sup>, Scott will work with Shelly on a budget and aim to raise \$10,000, Council is keen to help with this as needed. The Christmas bazaar was a huge success, it was nice to have everyone together again, school spirit seemed high.

Movie Night was postponed before Christmas break, Administration has decided to cancel the movie night and Council members will start planning a family dance for February. Caitlin has volunteered to spearhead the planning and organization and will arrange a separate meeting to discuss logistics.

GOES wish lists have been coming in, Council has received lists from Emily Nishikawa, Melissa Kujundzic, Kaitlyn Bell and Drew Osbourne/Michelle Beaulieu (combined list for 6/7's). One list had a small value item that will be reviewed and voted on in February, the other list was missing some pricing estimate details, Emily (Council) will reach out to the teacher to have pricing estimates added to the list, the final lists were received just prior to the meeting and has been forwarded to Council members for further discussion in February. **Action: Council to vote on \$250 request in February, Emily Woodruffe to speak to teacher regarding pricing, Council to discuss 6/7 list via email and present options for February meeting.**

A parent suggested reaching out to the community for some donation items as many people living within the catchment may have good equipment sitting unused. Another suggestion was to ask for donations of all sporting goods; what cannot be utilized for the school GOES program could be sold on consignment and the money from the sale of the equipment could be used to buy equipment more suitable to GOES requests.

## **11. First Nation School Board (FNSB)**

- Council has already voted on this subject due to the fact that one member was going to miss the meeting. However, in efforts to have a more open discussion and hear community input, Council has decided to repeal this vote and it will be instead re-visited after this meeting in an in-camera session after more discussion.
- All parents and council members present were welcomed to express their views.
- Council's perspectives were discussed:
  - Council feels it is important to hear input from parents and stakeholders of current run FNSB schools regarding how the schools are operating and how the transition has been.
  - Council believes that the current period has too tight of deadlines to reach out to FNSB and the community to arrange discussions/presentations that will provide enough information in order to make an informed decision.
  - Council has planned do some info sessions in the spring (in partnership with FNSB) in order to give the community a chance to get informed.
  - Council spoke of wanting to see regular updates from the FNSB of what they have been doing, this may also aid the community in understanding further about the FNSB.
- Parents spoke openly about their thoughts and feelings towards a FNSB, both sides in favour and against.
- A parent suggested starting a parent run subcommittee to help the community learn and understand more about the FNSB, through community events/dinners.
- One parent expressed that having the community vote in a referendum is a good way to keep the conversation going about the FNSB and that people will only get educated on a subject if there is something at stake, ie. a vote

In camera discussion and vote to occur after the meeting. School community will receive a letter identifying the vote results on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

**12. In Camera:** *Moved by Amber to go in camera at 8:41pm*

**13. Adjournment:** meeting adjourned at 9:30pm