# F.H. COLLINS SCHOOL COUNCIL

# Regular Meeting

**December 2, 2015 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Coast Hotel Meeting Room, Whitehorse**

**MINUTES**

***Present:***

***Chair***:Tracy McPhee

***Members:*** Janet Clarke, Erik Hoenisch, Tara Goodwin-Chief, Sandra Henderson (by telephone), Jessie Dawson, Muhammad Javed, Amin Abdullah, Robin Smarch

***Absent:*** Sohail Magsi, Roxanne Vallevand

***Guests:*** Kim Smarch

***Secretary-Treasurer:*** Lue Forsythe

***Administration:*** Darren Hays, Christine Klaassen-St. Pierre

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

## The meeting was called to order at 6:54 p.m.

**2**. **Agenda**

Moved by Robin, seconded by Amin

THAT the Agenda be accepted with the following addition:

“#5 – Report on School Closing & Opening Celebrations” **CARRIED**

**3**. **Minutes**

Moved by Janet, seconded by Erik

THAT the November 4th Regular Council Meeting minutes be approved

with the addition of Muhammad Javed’s name to the “present” list.  **CARRIED**

**4. Principal's Report**

Darren’s report was emailed to members before the meeting. Areas which were highlighted were:

* The safe return of the French Exchange Trip members. Several council members expressed their thanks for administration’s efforts to keep everyone informed in a very timely manner. More feedback is expected when the French group arrive.
* School attendance remains constant.
* Most of the field trips being taken now are sports related
* The “Change for Change” and “24 Hour Famine” events were very successful.
* Letters have been sent to staff advising of the upcoming evaluations in the new year
* Growth Planning activities will resume in the new year
* There is a planned school lockdown tomorrow.
* December 15th the teachers will be doing safety drills, locating their muster stations etc. in the new school. These drills will be done again by staff on January 4, 2016.
* There were 3 minor accidents during the month.
* Two students admitted to smoking pot on the bus and each received a 3-day suspension.

**5.** **BCP Test** **Scores** will be on the February 3rd Agenda. Darren will request Simon attend and present his handout and explanation.

***ACTION: Darren to request Simon attend February 3rd Council meeting.***

**6.** **New School Entranceway Signage**

Meetings have taken place, but no final decisions have been made. Once the old school has been demolished (starting January 8/9, 2016) the parent & bus drop off areas will be separated. The expectation is that parents will use the traffic light. There should be enough room for students to park just north of the school.

School speed zone signs are to be moved closer to the river.

**7.** **Excessive Speeds on Lewes Boulevard**

Janet has been in contact with the Selkirk School Council Chair and both she and Janet sent a note to the City of Whitehorse staff, who indicated they were going to look “at the big picture”. Selkirk is concerned with the crosswalk by the school which many people ignore. Janet feels Selkirk Council may take this to City Council. FH council agreed they would support them.

The idea of a flashing light indicating a reduction in speed was suggested to City staff some time ago.

**8**. **Report on FH Collins School Closing & Opening Celebrations**

On December 17th, from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. the old and new schools will both be open to alumni and retired teachers. The celebration at the old school is school-based and will include videos, music and entertainment relating to each decade of the old school. There are 6 amazing cakes being made, reflecting the flavor of each decade.

December 17th is the last day of school for students at the old school. They will clean out their current locker and take their things to their locker in the new school during the morning.

December 18th is a PD day for staff and the Department of Education is hosting a lunch

for them.

Council has received approval to spend up to $2,500 of council funds to provide a catered lunch for school staff, administration and council members on January 4th (no students are in the school until Jan. 5th). Tracy indicated there would be approximately 90 people

coming for lunch. Janet will send an email to school administration, inviting all staff to the January 4th luncheon.

***ACTION: Tracy co-ordinate luncheon, Janet email school re lunch invitation***

The Department of Education Official Opening of the new school is scheduled for January 13th from 7 – 9 p.m. There will be speeches, the Kwanlin Dun Dancers will perform as well as the band.

***Tracy is to contact Janet McDonald*** *with the Department of* *Education*, requesting she invite the appropriate people from the communities to this event.

**9. Correspondence**

No correspondence was received.

**10. Treasurer’s Report**

The bank balance at November 30, 2015 is $14,776.51.

**11.** Sandra advised there is **a parent appeal of a student suspension** at another high school.

AYSCBC has drafted a policy and the Department is reviewing the Code of Conduct Policy of every school.

**12.** **Guests at January 6, 2016 meeting**:

Minister Graham and DM Judy Arnold are attending our next meeting. Council had several areas they would like to discuss with them. Some suggestions were:

* Diversity Committee – New Vision – Steering Committee?
* Queen’s University study
* Where new French School is going to be built
* Mental Health Services
* What has the Department implemented from the 2009 Auditor General’s report and recommendations

**Council members are to priortize the suggestions (and any additional ones received soon) and Tracy/Janet will forward them to the Minister and DM in advance of the January meeting**.

**13.** **Spring 2016 School Conference**

The pros and cons on the format and length of previous School Conferences were discussed. Some of the suggestions made were

* The Conference should be of shorter duration, i.e. perhaps 1 ½ days
* A good facilitator would improve the meetings
* Round table discussions were good
* Less speakers – more interaction between councils

**Tracy will contact AYSCBC with our comments.**

**14.** **New Business**

2009 Auditor General’s Report and Recommendations.

Janet will email the link to the Report and council members are requested to read it.

**15.** **Next meeting is Wednesday, January 6, 2016 in the new school.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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Tracy McPhee, Co-Chair