# F.H. COLLINS SCHOOL COUNCIL

# Regular Meeting

**May 6, 2015 – 6:30 p.m.**

**F.H. Collins School Library**

**MINUTES**

***Present:***

***Chair***:Sandra Henderson

***Members:*** Robin Smarch (by phone), Janet Clarke, Muhammad Javed, Amin Abdullah, Tara Goodwin-Chief, Roxanne Vallevand, Sohail Magsi, Tracy McPhee

***Absent:*** Jessie Dawson, Erik Hoenisch

***Guests:*** Doug Graham, Minister of Education

Greg Storey, A/Superintendent

Jim Tredger, NDP Education Critic

Carol Coote, AYSCBC Executive Director

Gerrard Tremblay and interpreter

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

Mike Toews

Secretary-Treasurer: Lue Forsythe

## Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Chair introduced Minister of Education Doug Graham.

Minister Graham shared some of his insights and plans for Education in Yukon.

* The French School Board has made their site selection, which is the current location of the Skateboard Park. The Skateboard group has been assured they will be provided with a suitable location.
* Since his appointment as Minister of Education there have been several changes in the department’s senior personnel.
* Superintendent Mike Woods is currently serving as Acting Assistant Deputy Minister for the Department and Greg Storey will be the Acting Superintendent for F.H. Collins School.
* The Student Financial Assistance Act is being reviewed and the formal recommendations will be provided to Council. Some Council members had previously submitted their suggestions.
* Regarding the French Immersion Program, there were 23 children on a “wait list” at Whitehorse Elementary School. A decision was made to place them in Selkirk School because Selkirk had room for them. Minister Graham stated that no children would be left out of Kindergarten French Immersion.

The plan is students who will be starting at Selkirk School in Kindergarten Immersion will be able to continue on to grades 1 and 2.

* In Yukon there are students who “graduate” with only a grade 8 – 10 education. Yukon College’s biggest registration of students are those who graduated in Yukon and come to the College for upgrading.
* The Department plans to develop a Yukon-based curriculum, that will include First Nations and Yukon College input. The emphasis will be on grades 7 to 12, with English 12 and Math 11 being the focus.
* It is his belief that if students have not learned to read by grade 3, they will find it very difficult in the years ahead, and the Department plans to improve on this, starting this year.
* The matter of the large absentee rates is also a concern.

## Agenda

**Moved by Janet, seconded by Tara,** that the Agenda be accepted with the following additions:

Principal’s Report – add Porter Creek Principal’s Report

Old Business – Property Management Meeting Report

**Carried.**

Chair introduced A/Superintendent Greg Storey.

## Minutes

## Moved by Tara, seconded by Janet, that the minutes of the April 1, 2015 Regular Council Meeting be adopted as presented,

**Carried.**

## Principal’s report

## Darren’s report was accepted as presented (copy attached).

## Items discussed were:

## Two additional staff members (FTEs) have been allocated to FHC. There will be 7 or 8 permanent positions available this year, due to some teachers retiring and others having medical issues.

## The number of Educational Assistants (EAs) has not been finalized and is being discussed next week at the Principals’ meeting.

## Two First Nations permanent Language Teacher positions have been advertised, with the ideal situation being to hire one teacher and one elder who is language proficient. This competition has not closed yet.

## School enrolment is guesstimated to be in the area of 670 – 680 students in the fall.

## Council agreed that School Year Magnets should be continued.

## The Young Authors Conference was held at the school in April with 48 students participating.

## The shops were inspected to determine if they complied with the regulations, but no report has been received so far.

## The FHC graduation Cap and Gown event is taking place on June 4th and the prom is on June 6th.

## The school has purchased an AED device that is in the main office.

## An “earthquake drill” and then an “evacuation drill” were held.

## The school bus registration period has been extended to June 30, 2015.

## The final exam schedule has been posted to the school website.

## 2015-16 Student Course Schedule has been created.

## Principal’s Report Cont’d.

## Council is requested to approve December 18th, 2015 and January 4, 2015 as school based PD days. These days are before and after the Christmas break, to assist with the move into the new school.

## Moved by Janet, seconded by Roxanne, that December 18, 2015 and January 4, 2016 be approved as the school based PD days.

## Carried.

## Council was made aware of a request from the FHC Math and Counsellors Department that the school change the current format of AP (Advanced Placement) 12 Calculus in order to involve more students in this high-end math course. The Math Department Head would instruct the regular AP course and in the same class also instruct a dual credit course which would be for secondary and university credit (if the student writes and passes the exam at the end of the course).

## The first day of classes in the fall is Tuesday, September 1st.

## Tara circulated a copy of the Principal’s Report from Porter Creek Secondary School. Darren advised it was much the same format as the monthly report he prepares for the Department.

## Treasurer’s Report

## The current bank balance is $11,432.01.

## 

## Committee Reports

## Bus Transportation Committee

## The next meeting is being held next week.

## Tour of New School

## Tara toured the new school and voiced a few reservations, such as how the foyer of the school might be used and the smaller size of the gymnasium.

## AYSCBC Spring Conference

## Sandra indicated it was well attended and very interesting. One of the keynote speakers, Charmaine Hammond, is offering a follow-up session. This session will take place as a conference call on Thursday, May 21st at 12 noon. Members have been sent an email with more information.

## Carol spoke briefly regarding violence in the schools. A member asked the administration if there was violence directed towards teachers and administration. Administration indicated there is some verbal abuse from time to time, but no physical abuse or property damage.

## 

## Old Business

## YG Committees

## Although there used to be many YG Committees with school council members participating, to date the Department has not advised us which Committees are still active and how we could be involved. This Council sent an inquiry to Bob Walker, School Liaison, who forwarded the request to Albert Trask, who is no longer with the Department.

## The matter of YG Committees will be dealt with by DM Judy Arnold and it is expected they will be operational in September and School Councils so advised. There is a YG directive that minutes be taken at all meetings.

## Old Business Cont’d.

## Property Management

## Janet, Sandra and Mike Woods met with Ryan Perry, a representative of Property Management. Darren reported at this meeting that there are Property Management employees who come to do maintenance or repairs at FH and do not always check in and out with FH staff in the office. Sometimes they are entering the school at other doors and no one in Administration knows why or who is there. Janet will send a letter asking Mr. Perry to instruct all the Property Management maintenance staff that it is an expectation that they will always check in at the front office before doing their maintenance and/or repair.

## Since the above noted meeting, the matter of Property Management staff not signing in at the school office has improved somewhat. For security reasons it is imperative that anyone not on staff, sign in, state the purpose of their visit and sign out when they leave the school. Administration will provide a book to fill in their name, Government ID#, location they are working in and a sign-out space.

## The City will not make any changes to the Lewes Boulevard speed limit, crosswalk and other traffic issues at FHC until the new school is operational.

## New Business

## Survey of Health Behaviours of Yukon School Aged Children

## The results of the survey are on the YG Health & Social Services website. Council members are encouraged to read this document. It is apparent that some students do not feel they have a trustworthy adult to turn to. A different methodology was used in this survey than the one done 4 years ago. The Rural Advisory Committee meets tomorrow and will be looking at the survey.

## FHC has 2 Counsellors who are not trained as psychologists or psychiatrists. They do a

## “threat assessment” but are not able to provide on-going support.

## Incoming Correspondence

## A letter was received from Meera Sarin, Teacher-Coordinator of the F.H. Collins Social Justice Club requesting school council consider sponsoring a $500 annual Social Justice Scholarship for a grade 12 student who will be continuing to be involved in the community post graduation.

## Moved by Tracy, seconded by Robin that an annual Social Justice Scholarship in the amount of $500.00 be provided to a grade 12 student who meets the criteria, beginning in 2015.

## Carried.

## Three suspension letters have been received.

## 

## Next Meeting

## The next regular meeting of Council is at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 3rd, 2015, in the Library.

## Adjournment

## The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Sandra Henderson, Chair HH Lue Forsythe, Secretary-Treasurer