

August 17, 2021

## Meeting with Minister and Deputy Minister of Education

### Minutes

**Meeting start:** 6:35pm

**Agenda:** approved, no additions

**Present:**

**School Council:** Ian Spencer, Kerri Ellis, Teresa Samson, Terra Blanchard, and Sarah Paschuk

Deputy Minister Nicole Morgan, Minister Jeanie McLean, MLA Jeremy Harper

**Agenda Items:**

- 1) Reasoning for removal of staff positions at JV Clark School (0.5 teaching, and 0.5 EA)**
  - Many changes are occurring in recruitment, will be in place for next year. Explained in “Story of the Territory”.
  - Teacher allotment based on student projections for the following year. This is based on 10year cycles at the school. Staff positions are not final until September 30, administration can request more staff up until September 30.
  - Pandemic has slowed recruitment from outside
  - Department is working with communities to be able to provide online learning (Aurora virtual school), this will help reduce inconsistency between schools as well.
  - Can fill gaps with the use of non-enrolling teachers (e.g. teachers on call (TOC), counselors etc.)
  - Changes in superintendents, four in the last three years, and principals affect the school community; making it hard to retain teaching staff and recruit new staff.
  - **Question:** When schools do get final student numbers and decide how many staff they need, how do we fill these positions quickly? Sounds like too little too late, when we have a hard time hiring for the start of school as it is?
    - Staff can be moved, reassigned, around the territory to cover needs
    - Create full time positions, combine half time positions, in communities to make jobs more appealing
    - Recruit TOC to stay
  - **Question:** Turn over at our school is a big concern, are other communities experiencing the same amount of turn over?
    - Communities have individual challenges
    - On average teachers stay in the community for two years.
    - Changes in leadership can cause staff inconsistencies and turn over
    - TOC staff cannot go over two weeks without being offered a temporary position. They may not accept the position or the school may choose not to offer the position
    - New Superintendent is very focused on recruitment, changes will be in place for next year.

- Special Education Report – requires the Education Department to address issues around Education Assistant positions. Needs for more staff, consistency, training etc.
- **Question:** Does the Department conduct exit interviews when staff choose to leave a position?
  - Yes, the Department has done these in the past. They are always voluntary. Don't know what happens with the information, but will find out.

**2) How is housing secured for school staff?**

- Staff are dependent on Yukon Housing Corp. (YHC) for accommodation, there is no private market
- TOC can't use YHC because they do not have a permanent contract
- **Minister to talk with housing Minister about what can be done.**
- Department looks to Public Service Commission and YHC, on an individual basis, to help with housing needs in communities. Can help with rent subsidies, furniture, cleaning etc.
- Department can ask for an extension to the 3year YHC rule
- Cannot hold YHC units for YG Departments anymore.

**3) Bussing provided to communities?**

- New contract with Standard bus to provide bussing in communities
- Up to Standard to recruit drivers
- Pandemic caused shortage in staffing
- Suggest that school council talks about rural community challenges with bussing at annual School Council Conference, to bring issues forward.
- Daily bussing updates are available at "my bus monitor". Provides updates for parents.

**4) What is the Departments scheduling process for student assessments by psychologists, and speech therapists?**

- Main issue: school requests for consultants to come in September or early October. But they end up scheduling for winter (January, February), when travel is hard and dangerous. As well, it is too late in the year for assessments. Consultants end up either canceling due to weather or cutting the trip short, and students go un-assessed (no educational plan put in place). The trip is never re-scheduled.
- This issue is addressed in the "Special Education Report", Department will be working on it.
- Conversations are being had (in the Department) – how can we do assessments differently (frequency, reason, need for IEP, follow ups).

**DM to follow up on what the schedule is for our community this year.**

**5) What is the status of a Northern Tutchone Teacher at our School?**

- Posting to come out soon
- ADM and First Nation Initiatives are working at building capacity with fluent speakers, also being qualified teachers.
- **DM Will have ADM to follow up with school directly**
- Focus is on fluency for staffing the position.

**Council business:**

- School Council AGM will be on October 5, 2021 at 6:30pm at the school.
- Next meeting September 7, 2021 at 6:30pm
- Meetings will remain on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm at the school.

*Lorah Paschke*  
 sept. 7, 2021