**PORTER CREEK SECONDARY SCHOOL COUNCIL  
Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

**September 14, 2022**

**School Library**

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

**Present: Council Members: Administration:**

Angela Drainville: Chair Nicole Cross: A/Principal

Sheri Graham Candice Deo: Vice Principal

Jennifer Kozmen Jeffrey Hills: A/Vice Principal

Misty Ticiniski

Dale Cheeseman

Jerry Zahora: Secretary Treasurer

**Regrets:** Matt Power: Council Member

Michelle Telep: Council Member

**Guests:** Trevor Ratcliff: A/Superintendent

Lori Choquette: School Council Liaison

Geraldine Van Bibber: MLA, Porter Creek North

Brandie Chetcuti: ESW/KDFN

Jennifer Floyd: Parent, interested in council position

Neil Salvin: Parent, interested in council position

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:34PM
2. **Adoption of Agenda:** Moved by Sheri, second by Dale, THAT the agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

1. **Adoption of Minutes:** Moved by Misty, second by Jennifer, THAT the Minutes of Annual General Meeting, September 9, 2021 be adopted. CARRIED
2. **Report from Superintendent:**

Trevor provided a report. As he just assumed the position it is a “generic” report

from the office of superintendents . Highlights:

There are over 5700 students across the Yukon

Schools opened in August 2021 with optimism during the COVID 19 pandemic. Mask

mandates were lifted, vaccination rates were high, staff and students were eager to be

back.

However, early in the school year, mask mandates returned, exposure notices escalated

and major disruptions to student and staff attendance and programming began again.

School Councils worked diligently with their school communities to support learning

either in person at school or via distance when required.

The State of Emergency in the Yukon ended on March 17, 2022, and a gradual reduction

of safety measures was experienced in schools. By June, school communities were able

to celebrate graduations and transitions with in person events!

The Dept. of Education consists of:

Minister of Education: Hon. Jeanie McLean

Deputy Minister: Nicole Morgan

ADM of Policy and Partnerships: Kelly Taylor

ADM of First nations Initiatives: Suzan Davy

ADM of Schools and Student Services: Ryan Sikkes

Superintendents of Schools:

Paul McFadyen: Area 1

Donna Miller-Fry: Area 2

Marilyn Marquis-Forster: Area 3

Director of Student Support Services: Karen Campbell

Director of Technology and student Info: David McInnes

Director of Operations: Chris Hanlin

School Council Liaison: Lori Choquette

Release of the **“Review Inclusive and Special Education in the Yukon”** final report,

which Yukon Education collectively embarked on a journey to ensure inclusion and

success for each child and youth.

The goal of Yukon Education is to work in cooperation with parents to develop the

whole child, including the intellectual, physical, social, emotional, cultural and aesthetic

potential of ALL students.

**School Growth Plan –** where schools continue to use a disciplined inquiry approach to

frame School Growth Plans. This approach focused attention around several key

questions that staff move through to support growth:

* What is going on for our learners?
* What does our focus need to be?
* What is leading to this situation?
* How and where can we learn more about what to do?
* What will we do differently?
* Have we made enough of a difference?

This is designed to enable educators to plan effectively using measurable data and an

inquiry process to support students and school growth. It aligns with curriculum design

and is focused on improving student learning.

School Growth Plans are meant to be developed collectively by the school

administration, school staff, school council, local First nations and other representatives

as appropriate.

**Learning support:**  working collaboratively with Curriculum and Assessment teams to help improvement the recovery plan which included:

* Ensuring that every student has some benchmark data collected (e.g. reading levels) within the first few weeks of school to inform planning and instruction for this school year. This coordinated approach with each school could be a powerful tool in establishing schools’ resource needs and is an excellent data to use for School Growth Planning purposes.
* Inclusion of YFN perspectives and Ways of Knowing, Doing and Being
* Yukon follows the BC Curriculum with adaptations to include:
  + Yukon content; and
  + Yukon First Nations’ ways of Knowing, Doing and Being

The goals of Superintendents 2021 – 22 is to learn from and contribute to the Dept. of Ed. Senior leadership team.

Respect and support First Nations ways of Knowing, Doing and Being

Understand and Support School Councils and school communities through fostering relationships within the family of schools and be present and embedded within the work of school communities.

These are some of the goals which will remain for the 2022-23 school year as well.

**Yukon First Nation School Board:**

During the winter of 2022, eight Yukon School Communities chose through referendum to join the Yukon First Nation School Board. In these, School Council has ceased to exist. Governance now falls to the First Nation School Board Authority. The FNSB is currently operating under an interim Board of Trustees with the first election of Trustees to take place November 2022.

Greg Kitchen has been hired to be the Superintendent of Special Projects.

Marilyn Marquis-Forster is the Superintendent responsible for Elementary schools.

Trevor Ratcliff, is the A/Superintendent responsible for Secondary Schools for 2 years.

Marc Champagne is the Executive Director for Francophone Du Yukon.

Melissa Flynn (interim) is the Executive Director, Yukon First Nation School Board

1. **Report From School Council:**

Angela provided a report:

Has been the Chair for the better part of the past year. Prior to that Dale Cheeseman served as the Chair.

Other members on school council were:

Angela Drainville: Chair (returning)

Deanna McLeod

Jennifer Kozmen (returning)

Sheri Graham (returning)

Misty Ticiniski (returning)

Matt Power

Michelle Telep: Guaranteed Rep, Ta’an Kwäch’än Council (returning)

Rosemary Waugh-Wilson, Guaranteed Rep, Kwanlin Dun First Nation

Jerry Zahora: Secretary Treasurer (returning)

Angela would like to thank the incredible administrative team at PCSS for their passion, creativity, and drive for excellence last year; namely, Principal Peter Giangrande, Vice Principal, Nicole Cross and Vice Principal, Candice Deo.

Council thanked Dale Cheeseman for service on council for many terms, as a Chair.

2021-22 saw a return to near-normal in terms of pandemic response, it has several “up and downs” when it came to COVID 19 protocols and response. Council congratulates the administrative team, teachers, staff and students for navigating a very challenging time.

Fostering mental health was a theme for all Yukon education this year, but that was also the case for PCSS.

Council worked with administration to roll out the “Our School Survey” again in 2021-22. This is an on going activity that assists us in evaluating the effectiveness of all parties involved in the school community and to identify issues and adjust whenever needed.

PCSS Student Council was formed in October under the guidance of Ms. Morrison-Rusas. Council was excited to see student initiative in leadership and looks forward to working more closely with this group in the coming year.

Yukon School Council elections were held in May 2022, and a new slate of Council members was elected. PCSS Council still has some seats left to be filled.

Council awarded three Scholarships this year to deserving PCSS students last year. We look forward to the great things they will achieve as they move on to post-secondary education.

The 2021-22 year started off with a great deal of hope for the school year to progress in a near-normal fashion post COVID. Grads were already enthusiastically joining committees and prepping a yearbook project, the weight room was re-located, and a video of the 2021 Honour Roll was posted to the website.

However, COVID 19 was not completely behind us so to ensure that the Administrative team had the ability to address concerns around COVID 19 compliance, Council passed a Motion to move the behavioural expectations outlined in the PCSS Operational Plan into the PCSS Code of Conduct.

Teacher shortages and transportation issues related to COVID 19 challenged all schools. PCSS had to move to online learning in early 2022 as a result of a significant outbreak of COVID 19 and the associated absence of staff. Classes resumed mid-January, and were able to continue uninterrupted for the remainder of the year.

Peter Johns and Kayoni Dickson Camalleri, participants in the FADS program are featured for their “Orange Shirt Day” designs in the Yukon News.

Two Grade 12 students initiated Naloxone training in the school for staff, on their own initiative.

The PCSS GSA worked alongside political representatives to lobby the Yukon Government to see the passage of Bill 304 – ensuring safe spaces for 2SLGBTQ+ students in Yukon Schools and in activities and organizations.

PCSS celebrated three Skills Canada Winners, and was names “Yukon’s Most Informed School”

Throughout the year, administration and council start planning the “Shaping the vision for PCSS 2030” and will form a focus of school council for the next few years.

1. **Report from Administration:**

**Academic:**

2021-22 was the fourth year of the new curriculum. This was the first year of Gr. 12 Literacy Assessment. Graduation Assessments now include the Gr. 1po Literacy Assessment, the Gr. 1o Numeracy Assessment and the Gr. 12 Literacy Assessment. These assessments were offered in November, January and April. In the spring of 2022, All gr. 8 students were assessed with the Fountas and Pinnell benchmark assessment tool. This data will be used in 2022-23 school year to remediate literacy skills at the Gr. 8 and 9 levels. This is as per the Yukon Education Recovery Document.

2021-22 school year was spent preparing staff to move to Aspen reporting for all progress and final reports home. The “Tattletale” attendance calling system was discontinued, in favour of opening up access to Aspen attendance to families.

All classes were held face to face in 2021-22, although masks were mandatory until May 2022. Class of 2022 graduates celebrated with a traditional Cap and Gown ceremony in the school gym in June.

**Hands-on/Experiential Offerings:**

PCSS is the top provider in the Yukon of experiential offerings. Two semesters of PCSS outdoor program offered at the Gr. 9 level, SASE, were successfully offered.

Spring 2022 was the 4th annual Bison Hunt / AYESHI culture camp. Was a successful harvest celebrated with a feast for those who participated.

As well, it was the 2nd “Hide camp” led by Copper Caribou in partnership with YFNED. This year a harvested Bison hide from one of the staff was worked on with the intent to use it as a rug in the Culture room. More work on the hides will continue through out this year.

Other hands on programming includes Esthetics, Fashion Art and Design, Textiles, Music, Shop programs, Digital Arts, Graphing production, Robotics and more! A Spring concert was held as well.

**Social/Emotional/Spirit:**

The Homeroom and Core competency reporting is implemented as a direct response to the Our School, student, parent and teacher survey data.

Mini grade assemblies are held, and a Spring Carnival as a school with a traditional sugar shack and a variety of games, including many traditional First Nations games.

Ram of the Month was well received by the school community and will continue as a character reward for students who help others and participate broadly in classes and the school.

HOPE program students organized successful Community Action Projects in the spring.

i.e. community garbage pick-up, take a seat, make a friend.

With the direction of a group of students, the process of transforming one of the gym change rooms into a non-gendered change room process has begun.

**Arts/Athletics:**

Focus in 2021-22 was participation and skill building in Volleyball and Basketball. Even though students missed school to school competition, and couldn’t defend the Championships, there was broader participation than usual in many programs, including more gender diversity.

Band and Music programs were active as well, with evening practices and Spring Concerts.

Art classes brightened the school with their work and the graphic production classes produced an array of Ram swag for the school.

In the spring, FADS program resumes their trips to Vancouver and with the financial support of the Dept. of Ed. they were able to produce a video fashion show that could be used for student portfolios going forward.

**First Nations and Cultural Inclusion:**

2021-22 school year, relationships with Yukon First Nations Education Directorate (YFNED), KDFN, TKC, and CAFN continued to flourish, through Memorandum of Understanding, staff on site, mentoring and tutoring programs, Educational Advocates, the YFNED Nutrition Programs and on the land offerings. Brandie Chetcuti joins the staff at PCSS as the new KDFN Education Support Worker.

With the retirement of the Southern Tutchone Language teacher, language students were given the choice to participate in a Yukon First Nations Leadership Gr. 8 class. This class engaged with many elders and knowledge keepers and participated in numerous on the land activities with partnership with YFNED.

FADS class ran a successful fundraiser campaign for Cairs Yukon through designing and selling Orange Shirts for National Truth and Reconciliation week at PCSS.

2021-22 saw the creation of a dedicated cultural space for CELC/ESWs and YFNED advocates to host cultural programming, elders and lunch-time activities. YFNED advocates staffed the Culture room Tuesday through Friday, all day, to provide academic and social emotional support to any students who were interested/needed it.

Carpet replacement was done in the 2nd floor new wing classrooms

Fitness room was fully equipped with new machines

The Culture Room was given a stove

New blinds were placed in all classrooms in the new wing

Every classroom received a Dyson fan – air cleaner

Dust Collector Project in the Wood shop began in 2021. Temporary measures were put in place with a portable dust collector. Project was not completed by end of school year.

1. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:15PM. Moved by Misty.\

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Angela Drainville: Jerry Zahora;  
Chair Secretary Treasurer