

DEHCHO DIVISIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

YELLOWKNIFE

September 22, 2023

MINUTES

PRESENT

Renalyn Pascua-Matte	Fort Simpson	Chairperson
Terri Simba Chicot	Kakisa Lake	Alternate Trustee
Yvonne Norwegian	Jean Marie River	Trustee
Jayne Konisenta	Nahanni Butte	Trustee
Lisa Moses	Wrigley	Trustee
Trisha Landry	Fort Providence	Trustee
Genevieve McLeod	Fort Liard	Trustee

ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION

Ruby Jumbo	Sambaa K'e	Trustee
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IN ATTENDANCE

Philippe Brulot (Superintendent), Marty Leach (Supervisor of Schools), David Fiebelkorn (Comptroller), Samson Tshuma (Regional Wellness Coordinator)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9.00 am.

2. OPENING SPIRITUAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Yvonne Norwegian

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION 1179-09-23 Be It Resolved that the Agenda for the September 22,2023 Council Meeting be accepted as presented with the following additions:

Add 7.3 Guidelines for Student Accommodation Contract Changes

Add 9.4 Grade Extension

Add 9.5 Orientation for Teaching Staff

CARRIED

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Will declare once the need arises.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION 1126-03-22 Be It Resolved that the Minutes for the June 14, 2023 Council Meeting be approved as presented with the following changes (corrections)

- Date should be June 17th (remove June 18th)

- Remove Ruby Jumbo from Present. (Absent with notification)
- In Attendance, add name change (Mary Jane “Cazon”, Terry Sapp “Deh Gah Got’je First Nation”, Lloyd Chicot “Ka’a’gee Tu Furst Nation” Steve Vital “Nahanni Butte Band”. Christine Holman “Metis Nation”, Carla Norwegian and Ariel Sanguéz “Jean Marie First Nation”, Herb Norwegian “Dehcho First Nation”.
- Page 19 – replace “Health” with “NTHSS Health and Social Service” twice.
- Page 19 – second paragraph change “Attorney General” to “Office of the Auditor General” and “OAG” thereafter.
- 13 Policy Reading – Motion 1174-06-23 should read “Policy 3.13” instead of “Policy 3.12”
- 13.2 Motion 1175-06-23 should reference “Policy 3.11 not 3.10” remove “Lockdown” and replace “Student Accommodation”.

6. DELEGATION

None at this time

7. OLD BUSINESS

7.1 DEA Training Update

The Superintendent gave an update from ECE about scheduling DEA trainings. ECE has proposed that they can provide training from the 7th-10th of November. The training can be

offered in two slots within four days. DEA members can choose to attend one or two training sessions split between two days.

It was decided that Fort Liard and Fort Providence would be the two desired training locations. DEA members from other communities would be flown into those communities to attend the training.

Trustee members from Kakisa and Jean Marie River expressed that their communities have not yet held their elections because of the fires and cannot commit that it will still be the same DEA members. The Superintendent, in response, expressed that he would try and consult with ECE to see if they would be willing to offer an extra training session for both communities at another time after the elections. He further requested that Trustees consult with their DEA members and report back next week on whether they would prefer the training to happen during the day or in the evening.

The Chairperson also advised Trustees to consider developing questions they can ask the trainers as the handbook does not fully address some of the issues they have faced.

7.2 Video Surveillance Policy

The Superintendent gave an update on the video surveillance policy. Currently, they are revising the policy and will be working with the lawyers to ensure that it meets Federal standard. The Chair asked whether audio recording would be allowed. Supervisor of Schools expressed that the recommendation presented to them from the lawyers was that if they need audio recording, a risk assessment needs to be conducted and it should also be part of a school safe school plan, and ensure that there is proper signage that informs the people that audio is being recorded. This should all be part of the policy. The Superintendent emphasized

that as they continue to revise the policy they will ensure that everything is run through their lawyers to ensure that the right wording is used. The Supervisor of Schools also recommended that the video and audio recording signage be put up on the playground so that visitors know that they are being recorded. It was also decided that an update would be given at the next meeting.

7.3 Guideline for Student Accommodation (Contract Changes)

The Chairperson requested that a revised policy be made to the Guideline for Student Accommodation Contract and that it should be based on the changes discussed in the previous council meeting. The current policy does not include the changes agreed upon.

8. POLICY

Postponed to December meeting with new policy development.

The Superintendent expressed that they were hoping to work on new policies but unfortunately, they have been busy, and they will present new drafts of policies at the next meeting. The Chair requested that the DDEC prepare a binder for all Trustees of their policies so that they can share them with their DEA members, as some may not have any policies. This would allow them to ensure that when they are drafting policies they are in line with the DDEC policies.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Minutes of our Meetings

Before addressing the topic at hand the Superintendent expressed his wish to have a photo taken of all the Trustees to upload on the DDEC webpage and also the DDEC newspaper. He emphasized the importance for communities to know who represents them on the Council. It was

agreed that pictures of all Trustees and Alternates would be taken at a later when all Trustees are present.

On the issue of Minutes, the Superintendent shared with the Trustees that going forward they would be posting Minutes from all the Council meetings on the web-page along with dates (yearly schedule) on when the meetings will take place. He also advised Trustees that all DEA's should also consider posting their Minutes. The importance of posting the Minutes was to ensure greater transparency with the public on decision making processes made by the Council. The Superintendent shared that community members had also conveyed the need to have the minutes posted.

The Supervisor of Schools also emphasized that Minutes are a public document that anyone can have access to but also it also helps the Council because people do not have to ATIP if they need information, because the information can be easily accessible to them. From henceforth, all Minutes from the previous school calendar year and this year will be posted on the DDEC web-page.

The Chairperson expressed that the previous Superintendent used to do an Executive Summary that would highlight all the key information and motions and Trustees would share the information with their DEAs. The Superintendent agreed that they could go back to preparing an executive summery, however, the Superintendent also proposed that the Council could consider holding a special meeting over the phone or online, two weeks after each Council meeting to approve the Minutes. This would be preferred over an Executive Summary as it would allow for the public to have access to the Minutes before the next Council meeting as opposed to waiting for the next Council meeting to take place months later to approve the previous meeting minutes. All members agreed to the new proposal, Minutes for the Council meeting should be sent to all

Trustees for review two weeks after a Council Meeting has taken place and a special meeting would be called to approve the minutes so they can be posted the DDEC web page.

9.2 Youth Mental Health Conference

The Regional Wellness Coordinator (RWC) shared with the Trustees that the Wellness Department had received funding to hire 3 Student Support Workers (SSW) who would be actively working in the schools providing non-clinical mental health programming in the schools. This will include mental health education in the schools, after-school programming, community engagement workshops and a huge focus on addictions and substance abuse awareness advocacy. The SSWs will be based in Fort Simpson, Fort Providence or Fort Liard. They will also serve other smaller schools as well. He hopes that they can secure more funding to hire more SSWs.

Due to the funding being approved a month before schools opened and with the wildfires, there have been delays. The SSWs have not yet been hired as the Board is waiting from HR to start the screening process and conduct interviews.

He also expressed his concerns surrounding addictions and substance abuse among young people in our communities. He also shared that the RCMP had already notified him and the schools that they had got reports of needles being found in playgrounds and they had offered to come into the schools and provide workshops to teach young people about the effects and impact of drugs.

The RWC also shared that they received funding to Host a Youth Mental Health Conference. The Wellness Department will be reaching out to local stakeholders to form a steering committee to plan for the Hosting of the Conference. The funding was approved for students in Grade 9-12 and will be held in Fort Simpson. The Wellness Department is looking at February as a projected month to host the Conference. The RWC shared that he believes this is a great opportunity for us

to connect with our young people. The RWC stated that although the Conference will also seek to focus on issues related to substance abuse education, they are working towards providing year round workshops and focus groups with young people.

Trustee from Kakisa asked why Grades 7-8 were being excluded from the Conference as she felt that smaller communities were being excluded as most of their schools run from Grade 7-9. The Supervisor of Schools responded by stating that the needs for Grade 9-12 are different from Grades 6-8 and recommended that maybe they could work towards hosting one for those grades at a later point. He also stated that older kids may not want to discuss some topics with the younger students. The Superintendent also shared his views by stating that conferences take time to plan and that maybe the recommendation of having a separate conference next year might be more realistic, also, it is a funding issue, as they would need to apply for more funding. He also emphasized that they should consider that some topics may not be age-appropriate for some of the students. The RWC also responded by stating that the reasoning for the age group recommended was based on a risk assessment made based on the focus groups he had conducted with the youth. The Chair also raised a question on what would happen to Grade 7-8 who will be in Fort Simpson during the conference, would they still attend school when the conference is happening? The RWC responded by stating that they would still attend school. The Trustee from Fort Providence also reiterated that she felt excluding smaller communities that have smaller kids would not be ideal as smaller kids even though they are young, want to be included in what older kids are doing. The Superintendent also pointed out that they have to be cognizant that if it is opened up to smaller kids, there is a risk element. It would require more chaperones and also that it should also be considered that they may not be enough capacity (housing) to house a lot of students in Fort Simpson if it is opened up to more grades. On the issue of substance abuse and

drugs,, the Trustee from Nahanni Butte expressed her sadness about the issue and reiterated why her community had taken the decision to apply for Grade Extension because parents are afraid of sending their children to Fort Simpson. She further stated that although Fort Simpson is a nice place everyone needs to work together to make it better place. It was decided by the Trustees that the RWC and the DDEC look into the feasibility of whether to extend the conference to other grades as and report back.

9.3 5 yr. Vision and Mission (revisit the road map)

The Superintendent brought to the attention of the Council that the DDEC is nearing the end of its 5 year road plan and that they were looking at re-engaging all stakeholders (community members, teachers, parents/guardians, band councils) to discuss what changes they would like to see for the next 5 years. He emphasized that there will still be areas that the Central Office needs to control, for example a focus on improving reading levels. He also pointed out that there will be flexibility due to communities having different needs and he wants everyone to have a voice, and for what will be presented be representative of what communities want for their schools. The Central Office will not be driving the consultation process for transparency purposes, they would like to be as neutral as possible.

The Superintendent shared that they looked at different consultants to spearhead the process. They tried to ensure that they found someone who has worked in the North and they eventually chose Curtis Brown who was a former Superintendent from South Slave DEC. Curtis Brown has worked in the North for over 20 years and started off as a teacher, then a principal and eventually a Superintendent. He has also worked on the same process with the South Slave DEC. He will be working with Brent Kaulback who has done a lot for Indigenising education in South Slave.

Currently they have a meeting scheduled with him in the coming week to discuss the consultation visits to the communities. The Superintendent anticipates that they will be several steps taken during the process. Firstly, the Consultant will visit all communities and there will be two tours of the Dehcho. In the first one, the consultants will listen to all the stakeholders, gather their thoughts, and compile all the comments. There will be a second tour with a focus on sharing what we heard.

The consultants will keep notes of all the information discussed and narrow it down to specific focus. The information will then be shared with Council and then funneled down to the Central Office Team who will look at how to implement the mission vision and goals presented.

Finally: At the September 2024 meeting the Superintendent will present the new 5 year road map.

The Supervisor of Schools also recommended the need to create a steering committee made up of DEA members and other stakeholders to create guiding questions that the consultant can use during community consultations. To ensure that there is structure during the consultations.

Trustee from Fort Providence expressed her appreciation that they would be a consultant doing the process as she was worried that as Council, they would need to come up with a 5 year plan.

9.4. Grade Extension

The superintendent shared with the Council that Nahanni Butte has expressed an interest in having Grade Extension, and he has informed ECE of their desire. Currently they are waiting for a motion from Nahanni Butte DEA to proceed. Their desire is to start offering higher grades from September 2023. The Superintendent also shared that currently the school has more students this year and that the Curriculum Coordinator will be visiting the school to provide immediate support to the principal so that she is not drowning in work.

A trustee from Nahanni Butte also expressed that she had spoken with the Chief about housing since they will need more staff. They have decided to allocate a trailer for new staff.

The Superintendent also shared with the Council that in their consultation with the DEA and Council they had expressed that the school is on stilts. He had suggested that they can make a capital needs request for a new school.

The Chairperson asked about the progress on the request made by Samba K'e last year to also have Grade Extension. The Superintendent responded by saying that they have put it on hold.

The Chairperson also asked if Wrigley had thought about grade extension as well. The Trustee from Wrigley expressed that they are thinking about it but currently Wrigley has no kids in grade

9.5. Orientation of Teaching Staff

The Superintendent shared that Teacher Orientation will be on October 10-13. He proposed to the Council that they are hoping to invite Chiefs from each community and the Grand Chief to come and talk to staff about for people working in their communities.

The Chair also recommended that each teacher be given the Code of Ethics for Teachers.

Trustee from Deh Gah School asked if, for future Orientations, they could consider hosting them in other communities. The Supervisor of Schools responded by stating that the challenge is that other communities do not have enough capacity (accommodation) to host all the teachers in the District.

10. Community Reports

Chief Julian Yendo School:

Trustee from Wrigley asked whether schools opening late affects funding they get. Supervisor of Schools responded that the schools opening late does not affect attendance rates because students' attendance will be marked as "Unplanned Closure" for those dates. She also expressed that in their community they have several autistic kids and their parents do not want to bring them to school and wanted to know what supports can be provided. The Superintendent responded by stating that Elissa (Inclusive Schooling Coordinator) could look into it and submit a Jordan's Principle Request for extra support. He did however state that the problem they find is that it is sometimes difficult to find people who have the skills in the community who would be willing to take up the position. Trustee from Deh Gah School pointed out that sometimes the requirements for the positions are too much which prevents people from applying for the jobs.

KAKISA LAKE SCHOOL, KAKISA LAKE

For the Period: July 15, 2023-September 1, 2023

District Education Authority Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation

Decision Highlights

No Motions

Activities to Date

School Programs

School-wide Enrollment and Attendance

	Aug.	Sept/	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	Avg
Enrollment		5										
Attendance												

Data unavailable at this time as school hasn't been opened yet.

School Improvement Plan Report

School Improvement Plan (SIP) is still in the developmental stage.

Academic Programs

School hasn't started yet so no information is available at this time.

Extra-curricular Programs

We have funding for an after-school program this year. Students will engage in extracurricular activities 2 times a week when school starts.

Cultural Programs

No major activities took place. Kakisa was placed on evacuation alert and then they were evacuated by the beginning of August.

Personnel

Staffing

A new teaching principal has been hired, Jasna Finlay.

Professional Development

Community Partnerships

No partnerships to note.

Upcoming Events

School is scheduled to open on September 11, 2023. Kakisa staff and students have been back in the community since the 6th of September.

Trustee from Kakisa Lake School also reported that they haven't had a DEA meeting yet. They also secured funding for after-school programming. They are also planning a dinner to welcome the new teacher principal.

CHARLES YOHIN SCHOOL, NAHANNI BUTTE

No report at this time.

New Principal: Charyl O'Quinn (1 year position)

Number of Students Enrolled: 11 or 12

CHARLES TETCHO SCHOOL, SAMBAA K'E

For the Period: September 2023

District Education Authority

DEA Decision Highlights (motions)

- No motions approved to date.

DEA Activities to Date

- No activities to date. To be discussed at the next meeting.

School Programs

School-wide Enrollment and Attendance

	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	Avg
Enrollment	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Attendance	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

School Improvement Plan Report

- Reading and writing assessments to be completed in September.
- Indigenous Education – Working with the language teacher to plan monthly cultural events and continue with Elders coming into the school on Tuesdays and Fridays. Planning Fall Hunt activities with the students who are not participating in the Fall Hunt.
- Inclusive Education – Staff working collaboratively to meet students’ needs as outlined in their Student Support Plans (SSP) and Individual Education Plans (IEP). Megan Warr, the new Personal Support Teacher (PST), has visited the school and has helped to organize the lower elementary classroom as there will be two Kindergarten students enrolling this school year.
- Mental Wellness – Staff continue to implement SEE Learning curriculum and engage students in wellness activities – community garden & greenhouse, soccer, etc. Working with staff to create a ‘Family Fun Day’ once per month. Monica Kreft from Northern Counselling and Therapeutic Services (NCTS) will continue to visit Samba K’e to work with students and families.

Academic Programs

- Guided Reading and Guided Writing are scheduled daily in the K to 9 classrooms
- Students will complete the Dehcho Student Writes (DSW) assessments in the Fall and Spring.
- Megan Warr, the Personal Support Teacher (PST), will continue to visit our school throughout the year to work with both staff and students.

- Brigance Kindergarten Screening Assessments were conducted last Spring for our new Kindergarten students.

Extra-curricular Programs

- To Be Determined, but plan on soccer, fiddling, judo, cross-country running, tracking and field, Dene Traditional Games, cross-country skiing, etc.

Cultural Programs

- Elders engaging in cultural activities twice per week at the school
- Activities include, sewing, beading, setting up of canvas tent, snowshoeing, rabbit snaring, nature walks, visiting moose hide camp, making ribbon skirts.
- Students to participate in Fall Hunt activities.

Personnel

Staffing

- No changes in staffing to report at this time.
- We have been approved for Jordan's Principle funding for another student assistant (SA) to assist with our new Kindergarten students.

Professional Development

- Completed phase one of the Education Leadership Program (ELP) in Inuvik, NT in July.
- Will be attending the professional development meetings in Fort Simpson in October.

Community Partnerships

- The school continues to work with Samba K'e First Nations (SKFN) in the community greenhouse/garden.

Upcoming Events

- End of Year Ceremony and Awards Ceremony for the 2022/2023 school year to be held in October as we were not able to have one in June due to the fire evacuations.
- Fall Hunt activities planned for September.
- Cross-country running club to start in September.

CHIEF JULIAN YENDO SCHOOL, WRIGLEY

For the Period: September 2023 (Beginning of term 1)

District Education Authority: DDEC

Decision Highlights

- Take students out camping at least every month and interspersed with cultural activities.

Activities to Date

- Preparing to welcome students on September 11.
- Addressing concerns raised during school inspection by fire marshals.

School-wide Enrollment and Attendance

Enrolment as of September 8, 2023: 17 students, but enrolment is not complete.

School Improvement Plan

Goal	Rational/ Background	Action plan/ Strategies	Who is responsible	Measures/ Indicators	Timeline
I. Reading-to improve decoding and comprehension.	Being a proficient reader is critical to decoding and understanding text.	Implement daily 60 minute literacy blocks for grades 1-6, focussing on guided reading and others.	Support Staff, Teaching Staff, PST, and the school principal.	Will be determined using Fountas and Pinnell indicators and benchmark assessments.	September 2023 to June 2024

II. Writing	Proficiency in the 6 writing traits empowers students to become better communicators.	Students will engage in word work, etc.	Support Staff, Teaching Staff, PST, and the school principal.	School Wide Writes are implemented across the 6 writing traits twice a year.	September 2023 to June 2024
III. Indigenous Education	A school needs to be a welcoming environment that reflects the local culture.	A JP grant will be used to fund after-school cultural activities and will be led by local knowledge keepers.	Support Staff, Teaching Staff, PST, and the school principal.	Observations, conversations, and anecdotal records will be kept to gauge the success of this programming.	September 2023 to June 2024
IV. Inclusive Education	SBST need to function effectively to help ensure that students learning needs are met.	SBST will include the PST and meet remotely or in person to address the needs of students.	Support Staff, Teaching Staff, PST, and the school principal.	Minutes of SBT meetings will be kept. Action items will be followed up on and recorded.	September 2023 to June 2024
V. Mental Wellness	Students who feel more connected to at least one staff member have significantly better outcomes across a variety of constructs	Greeting students at the door, assigning staff to students to ensure that check-ins occur throughout the day, etc.,).	Support Staff, Teaching Staff, PST, and the school principal.	Student surveys, student questionnaires, informal interviews, etc.,	September 2023 to June 2024

Academic Programs

Literacy (ELA), numeracy (mathematics), social studies, science, health science, arts and culture, and Indigenous Language Education (Dene Zhatie). These subjects are mostly integrated in literacy especially for students in the lower grades (JK-6). Strategies for teaching and assessment are the same as outlined in the SIP provided above.

Extra-curricular Programs

- Sporting activities (volley and biking).
- There is also an after-school program which is run and managed by the band.

Cultural Programs

- Camping
- Story telling
- Drum making
- Feed the fire

Personnel

Staffing

- Principal who also teaches grades 6 to 9
- One teacher in charge of JK to 5
- One Student Assistant (SA). Another SA is urgently needed.
- One language teacher (Dene Zhatie), and
- One custodian who works 20 hours per week.

Professional Development

Nothing to report at this time.

Community Partnerships

No report currently.

Upcoming Events

The following events have been outlined for the rest of the first term:

- Community feast to talk about bullying/relationship building.
- Two-day camping at RB2M-Cabin for all students.
- Wellness/SEE Learning programs.

Budget

Not available currently.

DEH GÁH ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL, FORT PROVIDENCE

None at this time.

New Principal: Lois Philipp

Number of Students Enrolled: 90 to 100 (tentative)

Trustee from Deh Gah School shared that they did not have a community report but the school is focused on get attendance up. They are currently at 75% and they are also working to get Dene Dzatie back in the high school. Schools opened with on the land camp for the students. The last week of the camp will feature a rite of passage.

ECHO DENE SCHOOL, FORT LIARD

For the Period: August-September 2023

District Education Authority: Fort Liard

Decision Highlights

Nothing to report at this time. DEA has not yet met for the 2023-2024 school year.

Activities to Date

Nothing to report at this time.

School Programs

School-wide Enrollment and Attendance

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	Aug.	Sept/	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	Avg
Enrollment	NA	100										
Attendance	NA	NA										

School Improvement Plan Report

Goals	Activities	Results
To strengthen relationship with the DEA and community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase communication with the DEA. - Plan engagement activities to welcome parents and families in school (eg. Welcome back to school breakfast & BBQ, Open House, Newsletter, etc). 	
To improve staff rapport and school leadership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal to communicate more frequently with staff via emails. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal to employ different strategy to engage staff in decision making (situational & transformational leadership strategies). 	
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Academic Programs

The school leadership team have led a professional develop session to sensitive staff about the benefits and opportunities of adopting and adapting the BC curriculum. Some staff where reassigned based on their strengths. From grades 1-9 we will be implementing the BC curriculum since all our classes are split.

Extra-curricular Programs

- Nothing to report at this time.

Cultural Programs

- Learning of Dene Yati Language
- Staff Cultural Orientation at Muskeg Youth Camp. Two elders and a knowledge keeper facilitated the sessions. The staff was taught how to fish, interpret land patterns for fishing, storytelling and how the elders survived on the land.

Personnel

Staffing

- There is one new hire to our teaching staff who is replacing a teacher who is on secondment(transfer) at the board office.
- We have one vacant Relief Student Assistant (SA) position from last school year.
- One SA has recently resigned his position.
- We have earned three new SA positions for this school year.
- All our teaching positions are filled but we have 5 vacant SA positions.

Professional Development

- Literacy Development for Middle School Teachers
- Competency-Based Planning
- Re-Shaping Our School Vision
- Language Learning – Dene Yati
- Staff Cultural Orientation

Community Partnerships

- The RCMP, Health and Social Services will be joining us for the Welcome Back to School BBQ on September 15th.

Upcoming Events

- Welcome back to school breakfast (Sept. 11)
- Open House/Meet the Teacher (Sept. 12)
- Welcome Back to School BBQ (Sept. 15)
- Terry Fox Run (Sept. 15)
- Fall Camp (Sept. 18-22)
- Day of Truth and Reconciliation (Sept. 29th)
- Regional Orientation (Oct. 10-13)
- Halloween Parade (Oct. 31)
- Mid-Semester Exams (Nov. 1-3)
- Parent Teacher Interviews (Nov. 16)

The Trustee from Echo Dene School reported that they haven't had a DEA meeting yet. She also reported that parents were happy that the school had organized a meet and greet. The school also had some water pump issues when they opened but it has been resolved.

LÍIDLİI KÚĘ REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, FORT SIMPSON

For the Period: August 28th to September 8th, 2023

District Education Authority of Fort Simpson

Decision Highlights

Nothing to report at this time.

Activities to Date

Nothing to report at this time.

School Programs

School-wide Enrollment and Attendance

Nothing to report at this time.

	Aug.	Sept/	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	Avg
Enrollment		95										
Attendance												

School Improvement Plan Report

Nothing to report at this time.

Academic Programs

Líidliġ Kúę Regional High School (LKRHS) has begun the school year with a focus on changing school culture from both a staff and student perspective. We had an excellent first week collaborating around the concept of Backward by Design (UbD) planning, which teachers will practice using in their year plans. The junior high, grades 7-9, will transition to the British Columbia (BC) curriculum. I hope staff will receive focused professional development from ECE regarding the specific expectations of the new curriculum so staff can ask questions and determine how to meet those expectations effectively. Class lengths in the high school have been shortened from 80-100 minutes for specific reasons; we have received approval to make these changes.

Extra-curricular Programs

Teachers are in the process of determining the programs they will provide because they would like to acquire student input; however, the following three activities have been scheduled for the year:

- Study hall from 4:00 to 5:00
- Basketball (schedule to be determined)
- Cultural sewing (Lunch hour, one to two times per week)

Cultural Programs

We were lucky to begin the year making Beaver mitts with excellent teachers (four of them) for our cultural orientation days. The Regional Inclusive Language Educator (RILE), Cheryl Cli, and Kim Hardisty came in to avail teachers of the direction cultural programming will go this year. Cheryl Cli will meet with the LKRHS Indigenous Language Education (ILE) team on Tuesday, September 12th, to plan specific cultural events for the year. We are waiting to hear if the Jackpine paddling trip and training will go ahead at the end of September for high school students. Teachers are exploring ways to implement cultural programming into their curricular competencies (junior high) and outcomes (high school).

Personnel

Staffing

LKRHS is staffed except for the critical position of Language Instructor and the new positions: two Support Assistants (SA), one Literacy Assistant (LSA), and one Social Emotional Ethical (SEE) Learning worker, who are in the process of being hired. Two teachers from the high school have agreed to teach grade nine half-time because our

student numbers are different from what we can acquire as a focused grade nine teacher. Another teacher from the high school will be teaching grade 7. It is encouraging these teachers were willing to change their assignments so willingly.

Professional Development

- During the first week back, LKRHS explored planning according to Backward by Design (UbD) principles.
- In the late fall, LKRHS staff will explore the Collaborative Response Model. When performed effectively, collaborative response is a way to reach all learners to further comply with the inclusive schooling mandate directives in the Ed Act.
- Staff will attend the regional orientation from October 10-13th. (Collaborative Response will be presented at this event and continued through the school year). Other presenters will be at the orientation.
- LKRHS principal completed phase 1 of ELP.

Community Partnerships

- We will be doing a Water Feeding Ceremony on the first day of school with the help of two community elders.
- LKFN has agreed to help us fund our lunch program bi-weekly for as long as they can.
- Two elders from this community and another worked with LKRHS staff to make Beaver mitts.
- The year is just beginning, so all community partnerships have yet to be realized.

Upcoming Events

- Water-Feeding Ceremony (to commemorate the first day of school)
- Town-wide scavenger hunt (all students & teachers)
- Corn Boil (for community)
- Open House (for parents, guardians, and students; the date will be finalized soon).
- Jack Pine canoe training for high school students and a trip through the Nahanni for grade tens.

The Trustee reported that LKRHS is planning a Meet and Greet with parents. They have also introduced a new cellphone policy. They are also looking at a how they can get more students in the school by. A recommendation proposed is students would need 85% of attendance in order to attend sporting activities.

LÍIDLII KÚĘ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, FORT SIMPSON

For the Period: Aug. 28-Sept. 8 (first week with staff only)

District Education Authority: Fort Simpson

Decision Highlights

DEA

- Reverted back to one school bus schedule.
- Will financially support purchase of school logo for gymnasium floor.
- Will financially support new school mascot and theme decal on gymnasium wall.

Activities to Date

DEA

-Cultural Orientation Day took place at Two Islands Thursday and Friday, Sept. 7-8. This was an overnight excursion with lots of cultural activities and a powerpoint orientation for new hires.

School Programs

- School-wide coloring contest for our new school mascot rollout.
- Lunch Program
- LLI Program
- Judo Program

School-wide Enrollment and Attendance

Fill in your school wide enrollment and percentage attendance each month.

	Aug.	Sept/	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	Avg
Enrollment	92	92										
Attendance	N/A	N/A										

School Improvement Plan Report

-SIP Should be finalized before next report.

Academic Programs

-Math, Science, ELA, Social Studies, Dene Zhatie, Music, Physical Education, Art, and Health.

Extra-curricular Programs

-To be finalized before end of September. Staff sign-up sheet posted in staff room with upcoming deadline. All staff being requested to offer at least one program.

Cultural Programs

-Our first day of classes will be Sept. 11. We are hoping to have our Fall Culture Camp from the 18-21 but these times may change depending on personnel resources, the return of permission forms, and risk assessments.

Staffing

All positions are filled except for kindergarten. It is still advertised.

-SA positions to be filled by Sept. 22 depending on HR screening/interview times.

Professional Development

-All staff took part in a Cultural session with the RILE and Kim Hardistry on Tuesday, Sept. 5.

-All staff took part in the Cultural Orientation Days at Two Islands on Sept. 7 and 8th. This included a review of the Cultural Dene Kede handbooks and planning for Fall Culture Camp 2023.

Community Partnerships

-We highlighted goals in our first staff meeting to have more elders/knowledge-keepers, and community partners in the school.

-LKFN supporting 2023-24 breakfast program.

-MACA pending support.

-RCMP to set schedule on in-class sessions throughout the school year.

-Health Promotions will be contacted for upcoming monthly presentations.

Upcoming Events

-Terry Fox

-Truth and Reconciliation Day

-DSWs

-Corn Boil

-Fall Culture Camp

-Coloring Contest.

-“The Dot” activity.

9.4. Superintendent Report

The Superintendent gave several updates:

(i) **Back to normal at JMR**

The progress on the JMR construction is over. Classes resumed on September 18th

(ii) **Orientation:**

The DDEC decided to host staff orientation in October this year, and in the years to come. This decision was based on previous experience with the pandemic. He shared that usually when people come back from their summer break, there is a risk that the virus can spread in the communities. This would likely result to in cancelling the orientation if it had been planned for August, due to the increase workload with the fire emergencies.

(iii) **Travelling Stage visiting Dehcho schools - 2023-2024**

School	Trip Dates
Echo Dene School (Fort Liard)	October 23 – November 3 *(1 week)*
Charles Tetcho School (Sambaa K'e)	October 30 – November 3 (2 weeks)
Chief Julian Yendo School (Wrigley)	November 6 – November 17 (2 weeks)
Deh Gah Elementary & Secondary (Fort Providence)	November 6 - November 17 (2 weeks)
Charles Yohin School (Nahanni Butte)	November 6 - November 10 *(1 week)*
Kakisa Lake School (Kakisa)	November 6 - November 17 (2 weeks)
Louie Norwegian School (Jean Marie River)	November 6 - November 10 *(1 week)*
Líídljį Kúę Elementary School (Ft Simpson)	November 6 - November 17 (2 weeks)
Líídljį Kúę Regional High School (Fort Simpson)	November 6 - November 17 (2 weeks)

Travelling stage next step:

The DDEC will start the conversation with all schools and communities this year on the topic of Arts in the Dehcho. He stated that they will see if parents, staff and partners would support the idea to hold a GNWT-wide Contest pretty much similar to the Spelling Bee contest. It would be called : NWT's got talent. They would seek grants from Jordan Principle.

(iv) **Update on Jordan Principle Funding:**

The Superintendent praised the Central Office Team for having done great work in securing J.P funding for the students. He expressed that it is a great year and they are bringing in massive external funding.

Funding breakdown

ISC-158972: Jordan's Principle approval for 1 full-time SSA for 2 children (A.B. and P.A.) CT School

FY 23/24: \$50,000

FY 24/25: \$25,000

ISC-158058: Jordan's Principle approval for Indigenous Language Program at DG School

FY 23/24: \$264,667

FY 24/25: \$132,333

ISC-147591: Jordan's Principle approval for Student Support Workers, Program Administration, and a Youth Mental Health Conference

FY 23/24: \$424,253

FY 24/25: \$143,622

ISC-154361: Jordan's Principle approval for 4 SSAs at DG School

FY 23/24: \$220,000

FY 24/25: \$110,000

ISC-152824: Jordan's Principle approval for 19 SSAs

FY 23/24: \$1,045,000

FY 24/25: \$522,500

SCHEDULE 3:
2.0 - Cash Flow by Fiscal Year by Department
As Of 2023/08/23

Arrangement #: 2021-NR-000079
Arrangement Type: FA - OTHER
Recipient: 32832 - Dehcho Divisional Education Council

Budget	Funding	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Total
Department of Indigenous Services	Fixed Contribution	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Flexible Contribution	1,167,927.00	1,616,089.00	1,537,855.00	3,463,081.00	1,164,024.00	8,948,976.00
	Total	1,167,927.00	1,616,089.00	1,537,855.00	3,463,081.00	1,164,024.00	8,948,976.00
Total		1,167,927.00	1,616,089.00	1,537,855.00	3,463,081.00	1,164,024.00	8,948,976.00

(v) **Update on the CYC (Child Youth Counsellor).**

The Superintendent shared that the CYC redesign continues to be a complex file. He shared a summary of the key points discussed about the program:

- There will be no clinical supervisors at ECE as Superintendents expressed they did not plan on hiring clinicians. If any education body does hire positions needing clinical supervision, the education bodies will be responsible for facilitating that.
- ECE will keep the Territorial Manager position to help support the School-based Mental Health and Wellness Program. Once the School-based Counselling Framework is updated, the Territorial Manager Job Description will be adjusted to reflect that framework.

- ECE will keep the itinerant team contract in place for the 2023-24 school year as the program redesign roles out. The itinerant team will need to be available for all schools to access if a crisis arises. ECE is working with NCTS to determine what this will look like. As promised, we will revisit this decision at the January 2024 NWTSA meetings.
- ECE and the NWTSA (Northwest Territories Superintendents' Association) agreed on using the School Funding Framework (based on FTE) to determine allocation of funds with one change. It was agreed that ECE use \$263k of the Itinerant team budget to supplement the education bodies that have lower FTE to make the allocations more conducive to a hireable support. This funding will go to the NDEA, DDEA, SDEC, DDEC and CSFTNO.
- In the attachment, you will see the PY allocations for your system, based on level 16 of the UNW pay scale. We will not be asking education bodies to stick to the allotted PY allocation. You will receive the funding dollars to hire wellness workers under the School-based Counselling Framework. Please remember these numbers are still draft as we are still waiting on final numbers from Health and our ECE finance team.

The Student Support and Wellness (SSW) team is currently working hard on the School-Based Counselling Framework and will share an update on this later this summer. This will be in draft, and we will collect feedback from both you as superintendents and RISCs throughout the next year. The team is working on the funding parameters, but it will be tied to intervention and prevention support.

As we discussed in June, ECE and HSS need to seek approval for the CYC Program Redesign and the reallocation of the funding from HSS to ECE. To that end, ECE and HSS will be submitting a joint proposal for review and feedback in review and approval, and expect to receive a decisions in early August. This means that the redesigned model and the amount of funding will not be confirmed until mid-August. I recognize this is not ideal for education bodies looking to

recruit and hire staff for the 2023-24 school year, and that there is a risk in hiring positions ahead of formal approval of the redesigned model and funds.

(vi) **Judo program for school year 2023 -2024**

The Superintendent expressed that they are trying to give students and community members more opportunities to access the program. They are looking to set up:

- Training to secondary students in the regional centre as well as adding communities of Kakisa and Jean Marie River and visits to the smaller communities to introduce Judo to the elementary students, which would also reinforce the training received by the secondary students in the regional centres.
- Fort Simpson based instructor deliver instruction in the communities of:
 - Fort Simpson
 - Wrigley
 - Jean Marie River
 - Sambaa K'e
- Fort Providence based instructor would deliver instruction to:
 - Fort Providence
 - Kakisa
- Fort Liard based instructor would deliver instruction to:
 - Fort Liard
 - Nahanni Butte

During program weeks:

- Instructor will be available during the day in school
- After School 1 hour (longer at the discretion of the instructor)
- Evening classes open to the community 2 hours, longer at the discretion of the instructor.
- Saturday- classes open to the community 3 hours, longer at the discretion of the instructor- would add family Judo which is kids 3-6 with a guardian.
- Sundays off as needed.
- In Fort Simpson Non Project Weeks 15 hours a week.
- Maintain community club - Minimum 1 night a week and Saturday classes all ages.
- Available for in school and after school.

Nota Bene:

The judo coaches are expected to keep an attendance log. Community members and students participating in the program must sign in every time the activity is being offered.

The collection of this data is critical for future grant request. Failure to provide this important information will jeopardize the entire program moving forward.

(vii) **Delayed start effect**

(viii) **Update trip to Mexico**

The Superintendent gave an update on the Mexico Trip. They have decided to put this coming year trip on hold to allow for more time to plan for the trip as well as help students secure the right documentation. Last year the people who organized the trip faced several challenges, especially when it came to helping families secure the right documentation so that the students could secure passports. The Superintendent stated that they are looking at resuming the Cultural exchange trips in 2025 and for students to travel bi-yearly. He also stated that they are working with SEE Learning who have vast networks and connections with other communities all across the world and that they are not limited to Mexico alone.

Terri (Alternate) – Shared that Brazil could be an option to look at as their Chief had recently travelled to Brazil and he spoke about the similarities in culture between themselves and the Indigenous communities in Brazil.

(ix) **Shortage of teachers:** A world-wide crisis!

The Superintendent emphasized that in the next couple of years we will enter a very difficult period due to the ongoing shortage of teachers. The ongoing shortage of teachers is only going to get worse as time goes by. This new reality will last a few years and we must be ready. The Dehcho is trying to tackle this challenge from three angles:

1. They signed an agreement with the University of Calgary. They are going to send us student teachers interested in doing a practicum in the Dehcho. This will give the DDEC a chance to attract and hopefully keep young talent. The Supervisor of schools or the Superintendent is likely going to Calgary to meet these students in person.

2. The Supervisor of Schools will likely tour a few universities this year, as he did last year to meet with student teachers on campus. This is something other Boards are doing as well.
3. The DDEC is going to work on a strategy to be ready for September 2024. They will see how they can cope with the possibility of **not** finding a teacher or a principal in one of our communities (despatching a central office employee, ... selecting a substitute ahead of time? – All options will be on the table.

Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Alberta -List of the DDEC's responsibilities

The Organization shall provide Students participating in Placements (and the University of Calgary, as required) with an orientation to its facilities, administrative structure and policies, so that Students can effectively and safely participate in Placements.

The Organization shall ensure that its applicable staff are made aware of the policies and procedures of the University of Calgary as they apply to each Placement, and the Organization shall take reasonable steps to ensure compliance.

The Organization agrees to ensure that each Student receives adequate, consistent, and appropriate supervision, direction and learning opportunities during their Placement.

The Organization recognizes that the Students are, to varying degrees, in the process of gaining experience, instruction and education in their field. The Organization shall not permit any Student to undertake activities, responsibilities or duties that exceed the capabilities of the Student.

The Organization will advise the University of any police checks, vulnerable sector checks, immunizations, medical clearances, or other health or security clearances, required of Students attending Placements at the Organization.

The Organization, acting reasonably, reserves the right to refuse access to its facilities by any Student or staff member of the University of Calgary.

5.1 The Organization shall notify the University of Calgary promptly in the event a Student is sick, ill, injured, incapacitated or involved in any claim relating to his or her actions or omissions, during the Placement.

Chairperson asked who would provide the students with accommodation and stipend while they are working in the schools. The Superintendent expressed that the DDEC could house them in the residence but they would not provide them with a stipend. Universities in most cases provide it to the student teachers.

Finance – By David Fieblekorn, Comptroller.

The Budget component of the Operation Plan was approved at the June Council meeting and a copy was sent to the Minister's office. From the beginning of July, the staff have been getting the year end work completed and preparing for the annual audit. The audit preparation was completed in July and August with the field work completed by the auditors during the week of July 24, 2023. Once the accounting system was rolled over, school orders for the new school year were placed and sent out to the suppliers. All orders were sent out by the middle of July. New year budgets were being prepared for Principals and credit cards set up. First quarter DEA contributions were being prepared to be sent out in late September.

The Comptroller was able to prepare books for the year end and the remaining Secretary Treasurers sent in their books to the office where they were updated and bank reconciliations prepared for the auditors. The Comptroller has also been working with the Secretary Treasurer of the Fort Simpson, Fort Providence, Jean Marie River and assisting the Samba K'e DEA in June and September on various administrative matters.

The Personnel Officer was also busy assisting Human Resources Dept with arrangements for new staff as well as finalizing remaining staffing issues.

The Comptroller also renewed custodial contracts for Aurora College and the various other custodial clients and joint use agreements as well as contracts for the new student accommodation managers and other service provider. New lease agreements have been arranged with teacher housing units in Samba K'e, Nahanni Butte and Kakisa Lake and Wrigley to communities where housing is administered internally. Various reports required for the Indigenous Language funding program, reports for MACA Youth programs and GNWT Covid, wildfire reports were also prepared. Ongoing support and training for new Principals was

also being provided by the Comptroller regarding budget, planning, maintenance, purchasing and operations.

Literacy report –

Plans for literacy are in place for the year ahead. We look forward welcoming our students back.

Outstanding NWT Educator Award

Diana Gargan, the grade 2/3 teacher at Deh Gáh school received the Outstanding NWT Educator Award for Literacy for her incredible contributions to literacy every day in the NWT. She was nominated for her outstanding dedication to literacy, which goes above and beyond regular duties. Diana is constantly learning and growing in her practice. Her students are thriving in literacy and in their culture through Diana’s lead. Her love of literacy and her love of her students is always apparent in the classroom. She skillfully incorporates literacy instruction in beautiful and meaningful activities *On-the-Land*. The DDEC is incredibly fortunate to have teachers like Diana who are passionately devoted to their profession.

The Superintendent proposed that Dianna Gargan be honored with an award to recognize her at the Staff Orientation or to have an article written in the newsletter about her achievement. The RWC was asked to order a plaque to honor Diana Gargan at Orientation.

Targets for Literacy

In 2022-2023, our students reading at grade level improved by 9% over the course of the year and students writing at grade level improved by 10%.

Even more encouraging is a decrease in the number of students who are below grade level by more than 2 years. This number decreased by 40%. This means that many students who were well below grade level are now approaching grade level.

As we begin the new school year, our LLI Consultants and Literacy Lead teachers are already in place, and we are looking forward to even more growth. We ask your assistance as trustees in our communities to use word of mouth with friends and neighbours to continue to emphasize the importance of regular attendance. While it is wonderful when students read at grade level, I am even more delighted to see our students beaming with pride at their sense of accomplishment at learning to read.

2 Literacy Coordinators

Paula Chin has joined our DDEC admin team. She comes with several years of teaching experience in Fort Liard as well as several years of teaching in Nunavut. Paula will spend her time supporting teachers with the new BC curriculum, particularly with a focus on literacy and numeracy. This role will complement the Literacy Coordinator role she shares with Pauline Gilmour.

Indigenous Teaching and Learning Centre - Prepared by Kim Hardisty and Cheryl Cli

Prior to my orientation/training I had a regional cultural exchange fish camp at Cli Lake hosted by North Nahanni Naturalist Lodge. It did not all go as planned but I believe it was still a success. Participants had the opportunity to fly in a float plane for the first time, set fishnets, pole

fishing, clean and dry fish. We were fortunate enough to harvest a beaver to demonstrate to the students of how to dress the carcass and dry the hide. Other activities included harvesting plants, nature walks, mountaineering, to name a few. All activities were guided by Knowledge keepers, language speakers, host and teacher/SA. The students were exposed to Dene Zhatie in its authentic form (conversation). Students also practiced the main verse of Johnny Landry's - Love song. And from that song students were encouraged to say "neghonieto" (I love you) in Dene K'e. This activity has allowed me to realize the importance of planning and the requirements of such an endeavor. Which has given me insight as to what schools are required to do prior, during and post activity. Invaluable knowledge indeed.

Since my last report I have had the opportunity to attend a two day in person orientation/training in Yellowknife that was very beneficial in understanding the parameters of my roles and responsibilities. I also have been very fortunate to work with Kim Hardisty to continue my one-on-one training. This has given me a broader understanding of what is required to develop curricula, design programs, support materials training, school visits and professional development, providing support, assisting with planning, ongoing support and the delivery of curricula, and monitoring of Dene Zhatie language and programs within ALL schools in the Dehcho.

Andy Norwegian has interpreted a land acknowledgement statement for us. We hope that we can begin to use this acknowledgement to refer to the Dehcho as a whole or by individual communities. I felt Aurora College is the closest to the true spirit and intent of acknowledgement of the lands of which we live and prosper. One is for all Dehcho and can be revised to be more

specific to the community in which the acknowledgement is made. I have included it at the end of my report for your information.

I am excited that DDEC has joined the Indigenous Language Instructor Employment Plan Program (ILIEP) along with the Beaufort Delta Education Council (second year). The program is to have language teachers' mentor existing school staff (SA's) that are interested in becoming language teachers. The two schools participating in the program are Liidlii Kue Elementary and Deh Gah Secondary School. Training is scheduled for September 20-23, 2023 in Fort Simpson for participants. We are also scheduled for training in Inuvik, October 9-13, 2023. The program is a one-year pilot program that may continue into a second year should the interest remain.

I am currently working with community members and organizations to refurbish the culture camp across the river. It has become derelict and is unsafe for students and staff to utilize. This area will be used for whole school cultural activities. I have also requested to the VOFS and awarded permission to use a vacant lot (golf course area) for the schools to use for class cultural activities. I will be working with the schools to assist with planning for clearing and set-up.

I have been fortunate enough to have been invited to participate in LKES staff cultural orientation at Two Islands and have also been invited to attend and participate in DGSS thirteen-day camp, however, I will be attending the last few days to familiarize myself with what and how DGSS runs their camps.

I have met and continue to assist and support the two local schools with ideas and activities to include Dehcho Dene Worldview in their plans. I have scheduled all of October to visit many of the schools in the Dehcho.

I continue to familiarize myself with all the administrative duties required for tracking and recording language and culture use in the schools.

As I have indicated in my last report, I am grateful to have the opportunity to share my “on the land’ lived experience as taught to me by my grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles and numerous elders I was fortunate enough to have known.

The Chairperson: Expressed concern that the report from the Indigenous Languages Coordinator seemed to be focused on her work in Fort Simpson while nothing was reported about her work in other communities.

Capital planning –

Update on visit to Nahanni Bute. The Superintendent had the pleasure to meet the Chief, along with members of the Council, the Village Manager and the DEA Trustee for a conversation on the topic of grade extension. That led to a request for a new school. The school in Nahanni Bute is old and the Board will be looking at making a request to have a new school built and the current one to be considered for housing for teachers.

**Inclusive Schooling: Prepared by: Elissa Garrett, Regional Inclusive Schooling
Coordinator**

Staffing

All program support teacher (PST) positions have been filled. The itinerant PST was advertised in the Spring of 2023, and Megan Warr decided to transfer into this position from LKES. Megan brings two years of PST experience and a lot of enthusiasm into this role. She has already been to Jean Marie River, Wrigley and Sambaa K'e with travel planned to see all schools by the end of September.

Rebecca Ruda transferred into the PST position at LKES and has experience as a classroom teacher and Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) consultant.

All other PST positions stayed the same. I am very happy to see consistency in these important positions as we want PSTs who know the school community and who can advocate for student needs while supporting students, families, and teachers as well.

SSPs and IEPs

ECE has released a transition document to support parents in better understanding and making decisions around transition planning. This is specifically around grade retention, transitioning to a modified program (working below grade level) and switching students to individual education plans. I am hopeful that this process will facilitate conversations and collaboration with families so that they may make informed decisions.

The deadline to finalize SSPs and IEPs has been set for September 29. I will complete my yearly review of these documents at this time.

Student Accommodations Program

The trustees on the house parents hiring committee hired Dean Harvey and Freylan Mallaley as house parents for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. Thank you to Cathy Sanguez, Erma Norwegian, Ruby Jumbo, and Lisa Moses for participating in the hiring process. The house parents have been busy preparing the residence. Marty, Philippe, and I were impressed with the level of care and detail that went into the cleaning of the residence. Study areas and internet will be available to the students in the residence to help them stay on top of their schoolwork.

We have three students enrolled from Jean Marie River, five from Sambaa K'e, and two from Wrigley. There is a total of seven girls and four boys currently enrolled at the residence.

Dean (houseparent) and I flew to Sambaa K'e to meet with parents which was a real nice start to the year. I also met with parents from Jean Marie River and attempted to meet with parents from Wrigley. I travelled to all three communities to ensure the opportunity to connect. It is one of my goals to improve communication with parents in our small communities as I better learn my role and how I can best provide support.

Professional Development and collaboration with external agencies

Some of our September professional development plans were disrupted by the wildfires. We unfortunately had to postpone our anti-racism training which was to be coordinated by ECE. We hope that this can be rescheduled when things settle down in Yellowknife.

Shayla Richards from Continuum North will be in Fort Simpson to conduct Supporting Individuals through Valued Attachment (SIVA) training with PSTs and principals during the week of September 18. This training is a part of a goal to improve safety planning and supports

with students who are identified as creating safety risks for themselves or others. We want all students to have the level of support necessary to succeed in our schools and ensure that schools are a welcoming and safe place for all students.

Jordan's Principle Funding

We have successfully secured funding for speech and language support for small schools in our region with Jean Marie River, Sambaa K'e, and Kakisa partnering with Tiny Eye to offer these services virtually.

We were approved for 20 additional support assistants in our schools through Jordan's Principle funding. Efforts to improve tracking and planning of these positions is another goal for this school year and can be spoken to more specifically as the year progresses. Tracking documents have been updated to request that teachers show sample lesson plans that have been prepared for SAs specific to the JP funding.

I am excited to be back for the 2023-2024 school year and look forward to serving the DDEC trustees, local DEAs, teachers, students, families, and communities throughout the year. I wish everyone a safe and happy school year!

Mental Wellness – Prepared by Samson Tshuma, Regional Wellness Coordinator

- The Wellness Department or Dehcho Wellness Unit (DWU) received funding from Jordan's Principle to hire 3 Student Support Workers (SSWs) for the school year. The SSWs will be in charge of mental health programming, after-school programs, mental health advocacy and community engagement. The SSWs will look at establishing after-

school programs that will focus on creative arts (art, crafts and games), baking and cooking, and photography.

- Furthermore, we were also approved funding to host a Youth Mental Health Conference for all grade 9-12 students in our District. We are seeking to host the conference in February 2024. The Regional Wellness Coordinator (RWC) will be engaging community leaders, organizations and relevant stakeholders in all communities in ensuring the success of this conference.
- The DWU will also be hosting a series of informational sessions and workshops throughout the year with a focus on addictions and substance abuse awareness in our schools.
- The DWU will also be offering professional development opportunities for staff during Staff Orientation in October and throughout the year. The training topics on offer for Orientation will be (i) Trauma Informed Schools - Building Safety for Learning, and (ii) Leadership and Culture - How to create a workplace where people like to work.

IT Department – Prepared by J.P. Bernard, IT Teacher Consultant.

The following is a summary of the tasks that, as IT Teacher Consultant, I have been working on from the end of the 2022-23 school year to the beginning of the 2023-24 school year.

PowerSchool related tasks continue:

- End of Year for the 2022-23 school year process
- Beginning of Year for the 2023-24 school year process
- BC Curriculum transition

- Staff and student adjustments (add/remove)
- Data/Report requests
- Meetings with the NWT PowerSchool District Leads & Education, Culture, and Employment (ECE)

Continuing to work closely with Global Storm IT

- High priority items: Installing Star link at Charles Tetcho School in Sambaa K'e . Initial installation date was June 12th, 2023, but the community was evacuated due to a wildfire that was close to the community. The alternate installation date of August 14-15, 2023 was also delayed due to the evacuation of Yellowknife where Global Storm IT is located. The new date for installation is September 11-12, 2023 which was successfully installed and has increased speeds there drastically.

Restoring Internet Connectivity at Kakisa Lake School

- At some point over the summer NWTel and TSC (GNWT) equipment failed at the school likely due to power outages related to wildfires.
- A ticket with TSC has been opened and we are waiting for a date for the technician to go into the community for repairs.

School visits end of 2022-23 School year.

- Deh Gah Elementary and Secondary School in Fort Providence (Global Storm IT)
- Kakisa Lake School in Kakisa (Global Storm IT)
- Charles Julian Yendo School in Wrigley (Global Storm IT & JP)
- Louie Norwegian School in Jean-Marie River (Global Storm IT & JP)
- Líídljì Kúę Elementary School in Fort Simpson (Global Storm IT & JP)
- Líídljì Kúę Regional High School in Fort Simpson (Global Storm IT & JP)

NOTE: School visits are to ensure that the Network is working properly and to support staff with any tech related questions they may have.

- To improve policies and procedures for how the DDEC (Dehcho Divisional Education Council) functions when it comes to technology.
- Monitoring the efficiency of these networks to ensure the best Internet connectivity possible.
- Fibre connections are being investigated to be installed at the following schools: Deh Gah Elementary and Secondary School – Fort Providence
- Echo Dene School – Fort Liard
 - Had installation appointment set up for June, but NWTel tech stated that a conduit requires to be installed by an electrician.
 - We are in the process of attempting to find an electrician to complete the work.
- Líídljì Kúę Regional High School – Fort Simpson
 - Líídljì Kúę Elementary School – Fort Simpson
 - Continuing to register Apple Devices in JAMF which will help with the management and inventory.
 - Continuing to support staff with a variety of software and hardware including but not limited to PowerTeacher, PowerSchool, Office Suite (Outlook email, Word, Excel, etc.), Dene Fonts, Zoom, Interactive Whiteboards.
 - Purchasing and researching requested equipment and software requirements.
 - Continuing to support and manage staff and student email accounts, staff lists, and groups.

- Supplying support to Northern Distance Learning (NDL) students and associated equipment.
- Evergreening plans (also working with Marty Leach, Supervisor of Schools).
- Supporting with the Security Camera systems at Líídljì Kúę Elementary and Líídljì Kúę Regional High Schools in Fort Simpson, DDEC Office building, and the Student Residence.

10.3 FINANCE REPORT

10.3.1 Approval of the 2022 – 2023 Audited Financial Statements

The Comptroller came in and reviewed the draft audited financial statements for the year ended June 30 2023 with the Council. He indicated that normally we would be approving the final consolidated audited financial statements but due to the wildfire evacuations in Hay River, the auditors whose office is located in Hay River had to leave the community and we not able to access the DEA records which were needed to complete the consolidations. A request from the Chairperson to the Minister for a 60 day extension was sent to Minister Simpson.

However, the Comptroller was able to share and review with the Council the draft financial statements of the Council operations. The draft financial statements (not including DEA operations) resulted in a over-expenditure for the year of \$716,490 compared to a budgeted over-expenditure of \$1,834,216, thus a favorable variance of \$1,117,726. This would leave the accumulated surplus at \$1,903,307 going into the 2023-2024 school year. This leaves the Council in a healthy financial position.

This will allow the Council to maintain a high level of programs as well as reduce the surplus closer to within the recommended range required by the Dept of Education Culture and Employment.

The Comptroller, after completing the presentation and answering questions, then informed the Council that once the Audited Financial Statements are completed by the auditor, we will need to have a special meeting to approve them as well as approving the Council's Annual Report which will be due soon as well.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

- MOU with the University of Calgary
- Drop the Pop Awards
- Implementation of Section 72 (1) of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner OIPC)
- Directive, Proactive Disclosure (Open Information) Section 72 – Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (GNWT Policy)

12. IN-CAMERA

Motion 1182-09-22 Be It Resolved that the Council go in Camera at 4.29 PM

OUT- OF- CAMERA

Motion 1183-09-22 Be It Resolved that the Council come out of In Camera at 4.57 PM

13. OPEN DISCUSSION

14. MEETING EVALUATION

15. NEXT MEETING

December 8-9, 2023 in Fort Simpson

16. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 1183-09-22

Be It Resolved that the September 2023 Council Meeting
be adjourned at 5.06 PM.