



FIRST NATION SCHOOL BOARD

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is it only First Nations kids that can go to these schools?

No, any child can attend. It is up to the parents.

2. Where will the community voice come from?

Under the FNSB Agreement, the Minister would be able to establish the First Nations School Board (FNSB) in accordance with the FNSB Agreement if an existing school council passes a resolution and a majority vote of the residents of that school council's attendance area support the establishment of the FNSB. Majority vote is 50% plus one of the people that vote, so if three people vote two must have voted 'yes' for it to pass. The attendance area can also perform a petition whereby 20% of the attendance area voters can sign the petition to have the school council transition to the FNSB.

The membership of the FNSB would be five trustees elected by: residents of the Yukon whose ancestral language is a Yukon First Nation language as defined in the FNSB Agreement, **and** parents of the children who attend the schools operated by the FNSB, **and** any resident in the school attendance area that is 18 years of age, residing in Yukon with Canadian citizenship.

The FNSB trustee candidates must be residents of the Yukon whose ancestral language is a Yukon First Nation language as defined in the FNSB Agreement – will be this for the first election – once the FNSB is established it will include any YFN whose ancestral language is a YFN language **and** parents of the children who attend the schools operated by the FNSB.

3. Does the community committee have more authority than the school council?

Yes, the community committee would have more authority than a school council under the Education Act. The FNSB would be making the community committee agreement with the respective community and could delegate down any of its powers that it chooses. The school board does have more authority than a school council.

4. What exactly is the role of the 5 trustees?

The Board will have all the authority and responsibilities of a school board under the Act. These authorities are outlined in various sections of the Act. The FNSB has significantly more authority than a school council.

In short, to fulfill the duties listed in Section 116 of the Education Act. These duties are wide-ranging and significant and go far beyond what school councils are required.

Specific duties of the school board include:

- hire an executive director and oversee the running of the school board. The school board will select staff, including principals and teachers, for hiring, dismissal, discipline, etc.
- Review, modify and approve the school plan.
- Provide educational programs for students.
- Establish policies for the operations of the school or schools it operates.
- Receive and manage funds received from the Minister of Education.
- Evaluate the school/s every five years.
- Provide reports to the Minister of Education.
- Arrange for the examination and investigation of student progress and the system of instruction.

The school board may also:

- Advise the Minister of Education respecting school closures and transportation services.
- Establish committees and their powers and duties.
- Direct the executive director to evaluate a teacher, principal, or other staff member.
- Provide professional development for teachers.
- Approve field trips.

5. If a referendum is held, and is defeated, can they try again down the road?

If the FNSB is open to that yes, they can, but they will not be able to do this until one school year after the FNSB has been established. With our current timeline of the FNSB establishing for the 2022/2023 school year the next opportunity would be the 2023/2024 school year.

6. Will there be more money available with a School Board? Where does the money come from?

The funding needs to be negotiated by the FNSB once established. In addition to a base amount that will be calculated for the board from YG funds, the board will also be able to look for other sources of revenue (ex: other governments). There will be more control over how the funding is spent than with a school council.

7. From previous presentations I understand French Immersion schools will not be covered. Can you confirm this is the case?

No, French Immersion is a school program within a public school. If a French Immersion school council passed a resolution, they could become part of the FNSB.

8. Will there be one school board for all schools that fall under the First Nation School Board?

Yes, this is the intent right now. The catchment area for the FNSB will be the entire Yukon. This is why we also drafted and recommended the community committee agreement for the FNSB. Similar to the schools that fall under the French School Board.

9. Is the Department of Education pushing for other school boards to be established?

Not that we know of. The push for this school board is coming from many of the Yukon First Nations with support from the Minister and the Department of Education.

The Education Act has provisions for how school boards are established in Yukon. This is the process we are following to establish the FNSB. Government of Yukon has only signed an agreement for a First Nations School Board at this time. All other councils may exercise the option to become a board through the Education Act (as they have been able to do since 1990).

10. Will the school councils have a role – i.e. communicating to parents – in the referendum?

Yes, they have an important role. School councils are the entity that will pass the resolution and will have the greatest potential to inform parents and school community members. There will be opportunity to have multiple meetings for the community to ask questions as well as provide communication materials developed collaboratively with YG/CCOE/YFNED. School councils are allowed to communicate their position on the referendum, share information, and encourage people to vote. They may also decide not to do so and rely on other parties to help the voters decide.

11. What is the selection process for FNSB trustees and community committee representatives?

The Trustees are elected in a process run by the Minister who at this time has contracted Yukon Elections to do the work. The community committee representatives are appointed in a process that will be outlined in the school board process.

12. How will schools that fall under the FNSB transition? How will they continue to function until that transition has taken place?

This is not going to happen overnight. The council will continue to operate as the transition evolves. The school staff at each school will continue to remain Yukon Government employees and the school councils would remain in effect until the board is created on the first day of the following school year. The school board could negotiate a transition agreement with the Department of Education if it was not ready to assume all powers once it was established. This would be up to the school board and the Minister of Education.

13. Will the board of trustees be made up of First Nation citizens only?

The FNSB trustee candidates must be residents of the Yukon whose ancestral language is a Yukon First Nation language as defined in the FNSB Agreement – will be this for the first election – once the FNSB is established then it will be any YFN whose ancestral language is a YFN language **and** parents of the children who attend the schools operated by the FNSB.

14. If the school board is responsible for hiring, will you look for the same teacher qualifications?

Yes, the FNSB will work with the Yukon Teachers' Association (YTA) and will have the same requirements for teacher certification. The hiring process will likely be different and there will be other roles in the schools that the school board will decide on.

15. How are parents going to learn about the FNSB initiative and its implications?

There will be information sessions on the FNSB and additional communication plan for each.

16. How will the referendum process work? Will there be a role for school councils?

The process is outlined in the Act in Sections 72 & 73.

17. Will the community committees be advisory only or will they have some authorities? Can you confirm that the buck stops with the FNSB?

They will be both advisory and have delegated authorities. The community committee agreement is the opportunity for the FNSB to delegate their authority down to develop local input. It is up to the FNSB how this will occur as there are many factors that need to be considered as the FNSB is ultimately responsible for the schools assigned and they can determine what authorities they want to delegate in the community committee agreement.

Useful Links:

[Yukon First Nation Education Directorate](#)

[Chiefs Committee on Education](#)

[Yukon Government Department of Education](#)

[Education Act](#)