**Robert Service School Council Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 24th, 6:30 pm**

**RSS Art Room**

**Attendees: Rhea Lewthwaite, Brent McDonald, Helen McCullough, Tanja Westland, Dan Dowhal, Brian Lewthwaite, Lori Choquette, Donna Miller-Fry, Andria Oppen, Lisa Favron, Ashely Bower-Bramadat, Cailey Boulter, Donna Michon, Suzanne Crocker**

**Regrets: Kylie Van Every**

1. Call to Order (Co-Chairs): 6:35
2. Review and Approval of Agenda (additions or deletions): Moved by Tanja W., 2nd Suzanne C.

* Library Board moved from Community Concerns to delegations.
* Alexa Mitchell and Angela Jobin were removed from delegations.
* Renumbered – 5 listed twice.
* Added new business – Literacy assessment

1. Review and Approval of Minutes (errors or omissions)
2. Review and approval of September minutes. - Moved by Suzanne C., 2nd Lisa F.
3. Review and approval of October minutes. – Moved by Tanja W., 2nd Andria O.
4. Review and approval of November minutes. – Moved by Tanja W., 2nd Suzanne C.
5. Review and approval of January minutes. – Move by Tanja W., 2nd Suzanne C.
6. Delegations (limit of 15 minutes)
7. Dan Dowhal from the Dawson Library Board.

The library is having a problem with overcapacity with pandemic restrictions in place. The limit for the library is 10. There can be anywhere from 3 to 4 kids and up to 10-12 kids after school, depending on the day after school. The public also accesses the library after school. When the public comes in, they can encounter several students gathered in the foyer because there is no room for them in the library. Cold weather compounds the problem when students can’t play outside in extreme temperatures.

The library uses first-in, first-out rules. There is limited space now and a reduced number of computers to use. When students move from the library, they gather in the front foyer, often without social distancing and affecting public access to the library.

The Library Board is looking for solutions. They are hesitant to offer an age limit without supervision as other Yukon Libraries have done.

RSS Council would like to address this concern and work with the Library Board, TH Education and School Administration to develop solutions.

* We recognize an ongoing issue that students use the library as a refuge until parents pick them up.
* We identify a gap in community services for Grades 3-5, with only one program for Grade 4 and under.
* What short-term funding can we look at to help alleviate some of the burdens with a possible drop-in space – such as open gym?
* COVID funding being used for Learning Support after school starting March 8th, 3:20 to 4:50, with Grades 10, 11 & 12 recruited to help with numeracy development.

**Action Item: School Council to review Library Board concerns and look for solutions to bring forward. RSS Admin offers to disperse an email to school families from the Library Board so that parent and guardians are made aware of the concerns.**

1. Lori Choquette, School Council Liaison and Donna Miller-Frye, Superintendent Area 2. Came to be introduced to the new School Council.

Council had questions around quorum, 50% = 1. Robert’s Rules are used as a guide. If not enough for a quorum, technology allows access by phone, computer, etc.

1. Business Arising from the Minutes
2. RSS Student Council update

There is no student council at this time, and not likely one until next school year.

1. COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout (BL – 5 minutes)

School Council sent a letter to Yukon Government about lack of notice and location when using the school for public vaccinations. Since the government asked us to protect our children by having very limited access to the school for parents and the public, we are concerned. Then turns around, and we have a large number of people walking through the school. We asked for another location for the future vaccine clinic because of the disruption it caused previously in the school. We have received no reply to date.

A few days after our letter, the school was informed that they would again be hosting the vaccine clinic. They were told other venues were looked at, but only the school was suitable. The school asked for a Thursday to Sunday clinic, but it was not possible as the schedule was already in place.

**Action Item: School Council will request a reply to our letter**

1. Early Pre-Kindergarten Proposal from YG (BL & TW – 5 minutes)

A letter was sent to the Minister with no reply to date.

Principal Brian Lewthwaite and the school staff have made three main points that Pre-K cannot be done at this time.

* + 1. Physical capacity – there is just no space for another class. We are short 4-5 classrooms presently.
    2. Structural capacity – setting up teaching this age group.
    3. Community response – the community, is not ready for this.

Dawson has two excellent early learning facilities with preschool programs that already achieve high marks, with our Kindergarten students being at the highest level in Yukon. One point brought up was after-school care for three and 4-year-olds. The Department of Education has said that Watson Lake and Dawson City will take longer to work toward the goal of Pre-K, but that Universal Childcare was the first goal. Tr’ondek Hwech’in Education also has concerns and has written a letter to the Department; a few issues they have are cultural programming, adequate outdoor classroom and teaching.

1. Physical Plant Development Update (BL – 5 minutes)

The Sourdough has the updates in it. The contract tender is out for the removal of the portables, which should be moved by the end of the school year.

There is a 4-classroom module of an extension to the school that will be attached with a deck, possibly a covered deck.

**Action Item: Collectively review the modular plans**. The answer is required by Wednesday, March 3rd, 2021.

There was discussion of our requirements for a larger space, possibly a new school as we have an 18% growth rate and there are 200 new housing units to be built in town and where will the children of those families go to school?

An extension is needed, and some also felt that if we take the extension, we won’t get a new school required for the future.

It was pointed out that this extension is covered under this budget, and if we changed, there is no guarantee the funding will still be there.

1. RSS School Paint Job (LF – 5 minutes)

There is a committee choosing the colours, and there are 5 or 6 colour palettes that the student and staff are voting on to bring down to 3 options.

1. New Business
   1. Attendance Initiative

There is an application being worked on. In the past, some funds diverted to shop programs and after-school programs to help more vulnerable students.

Attendance initiatives are to help students want to go to school.

Some points brought up:

* Teachers are on five committees each school year.
* Dawson has the highest attendance rates in Yukon.
* Is there a correlation between attendance and performance?
* Grades 1-9, there is a lag, and support is needed.
* Numeracy assessments are graduate indicators.
* Assessments last January showed 80% less than proficient.
* Auditor general’s report- underlying issues \*\*\* Can someone clarify this for me?
* Why is there school disengagement in some students? – needs to be looked at further
* Surveys have been done in the past and more in the future to help pinpoint these gaps.
* Foundation in school may need to change to address these issues.
* Maybe a study on absenteeism.
* Child Advocate person should visit our school to talk to students.
* The data is essential in helping find reasons and solutions.
* The Data committee uses data to put to practice.
* Have the initiatives changed our data over the years?
* Sometimes students have no choice as they travel with parents/family for work and vacation.

**Action Item: BL to give My School Survey presentation**

**Action Item: BM will check if funding is required for the Child Advocacy Committee to come to Dawson to survey RSS students about why they don’t come to school. If funding is required to make this happen, School Council will consider applying for Attendance Initiative Money for this purpose.**

* 1. Literacy assessment
* It takes up to six weeks to get results back; we’ll possibly have results by spring break.

**Action Item: HC to get a copy of assessments to School Council**

1. Reports (5 minutes per report)
2. Principal’s Report

Sourdough has updates.

My School survey shows anomalies in Grades 5 & 8

* Transition to middle school and transition to high school needs work.
* A pilot project to come for Grade 8 on wellness at Land of Plenty for one week
  + About ‘Decisions I make, effect me and those around me.’
* Using data helps us work with the students.
* EA support deadline is March 15th
* Is there a correlation between EA support and attendance?

1. TH Report

Team growth – Education Support – Victoria McLeod

Looking for an Elementary Tutor

Moved offices to the classroom by Art Room, more space for more staff

Digital storytelling – deep dive to make

Camp with Students and Elders, each brought films to share.

Staff have Wilderness First Aid to help focus on Cultural, outdoor programming with ice fishing and camp with Grade 7 coming up.

1. Chair’s Report

No report.

Welcome, Donna, as Secretary/Treasurer.

School Council Goal setting meeting set for Yukon College room on February 28th.

1. Community Concerns (limit of 5 minutes or set as an agenda item at next meeting)

None

9. Correspondence

* + 1. CIBC Letter – Dormant Account

- Old BBBS account held by RSS Council for TH needs to be move. Council will write a cheque to TH and close the account. Money to be used to give back to students.

* + 1. Letter from AYSCBC

- Honoraria paid to School Council for Training Tool Zoom meetings in December. New training book. The workshop attended by Tanja W. Suzanne C. and Donna M.

* + 1. School Council Funding Agreement – Amend#1 for the previous year

- Funding agreement extension from the previous council

10. Upcoming Dates

Next School Council meeting – Thursday, March 25th, 2021, in RSS Art Room

11. Adjournment: 8:44

12. Roundtable (limit of 5 minutes)

a. Signing Authority on CIBC Chequing Account

Roberts Service School Council would like to add these names to the bank account signing authority. Those who sign here agree to have signing authority for the Robert Service School Council bank account.

Robert Service School Council members:

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Rhea Lewthwaite Brent MacDonald

Co-Chair Co-Chair

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Andria Oppen Suzanne Crocker

Council Member Council Member

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Lisa Favron Kylie Van Every

Council Member Council Member

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Tanja Westland Donna Michon

Council Member Council Member/Secretary/Treasurer