**Robert Service School Council Meeting**

**Thursday, January 28th, 6pm**

**(via Zoom)**

**Attendees: Brent MacDonald, Rhea Lewthwaite, Tanja Westland, Andria Oppen, Donna Michon, Kylie Van Every, Suzanne Crocker Caley Boulter, Brian Lewthwaite,**

**Regrets: Lisa Favron**

1. Call to Order (Co-Chairs) 6:15
2. Introductions – Caley Boulter Human Resources, Education, and training

2. Review and Approval of Agenda (additions or deletions) – add introductions

3. Review and Approval of Minutes (errors or omissions)

 a. Review and approval of September minutes (Tabled at last meeting.)

 b. Review and approval of November minutes.

 c. Review and approval of January minutes.

There was discussion around the minute-taking; they need to be timely for any corrections. May need to appoint a council member to take minutes. Difficulty taking minutes through Zoom appreciated. September minutes was the old Council. Only Lisa and Suzanne are from previous council and need to approve.

ACTION ITEM: BM TO GET IN TOUCH WITH RIAN WITH HOW TO PROCEED

WITH MINUTE TAKING AND SETTING A TIMEFRAME FOR TRANSCRIBING,

REVIEWING AND EDITING MINUTES

1. Delegations (limit of 15 minutes)

Brian mentioned that Angela Jobin and Alexa Mitchell would like to have a delegation in the future.

ACTION ITEM: BL TO CONTACT ANGELA AND ALEXA TO INVITE THEM AS

DELEGATES TO THE NEXT RSS COUNCIL MEETING TO DISCUSS SUBSTANCE

ABUSE AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY

1. Business Arising from the Minutes

Tanja was going to put the draft documents in google docs, which she did.

An action item was to talk about if council needs to write a letter about the portables and the lack of action on the extra space needed.

Action item find out if the past grad students/current grad meet up was going to happen.

Brian said that did not happen. Mostly because of timing and COVID-19. It was too complex. Helen were responsible for that. It hasn’t happened.

There was past discussion around having the student council attend and speak more about their roles. The student council isn’t operating right now. We would need a direction from council to report to School council meetings.

**BL to determine the activity status of student council.**

a.COVID-19 Measures Update (5 minutes)

BL – Suzanne and I were both to report. I was to return to the classrooms and to see whether the plan is still a valid claim in terms of numbers and space and what was happening. At the last meeting, I expressed it wasn’t an issue. I was asked to determine whether it was just an observation and whether it was actually representative of what was happen. The two grades 5 and 7 were seen to be our largest classes in not necessarily in our largest classrooms. In the Grade 7 class at least 50% of the class were wearing masks – as they were required. The rest did not need to because of physical distancing. We were given extra funding to help with COVID changes. About two hours of the school day for grades 7 had extension English or extension mathematics. We do a lot of things to provide extra support for students. So it’s decreased the space demands for the school. In brief the observations at the beginning of the year have been addressed, and we are addressing them as best we can.

SC – we had a meeting after the last meeting and Andria drafted a letter but we didn’t get quorum to approve the letter. Brian do you need support from RSS Council on COVID-19 measures?

BL – many community members were aware of what was transpiring and there was a lot of community response to the flooding of the school with the distribution process with vaccines. If there had been an even distribution over the four days there wouldn’t have been a need for the school.

There was discussion on writing a letter to Dept of Education in regard to the use of the school to distribute vaccines to the community, when we have ben protecting the children from exposure to the public. The students were also confined to classrooms and certain areas of the school such as the gym to avoid the public. The cold weather added to this exposure to the public. As, well the school council saw in issue with the school administration having no say in hosting the vaccine distribution.

ACTION ITEM: TW TO DRAFT A LETTER TO YG RE THE IMPACTS ON THE

SCHOOL DURING THE SECOND ROUND OF VACCINATIONS AND POSSIBILE

ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS.

b**.** Substance Use/Abuse Education Policy (7 minutes)

Revision of Substance Use / Abuse Education Policy (SUAEP) was done. If there are concerns then who are the people that are involved. In particular attention to the use of the CELCs was a major role and now also the Education Support Worker position. The changes are who the role contacts will be and when there is a concern then who would immediately be involved – eg. If it’s a TH Citizen. Another big change is the protection of the individual to make sure they are safe, secure, and respect for their wellbeing. The third adjustment is who is making the professional calls. The Principal is the one to make the call.

Asked for approval of the policy. A few small changes. BM, AO, DM, SC, RL all happy to approve. We have quorum.

**Andria O – moved- Donna M – second – passed by consensus. No opposed.**

1. Electronics Policy (7 minutes)

The policy was present at the last meeting. Council has suggested flipping the policy so that there would be no electronics allowed in the classroom unless a teacher allowed them for a specific reason. Council wanted the staff’s opinion on this recommendation and BL agree to bring Council’s proposal to the staff.

BL: The current rule at the school is that they are allowed in classrooms but under the guidance of the teacher. It’s really called a selective use policy. If they aren’t to be used they are to be out of sight and out of mind. There are a couple of teachers that will collect cellphones being misused. Cellphones are allowed because they have multiple uses, including calculators. Some students listen to music and work away. Some students on ILP work better listening to music and helps their regulation. Cellphones are only allowed to be used in classrooms for selected uses. A query from RSS Council about whether this is an issue was put forward to staff via an online platform. Only three responses, one from admin and two from staff. These three responses were happy with the policy as is. There was no issue. If they are misused we call it a red incidents and the Principal will call home and say there is an issue here. In the last year and a half there has been 10 phone calls home. There are less issues this year than last. For 95% of students it’s not an issue.

Since no one responded to the online platform in favour of Council’s suggestion to flip the

Policy, it is concluded that Staff are happy to keep policy as is.

**A majority approved. Andria O. – moved, Rhea L. – second**

1. Physical Plant Developments Update

BL: On the cover of the Sourdough newsletter, there is a picture of the new paint job. And there is also the YG proposal. Basically, it’s in the architects hands now. Before we were given two proposals, but we’re satisfied with the first step of development. There are larger issues but we can work that out.

6. New Business

* + 1. School Calendar for Discussion and Approval 2021-2022

BL: TH has two days and we coordinate with other schools. The colour-coded ones our professional learning days and most of those corresponds with territory-wide schools. There are two PDs at the beginning of the school year. For new teachers, it doesn’t give the time for the professional learning. PD day’s frontloaded by having a PD on the 18th. The 19th is the start of the school year. We want to focus on two days intensive, then in the second week (23rd-27th) to talk about an intensive for our grade 8s for their transition to high school. We’d like to have a camp – with the CELCs, ESWs.

The sourdough mentions what the focus was on – for each it’s different (e.g. literacy, new curriculum, technology). Potentially, an all-staff PD on substance abuse awareness.

It was asked if Arctic Winter Games have an impact on spring break. No, it will continue as usual.

ACTION ITEM: BL TO CONTACT HELEN TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION

ABOUT Spring break AND IMPACT OF THE WINTER GAMES – WILL SEND

AN UPDATE TO RSS COUNCIL VIA EMAIL

* + 1. K-4 (Early Kindergarten) Proposal from YG

YG has said they are going to propose early kindergarten for age 4-year-olds in remote communities. There was a meeting last night and documents were reviewed. It was quite clear that Dawson is in a unique situation in comparison to other Yukon schools. The voice we heard was that there will be resistance and disturbance if there isn’t consultation. At RSS, we are 5 classrooms short now, we could never support it. This should be a school council issue.

There was a request at the meeting to invite someone from YG here. The reason that we can’t put them anywhere so that’s a good reason to oppose it. TH was pretty disappointed about the lack of consultation – we have our 17.7 Agreement and Self-Government Agreement and play an important role in education.

TW – I think we have the support to fight this.

SC – I’m 100% on board with fighting this and sending a strong letter opposing this.

BM – I’m 100% against this, they have two pilots within the Yukon where YG is trying to come up with a budget and policy for pre-K education and moving it into school.

AO – I’m also 100% opposed to this. The learning my kids did in that environment, the one-on-one teaching, the space.

DB – I understand all of you but not everyone has the privilege to get a place in daycares in Dawson.

TW – There are other financial solutions to that.

RL – It’s important that the letter reflects all points of views. Can we include Donna in the letter writing, if she agrees?

ACTION ITEM: TW, DM TO DRAFT A LETTER FROM RSS COUNCIL

OPPOSING PRE-KINDERGARTEN IN DAWSON AND RECOMMENDING

ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR PRE-KINDERGARTEN CHILDCARE FUNDING

AND SPACE

* + 1. Exterior Paint

There are four colour schemes. To choose from and they are presented in the Sourdough.

7. Reports (5 minutes per report)

1. Principal’s Report

BL – the report is what is in the sourdough. Mainly what are our strengths, our weakness, what our intentions for next year, and what changes do you see. There will be significant changes at the school next year. Sarah Stephens is away on Sabbatical, Melissa Flynn will be on education leave, and Helen McCullough will also be on sabbatical. No details as of yet.

1. TH Report

Just hired the CELC position, which was Ashley’s position. We were also successful in getting another ESW and an Indigenous Counsellor through Jordan’s principle and also a Cultural Education Advisor. The work will help inform the teaching curriculum for teachers. You’ll hear more about it as we go forward. We are also doing a digital story telling event with youth and Elders. We have also bought a 24-seat bus for getting students out on the land.

1. Chair’s Report

BM – I attended a meeting last night by the Child Advocate Office. The meeting was attended by lots of communities. We are not alone with our concerns. This office actually sends one of their workers out to different schools and communities to get their feedback. It was a real eye opener. The main topic was attendance and the reasons was the students don’t feel they are learning and bullying. It was really relevant. Brian have you had any visitors from the school?

BL – no, not that I know of.

ACTION ITEM: BM TO SET UP AN INTERNAL RSS COUNCIL MEETING TO

RUN THROUGH FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. Student Council Report N/A

8. Community Concerns (limit of 5 minutes or set as an agenda item at next meeting) N/A

9. Correspondence

10. Upcoming Dates – set days 4th Wednesday

Ideal for School

* 1. Next School Council meeting February 24th, 2021

12. Adjournment 8:27pm

10. Roundtable (limit of 5 minutes)