

Minutes
Robert Service School Council Meeting
Wednesday, October 14, 2015
START TIME – 6:30 p.m.
Tr’ondek Hwech’in Lands Conference Room

Present: Sue Lancaster, Cecille Fage, Hilary Skilnyk, Donna Michon, Ashley Doiron, Mindy Potoroka, Simon Nagano

Regrets: Janice Cliff, Frances Aitken, Lisa Favron, Cara MacAdam

1. Call to order: 6:38
2. Acceptance of Agenda: Moved: Simon Nagano; Seconded: Donna Michon
3. Correspondence:
 - 3.1. AYSCBC letter. Letter of clarification and apology received from AYSCBC regarding late payment and mix-up monies. They’ve met with Dept of Education to ensure it won’t happen again. They also suggest RSS Council does not donate its extra money as it has in past (to worthy school projects) but keep money as a buffer. Discussion next meeting.
 - 3.2. Email received from Lana Welchman, new Mentorship coordinator for Big Brothers/ Big Sisters requesting a meeting regarding accessing money in bank account we hold in trust on their behalf. Sue will contact Lana to request her as delegation at next meeting.
4. Delegations/ Presentations: None
5. Review and Acceptance of Minutes:
 - 5.1. Minutes cannot be accepted without quorum; to be done next meeting.
6. Business arising from Minutes
 - 6.1. There are 9 meetings amounting to \$450.00 to be paid to Lisa Favron so she can donate to causes as she wishes. Sue will contact Lisa to see to whom the cheque should be issued.
 - 6.2. School photos. There is extra money from Bill available to assist finding a photographer. Peabody’s has been contacted and is unable to do them. Bill has been contacted again to see about grouping with other communities (ie Mayo), as yet no reply. Hilary has noted some parents very keen on having photos for Christmas mail outs. Solutions are being sought, so it is on hold for now. Sue will write a letter explaining situation to parents and will meet with Hilary on Friday Oct 16 to discuss.
 - 6.3. Bus phone tree. Sue has followed up by tracing the Standard Busing Company phone to AB and will follow up. Some suggestions are Facebook, word of mouth, or letting the parents sort it out, but none of these seem foolproof. Simon notes that the tree idea seems prone to failure (ie if one parent forgets). This will be discussed next meeting once Sue contacts bus company. Hilary offers any assistance needed such as student lists.

6.4. Sue asks for feedback on new no parking zone and crossing sign in front of school. All like it, but there are still some people not noticing the signs. Hilary suggests they could put out a notice or flyer drawing attention to the new zones, and all agrees this would be a good idea. Ashley has noticed police keeping watch as well.

7. New Business:

7.1 Sue, Ashley, Hilary, and other key people travelled to Whitehorse to a meeting introducing the Dept. of Education's *New Vision for Education* initiative. All involved felt the meeting held much promise for the future of Education in the Yukon. There are no details of the initiative yet, but it seeks to reach out to all communities and partners to gain wisdom and information on programs that seem to really work to engage students in learning (ie. REM) or ideas for future curriculum changes that would be more specific to Yukon students. It seeks to re-engage those who have become disengaged or disillusioned (ie by residential school) and bring parents back into the process as involved partners. All present felt the vibe of the meetings was extremely inclusive, respectful and positive. There were key stakeholders present, all levels of dept of Education, First Nations, as well as the general public. By April there should be some committees, information-gathering and wide-spread consultation. This is considered to be a complete revision and re-vamp of curriculum in Yukon.

8. Reports

8.1 Principal's Report:

- 222 students enrolled. A couple gone for winter, but no loss of students otherwise, good news!
- PD day in Sept with OT. Topic: sensory diet.
- There was a staff PD day Sept 15 facilitated by TH re: cultural awareness and sensitivity, very well received and useful for engaging and strategies to keep students engaged. Five main topics:
 - 1.-Restorative language
 - 2.-Questioning techniques
 - 3.-Circles. Ashley, Nijen and Heidi working on a package, but this seems to already be in use and successful, in Gr 1-4, teachers doing one or two a day and finding them very effective, seeing changes in student behaviour, problem solving, general respect. More circle carpets on order. Would like to get all classes on board in near future.
 - 4.-Community outreach. RCMP, drop in centre (Ricki), rec dept ...all in the works.
 - 5.-Time-in, Peace Room. Keeping kids in school rather than being removed for behaviour. This used with Restorative Practices seems very effective. But time consuming, Hilary hoping to get more funding to ensure this can continue. Is very effective and empowering for staff and students. High priority placed on using this.
- Oct PD day, Non-Violent Crisis Intervention and Aspen. Aspen trainer stuck on plane, but staff stayed late.
- Hilary and Ashley meet every two weeks.
- Many parent meetings that all end well, even when they don't start well.
- REM was incredible. Many thanks to TH for facilitation and hard work, providing venues etc. Almost all students billeted, which made things better. Get kids out of the

school, easier to set up. Dawson kids enjoyed and were often leaders in their group, speaking on behalf, etc.

- From REM came the idea of Deep Dive. A Peter Menzies idea to just pull kids out once in awhile and tackle an intensive project for a few days. More to come on this.
- Volleyball tourney in Whitehorse, one incident of students leaving room to order pizza, but otherwise great.
- Terry Fox, raised \$5200.00.
- Two assemblies, the Welcome and the Fun. More to come. Next is pep rally for DIVT on Oct. 29.
- Hilary requesting a letter of support regarding the still-broken PA system. It is a \$100K contract, difficult to understand the inaction. It is a huge safety concern and teachers should not have to rely on their personal cell phones. Latest is that Sonja was told to contact suppliers, which is not how it should be. Sue will send letter to Bill and CC to Mike Fraser, Judy Arnold and other relevant people to apply pressure.
- Hilary expressed concerns about the overall condition of the school and general outdatedness. She has worked in Whitehorse and knows that the schools there are kept up to date both in colour and style, as well as in good repair. There are many, many problems here that are actually dangerous, not to mention the general institutional and utilitarian nature of the décor which can be demoralizing or create anxiety (ie. Residential school reminder). Gord Debruin (Mike Fraser's boss) was given a walkthrough and had little concern and seemed unwilling to take action on items (ie. Installing proper railing to assist K student with CP). Gym change rooms could date to 70s, cracked tiles, broken lockers. Mike and Hilary will meet to get the ball rolling on making changes, and Sue and Ashley will do a thorough walk-through to get idea of scope of problems.
- Next PD day is at TH Hall, a Blanket Activity and potluck on Nov 18.

8.2 TH report. Most covered by Hilary, but First Hunt is Oct. 23 – 26.

8.3 Financial report. Mindy announces she is unable to continue in position as Secretary Treasurer. No report.

9. Community Concerns:

- Simon expresses concern over cars passing school buses while the buses are loading and unloading. Some have seen the same. For discussion next meeting.
- Simon also mentions that REM was wonderful, but some parents mentioned there seemed to be a lot of students out late around town, and seen allegedly smoking pot near Youth Centre and inside school fence beside behind the Eldo. Hilary thanks Simon as this is the first she heard about it, and adds that it is definitely part of the rules of REM that there is no smoking of any kind on school property. Most RSS students do not smoke cigarettes but it seems more students from the communities are smoking.

10. Round Table.

- Simon announces he applied to be on the EAAC and has received word he is being offered a seat. All are happy with this news, as it gives RSS a strong presence as Ashley sits on same board.

- Hilary reminds us about DIVT, and we will be more vigilant regarding the cigarette and pot smoking. Come on out to the Rally on Thurs Oct 29!

11. Next Meeting: Thurs Nov. 12, 2015 at the TH Lands Conference Room.

12. Adjournment: 8:15