**Robert Service School Council Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, November 25, 2020, at 6:00 pm.

Via Zoom

**In Attendance:**  
Tanja Westland, Brian Lewthwaite, Rhea Lewthwaite, Donna Michon, Andria Oppen, Brent MacDonald, Helen McCullough, Lisa Favron, Suzanne Crocker. Ashley Bower-Bramadat

**Regrets:** Melissa Flynn, Kylie Van Every

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| 1. Call to order | Rhea 6:20, |
| 2. Introductions | Donna M. |
| 2. Review and approval of Agenda | * Add introductions * Agenda item number 6, * \*\*-Tabling review and approval of minutes (from Sept.) * Move- Suzanne Crocker Second Tanya |
| 3. Review and approval of minutes | Suzanne- revisions sent, but not in time, can we table them until there’s time to amend and review. Suzanne moved to table, Seconder- Andria  **Action: can Tanja put the file in google docs for us all to review and work on.** |
| 4. Delegations | None |
| 5. Business Arising from minutes |  |
| A) COVID 19 measures update | **BL**: Health and safety plan approved by YG on the website as well as a shorter version, the council was part of the approval and now with recent changes, dated November, 22, that document has been edited to consolidate CMO recommendations and Dept.. of Education recommendations. What needed to be reconciled was mask use where social distancing could not be ensured, which has been happening, but now more vigilant. For Grade 4 and up students, anywhere outside the classroom masks are required. In the classroom, if students are doing pair or group work wearing a mask is required.  Yukon Education now requires admin and staff to adjust our health and safety plan, with time for approval and changes. But, as a staff, we want to enact the mask changes as soon as possible. When we think about what is happening in our community we feel it's ludicrous to wait until December 1st- there are other schools that have moved to mandatory mask use already.  We’re stepping it up and that will occur on Tuesday. In brief, our concern for compliance will primarily be in grades 8-12- there’s been considerable slippage in that area. We’re going to use our strong messages if we're working on this together, we're caring for each other but also there will be monitoring of non-compliance using yellow and red incidences. If there’s outright noncompliance we call that a refusal to comply and a phone call or email home immediately that’s a red incidence.  Please review the 3-page document, and if you see anything questionable just let us know, but that will then be put into the policy, within a week you’ll relieve the 45-page document which will need to be endorsed.  **SC:** great that the school is implementing changes right away, but I would also say that given the fact that the situation has changed now I would suggest we be as vigilant as we can to prevent the school from being closed, and with the recent YG requirement of masks in all indoor spaces, I would strongly suggest that we consider mask-wearing in classrooms for ages 10 and up. There is so much connection between school and community. |
| B) Substance use/abuse education policy | **BL**: Important to first recognize this isn’t a policy, this is more of a means of operation that we’ve applied since the beginning of the school year. Comes from conversations with the interagency youth forum. Basically what’s explained in there briefly, if you have concerns bring them up now, which is what the Tato group is doing too.  **BM:** Does the school have staff who are trained to diagnose when a child is under the influence. **BL:** This is an area of concern, more staff understanding of situations of narcotics use and abuse.  **BM:** If a minor is under influence is that illegal and does the RCMP need to be advised at that point? **BL:** we would take guidance from the council here, in the same way, we’re acting now in line with the policies that are currently used by Yukon support workers (Alexa and Ange) trying to work proactively with parents and students before going to illegality/RCMP, but when we talk about protection of students if there is evidence this has ramifications to others I don’t think we’d have trouble addressing this as something illegal. And again this is something within the TATO group the RCMP, and all the groups that work with youth need to work with different mandates- RCMP illegality, others prevention.  The current practice is much more geared towards those conversations. I think this could move toward a separate policy. **TW:** There is one already?  **BL:** We would amend the existing policy. **TW:** Could you bring what we brought forward to TATO for review? And then come back to us.  **ACTION: BL** will take council questions/changes to TATO.  **ACTION: BL:** Ange Jobin and Alexa Mitchell are looking forward to being guests at the meeting- to speak about proactive measures for parents. Delegation at their convenience- BL will contact them. |
| C) Electronics Policy | **BM:** Changes suggested by Suzanne-  **SC:** What we discussed as a council, was for the admin to consider flipping the policy around. It now says phones are allowed in the classroom unless a teacher specifically says no, instead of saying phones are not allowed unless the teacher explicitly says yes. For consistency for the students. And so staff can be teaching rather than policing cell phone use during class.  Our recommendation as the council would be that the admin looks over our recommendations after this meeting and pass them by staff at the next Grade 8-12 staff meeting to get feedback from staff to see if staff would be on board with our recommendations, and bring that feedback back to us.  **HM:** I think it’s fine, I think we will go with what the school council would like, we know that if we have no cell phones in the classroom, there will still be policing that has to be done, but there will still be some of that, but I don’t think it’s a problem, I think it will take time for students to get used to that, phones used as a camera for the yearbook class, for example. Photos are huge right now, it helps students build portfolios in relation to some courses, shop, foods etc. We’re ready to back the council and support our staff in that, but I think it may be a little less easy to do than we think it may be, and what are the consequences of that, when students don’t comply.  **SC:** I assume that consequences would be based on the student behaviour policy. It’s really important to us to hear staff feedback on our recommendations. **HM:** important for students to know this is from council and community/staff- on the same page.  **Action: HM:** will take this to staff and bring feedback back to the council. 6-12 classes.  **HM:** What is missing is the education that comes along with having a phone- social media etc. It’s also the time outside of school that also disrupts what happens in school, we also need to really promote parental support in teaching youth about electronics use outside of school hours too. |
| D) Physical Plant developments update | **BL:** Contract has been released for the demolition of the portables and someone has been hired to be the project leader for that project, which involves a consultation phase with its development. There's action happening, but we don’t know a lot more about it.  **LF:** We’ve had one meeting so far with our group and have been tasked with choosing the new paint colours for the school- we have until Christmas. So what we’ve decided is there’s a couple of students on the committee, they came up with the idea to do a colouring program in the school for kids to come up with what they think the school should look like. One of the suggestions is Ted Harrison has done a rendering of the school, one suggestion that we go with his colour palette. Excitingly we get to change the colour of the school.  **BM:** There was talk last time of opportunity here to get some portables, but not ideal as would become permanent instead of building wing etc. Is there any interest in trying to get some temporary portables, the staff seem to have needs and they’re expanding into the library and other spaces, is it worth getting something temporary?  **BL:** We have a new superintendent, he did some probing to find out the timeline and cost. It's under the model of replacement times 2 or 3? What was there before to replace and what would it cost, times 2 or 3- is the language that’s being used for the new development. The likelihood now is that we would need a 4 classroom modular unit within a timeline, (not sure how much confidence we have in timelines) but there’s been some kick on this- last time we met Suzanne suggested is it time for?  **ACTION:** Our next meeting is in December, let’s decide then or in January- we’ll need to act or make a statement if we feel it's not moving along. The longer it takes to remove the portables will impact what we hope for the next school year. And our staff today feels the pressure of reduced classroom space during COVID and we need to be prepared to voice a strong stand and our TH reps here are involved with the education oversight committee which is making recommendations for the advancement of things perennially neglected. |
| 6. New Business |  |
| A) Pre Christmas meeting between grads and current grade 11/12 | **SC:** Last year there was a meeting between grads from years before and grade 11 and 12 students. The School council provided lunch. The idea was for grade 11 and 12’s to be able to talk to their peers re workforce, post-secondary education, etc. The feedback was positive, and the thought was to make it an annual event. Last year we had short notice, so hard to wrangle grads/students. So maybe time to bring it up now. With COVID, it’s not possible to do it physically. May be possible to do it via zoom with grads on zoom students socially distanced in a class.  Admin and staff felt it was beneficial but it takes some leg work. Not sure if admin and staff have the capacity now?  **HM:** At my end, I can get the 11/12s together- have a time/screens. Getting the grads, I can put a call out by emailing past students who may be interested and can also put it on the Cryer Buyer and see who gets in touch- and maybe we could look at doing it the week before Christmas break- 15th-16ths of December (a couple of weeks away).  **Action: HM** will put a call out for involvement. **A-BB-** TH is planning a career fair. Maybe an option for past grads if they can’t make zoom day if they can make a short video of their day- for use in their day and also as part of the TH fair career days. |
| 7. Reports |  |
| A) Principals Report | **BL:** Try to get the sourdough out in advance of this meeting- to give an overview of what’s going on in the school. 6-7s just participated in a week-long deep dive, provided diversity to the students, a Han perspective on the Lion King, quite significant. It's been in production and not sure when it's been released.  What do we do for a Christmas concert- recorded for radio on CFYT?  The school is closed down totally on external use by other providers- TH general assembly and the Health Centre immunizations- but currently no external use. But there are 13 different student-based groups operating in the school as extracurricular activities. Many staff-led, but we use a minimized role of adults- but it has worked favourably for students.  Are their grade levels that are missed from activities- there are grade levels in providing fundamental and foundational experiences for their year ahead. |
| B) TH Report | **ABB:** Staffing changes/hires: Elementary (k-6) Community Education Liaison Coordinator (CELC)- Ashley Bower-Bramadat, High School (7-12) CELC- Aurora Knutson, Education Support Worker (ESW)- Jen Kehoe, Afterschool tutor position- Jen Suttis. We posted for another afterschool tutor position- this is in process, just finished interviews the other day. We have posted the Elementary CELC Position and are waiting for that to close to hopefully have someone hired by January.  We have submitted Jordan’s Principle Applications for the following positions of Indigenous Counsellor and Education Support Worker.  We also just posted another position, Cultural Advisor, who will be working on a number of cultural priorities for TH Education in collaboration with RSS and YG. Priorities such as in 17.7 this position will be working on; experiential learning curriculum and framework, accreditation of Culture Camps up to 4 credits, and Han language curriculum.  Food program: continuing through 2022, seems to be going well, we got feedback from the staff and students. Melissa and I went round to classes’ Grades 4-12 and we spoke about where the program and funding came from. We’re up to 1100 meals a week.  Update for camps- Aurora and Sarah did the grade 11 residential school camp at the land of plenty. Planning camps with grade 4-7 and we are continuing with COVID as we can, within bubbles We do have elementary CLEC posted. |
| C) Chairs report | **BM:** email from the Association of Yukon councils- training opportunity for school council members “launch of school council trainman tool) Saturday, December 5- 9 am-12- tools/training to help us be more effective. I will forward the email.  **RL:** Would like to set times in the new year to do orientation, goal setting and work plan for the council. Looking forward to that. We have the meeting next month and then in the new year that’s what we’re planning to do, so looking forward to it. |
| D) Student Council report | **HM:** there are 4 students involved with council in grades 10 & 11, they arrange spirit week and that went quite well, particularly in the k-7 level and they’ve helped make some volleyball stuff happen. Today we had a round-robin tournament to give kids a few activities. So they’re certainly coming up with ideas and there's something else they’re working on but I’m not sure what. **BM:** are they interested in attending a meeting or submitting a monthly report? **HM: ACTION**: will put that forward to them to see if anyone is interested in taking part. |
| 8. Community Concerns | Is substance abuse policy in line with community concerns or the same thing? **BL:** Increase of community concern, and coming from TATO the people who work with our youth, frontline workers, identifying areas of concern. And last year the conversation, the community concern was about emotional wellness, it was very much wellness and what could we do to try and break barriers down where students were taking the initiative and felt the opportunity to meet and talk about areas of concern and then the COVID time, echoed by RCMP and TH, narcotics and drug use, but that wellness is still an area of concern.   TW: The concern was that we review the policy.  RL: Is everyone happy to move on?  Yes. |
| 9. Correspondence | None.  **BL:** Letter from Yukon Education to council and information to parents. This relates to COVID and the fact that you need to vet and approve the adjusted longer policy by the 18th.  **RL:** Can we put this on google docs. To work on until before ether 18th.  **ACTION-** put the adjusted COVID policy on google docs to review before the 18th. |
| 11. Upcoming dates |  |
| A) Next School Meeting | The last day of school is December 18, then back in January. Wednesday the 16th, 6 pm (Barring conflict with radio concert.) |
| 12. Adjournment | BM: officially adjourning meeting. |
| 13. Roundtable |  |