Robert Service School Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

START TIME – 6:02 p.m.

RSS School Gym  
Council Members Present: Brent M., Rhea L, Suzanne C., Tanja W., Andria O.

School Staff Present: Brian L., Ashley B.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. **Call to Order** | **BM** 6:02pm |
| 1. **Acceptance of Agenda** | 1st Tanja, Suzanne 2nd  **SC:** COVID-19 measures needs more time than 5 minutes. Roundtable should also not have a time limit of 5 minutes each.  **BM:** A number of changes to the agenda are required. The approval and signing of the RSS School Council Financial Report is not yet complete so will need to be tabled. The date proposed for the next meeting (November 11, 2020 is a public holiday) so needs to be rescheduled. |
| 1. **Review and approval of Minutes** | **TW:** I suggest we postpone the review and approval of the minutes until we have both members who attended the previous meeting present.  Rhea L Moved to table., Suzanne C 2nd |
| 1. **Delegations/Presentations** | None.  **SC:** The time limit for delegations is that any delegate must give two weeks notice. If it is a classroom issue the delegate must go to the teacher first and then if it is not resolved then go to the School Administration.  **RL:** The former Chair mentioned that delegates do not have a back-and-forth dialogue with Council members during their presentation. They are to present on the matter they wish to discuss then if there are no questions from Council they leave.  **TW:** They should be asked if they followed the appropriate reporting channels when they request a delegation.  **BL:** There are special procedures outlined in the Teacher Association rules of ethics. There may be special situations where it is appropriate to go to the School Council. This is where the Chairs exercise judgement on what is appropriate for delegate presentations.  **BM:** Perhaps we should include a “how to best communicate with School Council” piece in the Sourdough?  **BL:** That’s a great way to communicate with parents and students about communication and engagement with the School Council. |
| **5.1 Business arising from the minutes** | COVID-19 Measures  **SC:** This is business arising from the previous meeting. It came up that, after RSS had its COVID plan approved, the CMO of Health recommended masks are worn where physical distancing is not possible for ages 10 and up. However the guidelines from the Dept. of Education did not reflect this. The question at the last meeting was the school going to follow the CMOH recommendation? If we are using the motto “we take care of each other” shouldn’t we have the highest requirements? I was tasked to contact the CMOH to gain clarity. The CMOH offered to review the school’s practices in relation to COVID-19 guidelines. The information is always changing and the CMOH will be putting in place new guidelines for schools.  The question is how do we protect our community? We should be as precautionary as we can. Should we ask the CMOH to review the school plan?  **TW:** Now that we have a handle on this, I’m more interested to hear from teachers about the concerns they have at the community-level.  **BL:** I originally told the superintendent we weren’t ready to reopen and that we wanted an audit to ensure it was safe to return to school. I went to the School Council for support, as we couldn’t make these decisions ourselves. We recommended that the audit be Yukon-wide. We have taken a precautionary approach. We are on high vigilance, especially in the high-risk areas, such as the main corridor, hallways, shared areas etc.  **TW:** I believe you can have an audit from people other than the CMOH, for example the City of Dawson is currently having an audit of their buildings.  **AO:** I think we have to balance the concerns and risk with the wellbeing of our children. Educate them to wear masks, but to make them compulsory at all times would be challenging. There has to be a balance taking into consideration people have different comfort levels. In my family we wear masks because it’s a policy, my kids wear masks because it’s required.  **TW:** The audit report would provide a baseline, it wouldn’t mean then we would have to put in place all of the recommendations.  **SC:** One of the reasons we’re being extra vigilant is that if a school closes it’s a serious situation.  **BM:** To summarize, Brian you prepared a COVID-19 plan?  **BL:** Yes, and the Superintendent thought it was the best in the Yukon.  **BM:** And do kids go between different areas?  **BL:** Overall it’s been good. We have separated the kids, teachers, and subs where we needed to. We do not allow external parties to use the school. So far we have only approved two external parties, TH for the GA and for health vaccinations.  **BM:** So to summarize, the School has an approved plan, but Suzanne would like the CMOH recommendations to be included?  **SC:** Yes. In the cases where it is not possible to have the required 2m physical distancing enforced/implemented.  **BL:** We are monitoring and assessing the risk. We let parents and children know what the protocols and requirements are. We developed the plan with what the community let us know they wanted, while aligning with the guidelines.  **AO:** I think the school is doing a phenomenal job. In fact, I called the school and thanked them. The plan in place now seems to be a perfect balance.  **SC:** I also think the school is doing a phenomenal job, but we also don’t have any cases in Dawson. Is there any way to look at the spaces for 10 and up and determine the physical distance requirements for long periods of time and identify the spaces where there is higher risk?  **TW:** I think we have to move on, can we add an action item to add COVID-19 measures to the next meeting?  **ACTION ITEM: BL TO UPDATE COUNCIL ON OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS RE COVID-19 MEASURES: Council (via Suzanne) will inform the CMOH that RSS does not want to be single out for an audit at this time. Brian will look more closely at the age 10 and up classrooms to see in which situations physical distancing is not possible, and report back** |
| * 1. **Individualized Student Programming** | **BL:** Students get an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). In the next newsletter I’ll be talking about it more. We’re in a process right now where there are three parent meetings a year, there are a lot of assessments in the school. If a student is on an IEP, they go into the new year with it. There is also a student learning plan not addressed by the Education Act. We have 58 students on student learning plans. We identify contact and identify a space to help students to regulate. These plans had to be submitted last week.  **BM:** Who creates these student learning plans?  **BL:** Good question, the teachers and the education assistants work with the students on IEPs. |
| **5.3 Substance Abuse Education** | **BL:** Last year we put together an interagency committee with the Youth Council. It is based on being a guide, working with students in the school. We brought people together in a proactive way. Paula and Jen Kehoe are there. We put them in contact with support people. CELCs, social workers, hospital staff etc. we take a really proactive approach. TATO – the interagency group had 5 meetings on Tuesdays where there have been areas of concern discussed. Including concern over the increased amount of drugs being used during COVID-19. There is concern also over drug taking amongst the younger youth. We have talked to the police and students have raised concerns about other students. We’ve sent four kids home for being high this year. If suspected, the parents are called and they are sent home. Many students are dealing with anxiety, especially early in age and drugs being used by those younger in age, and also serious drug use amongst students.  **AO:** What is considered “young”?  **BL:** Ages 8-13. In the last year we have tried to de-stigmatize mental illness. There has been a real shift in how people perceive mental illness. We are proactively doing substance abuse education. Working with students about the physiology and long term impacts of drug use. We’re doing everything we can in the school and this would be a great Council priority.  **SC:** Are people getting the help they need? Is anyone not getting help?  **BM:** We need to move on from this agenda item. |
| **5.4 Intensive French Program** | **ACTION ITEM: BL WILL SEND THE POWERPOINT PRESENTATION PREPARED BY THE CONSULTANT** |
| **5.5 Physical Plant Developments** | There is concern about the lack of progress with physical plant activity. This has been an ongoing issue for the school and council. Lisa Favron is the Council rep on the advisory committee for the plant development. The school council sent a letter to YG expressing concerns about progress on the plant development.  **BL:** We are 5 classrooms short for what is needed.  **AB:** We do not want to see short-term solutions, we need something for years to come.  **ACTION ITEM: SCHOOL COUNCIL TO FOLLOW UP ON THE LETTER TO YUKON GOVERNMENT**  **ACTION ITEM: REQUEST AN UPDATE FROM THE COUNCIL REP ON PROGRESS AT THE PLANT DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE** |
| **6.New Business -**  **Electronics Policy** | **BL:** This is just a short update. It’s the School Council’s responsibility to approve school policies. We have developed an electronics policy and hope to add it to the next school agenda for approval. We use phones in class where calculators are needed, but they are not to be used outside of approved uses. When there is non-compliance it is documented and if it keeps occurring then there is a phone call.  **ACTION ITEM: ADD “APPROVAL OF ELECTRONICS POLICY” TO THE NEXT SCHOOL COUNCIL AGENDA** |
| 1. **Reports** |  |
| * 1. Principal’s Report | **BL:** The school will be closed on the 24th for teacher / parent conferences. Report cards have been completed and apart from Kindergarten all conferences will be virtual because of COVID-19. Conferences will occur between 1-7pm.  **BM:** Can’t we do face-to-face because aren’t families within the same bubble as the teacher?  **BL:** We are trying to minimize parental presence in the school to manage possible transmission. It has been a YG recommendation. For K-7 there will be three documents/portfolios.  **TW:** Is it possible to get digital portfolios?  **BL:** We are looking into better communication methods about learning. |
| * 1. TH Report | **AB:** I’ll give a brief summary of TH’s Human Resources, Education and Training (HRET) department. Caley Boulter is the Director, we have two CELCs and an Education Support Worker. I am the Education Manager and manage cultural programming for all students, culture camps 9 and up and all culture on-the-land programming. The ESW supports First Nation students, closing the gap and student learning plans. We have a tutor Jen Suttis, and we also manage the Jordan's Principle Nutritional Food Program. We are also looking into a Jordan's Principle proposal for another ESW. We also participate on the Education Oversight Committee for 17.7 of the Self-Government Agreement. |
| * 1. Co-Chair’s Report | Brief introductions from the Co-Chairs BM and RL. |
| 1. **Community Concerns** | None. It was raised that community concerns were brought forward with Admin a week prior to School Council meetings.  **ACTION ITEM: CO-CHAIRS WILL SPEAK WITH FORMER CHAIR CB ABOUT THE PROCESS FOR RAISING COMMUNITY CONCERNS** |
| 1. **Financial Report** | No report. Some financial information was not yet available to complete the report from the former council.  **ACTION ITEM: CO-CHAIRS TO LOOK INTO THIS FURTHER AND PROVIDE OUTSTANDING MONTHLY REPORTS FOR SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2020**  **ACTION ITEM: FOLLOW UP WITH LF ABOUT SIGNING AUTHORITY**  **ACTION ITEM: IF READY, ADD “FINANCIAL REPORT” TO THE NEXT SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING** |
| 1. **Next meeting Date** | November 18, 2020 (note, this has been rescheduled to the new date of November 25th, 2020 |
| 1. **Adjournment** | 8:20pm |