**Selkirk Elementary School Council**

**Regular Council Meeting**

**Monday, May 10th, 2021**

**6:30pm Zoom Meeting**

**Call to order:** 6:33pm

**Introductions:** Lisa Rawlings Bird (parent), Mike Snider (Gadzoosda Student Residence), Kate Andre (parent)

**In attendance:** Ian Parker, Sue Glynn-Morris (Zoom), Mel Davignon, Colleen Madore, Laura Davidson, Tamara Boiteau (Zoom), Leslie Doran, Ryan Sikkes (Zoom), Erika Oppen (Zoom), Michelle Boleen (Zoom), Lisa Rawlings-Bird (Zoom), Mike Snider, Kate Andre (parent) (Zoom), Marilyn Marquis-Forster

**Regrets:** Nicole Morgan

**Approval of Agenda**- Motion required - Moved by Colleen and seconded Ian by to approve the Agenda as presented. All in favour.

**Approval of April 12th, 2021 meeting minutes**- Motion required - Moved by Colleen and seconded by Laura. All in favour.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Statement shows $6574.81 in bank available for use. The school has not deposited their cheque for IXL and Grant’s drums yet (~$2100).

**Principal’s Report**

**Reporting.** The Selkirk Spring Showcase & Celebration of Learning be uploaded by on the school’s website’s homepage Wednesday, May 11, 2022.I want to recognize Grant Hartwick for taking the time to compile/edit/format teacher submissions.

**Hiring.** Interviews have started for our posted teaching positions. We are still awaiting out EA allocations.

**YFNED.** Fish camp was a huge success and we thankful to all the advocates made it possible. Students and teachers learnt about the importance of salmon, proper harvesting, and then were able to taste fried salmon alongside fresh bannock. With all camps/activities being supported, the intent is for the gradual release with staff to build capacity and the ability to do activities in a good way. We thankful for this learning and embrace the “I do, we do, you do” model.

**Camping at Mt Lorne.** Emily McCain has submitted the complex field trip to take her class to Mt Lorne Community Centre for 3 day / 2 night camping trip. If approved, students will learn camp cooking skills, fire making, site preparation, gear preparation and much more. They will also be doing service learning by helping to clean up and prep for the opening of the facility. Additional staff will be helping (and with their Wilderness First Aid training) to ensure the safety of students. Nothing has been communicated with students if the application is not excepted.

**Bike Safety.** Cycle Smart funded by the City of Whitehorse was working with several of our classes today to learn skills for both on the road and off road biking. The program is offered to grades 4 and up and students had a blast.

**Gratitude.** Thank you to council for providing tasty snacks and hot refreshments for all of the staff. It was an unexpected and very appreciative surprise! It was the perfect little boost we all needed.

**Modular.** The contract has been awarded and signed. I am currently working with Trevor Justason on the furniture order for the new classroom.

**Old Business (Updates):**

**Parking lot/Selkirk St Safety update**

Selkirk School Council (SSC) Chair expressed to Ryan Sikkes (ADM Ed) frustration about insufficient communication from the Department of Education. Ryan confirmed the parking lot is on hold so concerns can be heard. The architect will be re-engaged on parking lot design and the Department will come back to SSC (likely in fall) to discuss the design.

Mike Snider expressed concerns with Selkirk Street safety. Multiple Departments are involved (YG Dept of Ed, Community Services, Highways and Public Works, City of Whitehorse) though responsibility is unclear. SSC is looking for a coordinated approach to this issue. Ryan agreed that getting all the various players together in a room was a good idea.

**Playground equipment**

Tamara has heard from Trevor and Chris Hanlin that the Department of Ed has $50K to put into playground equipment. Ryan confirmed with Chris that there is $50K available for SES playground equipment. Tevor and Chris will be connecting with Tamara.

**FI Kindergarten-what’s next?**

Ryan confirmed that SES is a neighbourhood school and will always have an English stream. He recognizes that the number of students going to FH will be increasing (though small in the first couple years) and that planning for capacity is essential. Capital plans are necessary to inform this work. FH was designed such that it can be expanded.

There is a French Immersion Advisory Committee meeting on May 26 which Marilyn will attend. She will share the Terms of Reference with SSC.

**Distribution of corporate swag sent home to kids**

Kate Andre voiced serious concerns about the Victoria Gold water bottles sent home for every student and feels this is a slippery slope accepting corporate swag at public schools. Ryan explained that the water bottles came from the Every Student Everyday Fund Non-profit Society (of which Victoria Gold is a major donor). Ryan will get a copy of any related policy to SSC. Kate will send a letter to the Department and cc SSC.

**Questions asked to the Department and answers-Marilyn**

Covered in notes above.

**Transportation Update**

Colleen shared the transportation policies with SSC and has asked SSC to review and get back to her by approximately May 20 with a list of policies we think are the highest priority to review.

**Reflective Tape Survey Results**

Reflective tape survey results indicate a lot of concern from the SES community about road safety on Selkirk Street. Big thanks to Michelle Boleen for coordinating the survey. Colleen will do a thematic analysis of the results, which will be shared on the website in the next couple weeks.

**New Business:**

**Student Suspension**

SSC recently suspended a student for three days. Tamara shared that SES’s approach is generally taken that students learn from mistakes made and restorative justice is sought. When it happens repeatedly and the incident is severe enough a suspension is administered. Under the Act the principal can suspend up to two weeks.

**School Calendar Change**

The Department of Ed recently made a change to the already published school calendar, extending summer break by a week. The rationale was to correct a calculation error related to christmas break and PD days. The Government of Yukon news release indicated revisions were done "following feedback from school administrators and school councils". Feedback was not sought from SES council. In accordance with the Education Act SES council is requesting to provide advice to the Minister respecting the establishment of the school year and school day in the future.

**Capacity of Immersion at secondary schools**

As discussed above, there is concern about capacity for French Immersion students at FH. Amanda Cann (parent) wrote a letter to the Minister at Dept of Ed two years ago and she recently reshared the reply from the Minster with SSC.

**Education for students at the school cycling/walking on roads**

Mel reached out to RCMP about doing cycling and pedestrian safety awareness at SES.

**Bike racks**

We have limited bike rack space at SES. The school will try repositioning the racks perpendicular to the wall, so long as they don’t impede the sidewalk, to try to increase space and make them more accessible.

More updated racks allowing for bigger tires might be necessary. An additional rack could possibly be placed on the other side of the school (across from the old tire swing between the two primary doors). Laura pointed out we have SSC budget if needed. Tamara will email Trevor to see if there are any racks laying around.

Ian will look into the possibility of a City program providing racks for businesses and if they might be available for schools. The program available to schools is the Environmental Grant (minor grant): <https://www.whitehorse.ca/departments/environmental-sustainability/environmental-grant>

The program Melanie mentioned (Request-a-Rack) is only for installing racks on city owned property: <https://www.whitehorse.ca/departments/planning-and-sustainability-services/request-a-rack>

**Timing for newsletter for the new year**

The newsletter timing is based on announcing the shining star awards. Consistent meeting dates are appreciated. There is flexibility both for the timing of the newsletter and SSC meetings. Melanie proposed the idea of releasing the newsletter following school council meetings which Erika was supportive of. We can revisit at the start of next school year.

**Comprehensive School Health (CSH)**

Ian proposed creating a CSH committee (e.g., to celebrate successes already happening, to proactively share the load of promoting a healthy school community based on a comprehensive school health model, and to service as a resource to admin, teachers, community). Erika is keen to be involved.

**Motion to move to in camera**

A motion was made by Laura to move in camera; motion seconded by Ian.

**Information Items:**

**Next regular meeting:**

Ian made a motion to move the final meeting to Monday, June 7, 6:30pm in person and Zoom (same link). Sue seconded the motion. All in favour.

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:45 pm