**MINUTES**

**Selkirk Elementary School Council**

**Regular Council Meeting**

**Monday, February 10, 2020**

**6:30pm in the Selkirk School Library**

**Call to order:** 6:37

**Introductions:** Julie Desbrisay, Nils Clarke, Colleen Madore

**In attendance:** Tamara Boiteau, Leslie Doran, Melanie Davignon, Michelle Boleen, Sandy Calhoun, Liza Marie Mannen

**Regrets:** Laura Davidson

**Approval of Agenda**- Motion required – Moved by Sandy and seconded by Michelle to approve the Agenda with one addition and one change. Addition was adding discussion of transportation chair to Old Business. Change was moving Red weather days discussion to first item until New Business. Carried.

**Approval of January 13, 2020 meeting minutes**- Motion required. – Moved by Sandy and seconded by Michelle to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2020 meeting. Carried.

**Treasurer’s Report-** Sandy reported that we still have $11,632.06 in our account. He needs cheques signed for cross country skis, dance and the purchase of French books.

**Principal’s Report** – See attached for a copy of the report.

**Old Business (Updates):**

City Council Selkirk Street Safety update -

An email was received from the City of Whitehorse (see attached), which stated the City does not currently have plans to upgrade Selkirk Street, but as they are in the planning stages of the next Transportation Master Plan, there will be opportunities to provide input through public consultation events. The Traffic and Sign Committee with the City suggests students can instead walk along Nisutlin and down Lewes Blvd to access Selkirk School. School Council feels this is a huge detour for young children and significantly increases the distance for any child living in Riverdale South and especially those living in the single-parent residences at the end of Selkirk Street.

The City also thanked SES Council for the request of a cross walk at the end of Selkirk Street and Nisutlin Road, and this will be considered as part of the 2021 capital budget request.

Lights in the playground, parking lot questions for Chris Hanlin -

Lights have been requested between Gadzoosda Residence and SES. No word yet from Education. Mel will follow up with Chris Hanlin. Not sure about the lights in playground. Did we get any? I think we did because it didn’t seem to be an issue this year….it’s just the drop off area.

Kindergarten Information Night and letter to Minister McPhee re: FI Kindergarten –

A letter was sent to Minister McPhee on January 22 asking for confirmation SES would just have one FI Kindergarten. At the Kindergarten Information Night, the department stated Selkirk would just have 1 FI K. There has not been a response to the letter from the Department of Education to date. As of today, the first day of Kindergarten registration, there were already 40 students requesting FI Kindergarten at SES. Both space and resources are issues with the increasing number of students and classrooms required.

MOU with new French high school and FH Collins –

No word on where the MOU was at. Tamara will follow-up with David Wipf.

Playground equipment – Michelle noted that the tire swings are not currently assembled. They were removed last spring, and have gone missing. Education removed them and they cannot be found. Tamara will ask Sheila to follow up with the Department of Education to see if new ones can be ordered.

First Nation Language Teachers –

Due to a shortage of FN language teachers in Yukon, and the need for the teachers to have certification through the Yukon Native Language Centre, the Department is having difficulty hiring FN language teachers who are certified. There are a number of vacancies across Yukon for FN language teachers. It is understood the Department of Education will be making changes to the FN language program in schools, and if a school does not have a certified teacher, FN language will not be taught in the school. Selkirk is looking at ways to ensure all students at SES will continue to be exposed to FN culture. Attached is a letter Whitehorse Elementary School recently sent to their parents about the issue of their school only having one FN language teacher.

FH Capacity letter-Follow up –

Amanda Cann received a letter from Minister McPhee in December (see attached). As of October 2019 FH Collins has 674 students enrolled. The operational capacity of the school is 733 students. The nominal capacity of the school is 1,091 students. The department feels the capacity of the school will meet enrollment forecasts and it will continue to monitor enrolment trends and adjust planning as needed.

Permanent Principal Competition –

Melanie had asked the Department of Education for processes/procedures for hiring of Principals. The department informed Melanie via email that it had been quite some time since these had been updated, and they were going to update them. Melanie has not heard anything since.

FN Board Member for SES Council –

A request to have Caroline Derkatch appointed will be sent to the department.

Modular classroom –

SES will be getting a modular classroom, which will be installed at the back of the school. There is a conduit there for electricity, which was a major consideration in the location. Tamara has requested that access to the classroom be via FOB access, not a key. It will have a ramp and stairs, but no plumbing. It will be similar to the classroom recently placed at Golden Horn School.

Ping pong tables and chair for library –

Laura Davidson found 2 second-hand ping pong tables for SES. These are a great way to keep kids busy/active on red days. In addition a second-hand chair was found for the library, to replace the one that is significantly torn. Thanks to Laura, Melanie and Sandy for their work finding and picking up/delivering these items.

Transportation Chair –

Colleen Madore is the SES rep, as well as the Chair of the Transportation Committee. She informed council a draft Terms of Reference have been created. Once finalized, Colleen will forward a copy to Melanie. Discussions are occurring around seating plans on buses for students, sign-in sheets so drivers know who is in attendance, liability (would it be on the bus company, or Education if an incident occurs?). The Committee is concerned about the safety of Lewes Blvd, especially the current cross walk near the new French school. They are discussing asking the city to install a flashing light crosswalk, and removing foliage in the median to improve sight lines. The Committee is also discussing how to encourage parents/guardians to register students for the bus in a timely manner, to help with planning, as many parents register last minute.

**New Business:**

Online traffic form with city –

The City of Whitehorse has an online form to fill out to request/inform the traffic committee about traffic/pedestrian related concerns. Melanie will fill it out to bring up concerns we have with Selkirk Street regarding the street having no sidewalk or proper lighting, yet still be used a major thoroughfare for parents to drop off students. Council feels this is a safety issue.

Red weather days –

There have been 2 parents seeking clarification of the process when there is a red weather day (colder than -25 Celsius with wind chill). Julie Desbrisay asked if children go in to the school via their regular access doors, or do all children go in the front door? How do the children and/or parents know it is a red day? Tamara and Leslie noted that there is usually a teacher on outside duty informing kids to go to the front door and a red sign is posted on exterior doors. There was an instance where due to staff shortage this process was not followed, leading to some confusion for parents outside. Julie asked if perhaps there could be another method of informing kids it was a red day, such as having a flag outside or sending a text to parents. Tamara and Leslie noted in the future perhaps a text could be sent. For now a reminder will be sent in the school newsletter informing parents of the process.

IXL funding –

The online IXL math program is well used by students and teachers at SES. The time is up to renew the program. There is a one year option or a 3 year renewal option. Signing up for the 3 year option would save $750.00. the 3 year option can also be paid annually, with 50% the first year, and 25% the subsequent 2 years. Council decided a 3 year option would be preferable, but is unsure if the Department will allow payment over multiple years. Melanie will ask the Department if this is possible and follow-up with Council on the answer.

Privacy information -

As per protocol in place, the Chair of School Councils always gets informed when there is a school suspension. Melanie was wondering how long that information needs to be kept, and how to keep it secure. Melanie asked the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, and received the attached response. Council discussed that this information needs to be kept out of view of others, and can be destroyed after a short time, as the school and Department always have a copy.Yes

Advisory Committee invitation –

I can’t remember anything about this. Mel – can you help? I was to ask how Councils get chosen to be on the Committee.

In-school suspension –

Discussion around having a child do a project regarding how using harmful words/racist comments hurt others was helpful, and had a positive outcome.

Vesey’s fundraiser and Crime Prevention Application for cultural projects –

School council is working on a Crime Prevention Application to add more cultural projects in the school, this could include drums, a mural and retaining funds for Family Night. Family Night is a great way to bring the school community together and invite families to come to the school and have fun with their children, while eating food, being active and/or engaging in planned activities for the night. Thanks to Melanie for writing the application. Crime prevention has funding available but as part of the application the school must also fundraise a portion of the funds. Melanie has contacted Vesey’s and catalogues will be sent home with each student to fundraise for this cultural project.

**Information Items:**

Nicole’s Notes x 3

**Meeting adjourned** - 8:30 p.m.

**Next regular meeting:**

Monday, March 9th, 6:30pm