**Selkirk Elementary School Council**

**Regular Council Meeting**

**Monday, January 10th, 2021**

**6:30pm Zoom**

**Join Zoom Meeting**[**https://yukonedu.zoom.us/j/83254225528?pwd=SDgwamg4aUNaMlgvK0ZqSTlDM1lsQT09**](https://yukonedu.zoom.us/j/83254225528?pwd=SDgwamg4aUNaMlgvK0ZqSTlDM1lsQT09) **Meeting ID: 856 1284 2188
Passcode: 716324**

**Call to order:** 6:35 pm

**Introductions:** roundtable introductions

**In attendance:** Council: Ian Parker, Mel Davignon, Sue Glynn-Morris, Laura Davidson, Leslie Doran (VP), Tamara Boiteau (principal), Michelle Boleen (parent), Lance Madore (parent), Colleen Madore (parent), Michelle King (parent), Marilyn Marquis-Forster (Superintendent), Minister McLean, Amy Ryder (Ministerial Advisor), Nicole Morgan (Deputy Minister Education)

**Regrets:** N/A

**Approval of Agenda**- Ian made a motion to accept the agenda. All in favour.

**Approval of December 13th, 2021 meeting minutes**- Laura made a motion to approve the minutes. All in favour.

**Treasurer’s Report**-$8,693 available to spend. Transportation for grade 7 camp and December teacher appreciation (for $300) to be issued soon. $1,000 committed to spend in Spring for outdoor classroom.

**Principal’s Report**-

Staffing. There have been no applicants for our Southern Tutchone Language and Culture position. It continues as an “on-going” job poster. As with other schools, we continue to experience unfilled EA and teaching positions due to the pandemic. We have been fortunate thus far not to find ourselves in a situation where we must pivot to remote learning due to staffing. Two staff are on LWOP due to vaccine attestation. We have not received any information if we must continue to try to fill these vacancies with a TOC or if we will have the opportunity to hire for the remainder of the year.

2. Water Damage. During the winter break, the gym experienced a septic back up due to a frozen drain pipe. The gym floor, in the same area last year, has some damage. The damage will be assessed and repairs will be completed during March break if needed.

3. Remote Learning. Staff are preparing for the event that we must pivot to remote learning. This ensures online resource login information is up to date, paper resources are identified that can be easily distributed, and staff are familiar with how to set up video conferencing sessions.

*What is the threshold at which point schools move to virtual learning?* ISES student and teacher absentee data is submitted daily to the Department, including how positions are being backfilled (or not). Decision to pivot would not be made by the principal but rather the superintendents and ADM (Ryan Sykes), who are using a tool to calculate thresholds. Guidelines are based on both student and teacher absences and illness. K-12 guidelines were shared with parents in an email last Friday. SES community can continue to expect information from the Department every week moving forward. Department is not using blanket restrictions and is being school specific, not using set thresholds because larger schools can be more flexible..

*Teachers are not currently on the priority list. Are staff considered a priority under the new testing protocols?* An exposure notice does not mean there is spread in the school (rather that an individual at the school has tested positive). There’s been only two cases of school transmission in the territory this year (WES and 1 community school). Under the new testing protocols, symptomatic people are not to go to the testing centre but as of today can pick up a home (rapid) test. Any school staff that is symptomatic should not be at school. If there is transmission in the school staff can go to the testing centre. If staff do a rapid test and it is positive they should self-isolate and identify close contacts only. There will not necessarily be an exposure notice at the school. Some parents and Council members expressed concern about this approach.

Fully vaccinated now means you have received a booster shot or your second vaccination within the last 6 months so if staff are not “fully vaccinated” they still need to isolate for 10 days if they are symptomatic, even if they have a negative rapid test.

In rural communities where they don’t have hospitals and community health centers get easily overwhelmed they are deploying the rapid testing centre.

4. January 17 PD. All staff will be engaging in Daily 5 professional development. Daily 5 is a literacy framework to support balanced literacy. It corporates Read to self, working on writing, read to someone, word work, and listen to reading.

**Old Business (Updates):**

Parking lot/Selkirk St Safety update-site visit and transportation master plan updates - $40,000 has been put in the City of Whitehorse capital budget for an active transportation study of Selkirk Street (after Selkirk School Council’s repeated request). A request went out to parents to comment. Jan 24th at 8 and 3pm City of Whitehorse staff will do a site visit of Selkirk Street. A suggestion was made to ask CoW staff doing the visit to actually do the walk up/down Selkirk St during the busiest time of the morning (8:20-:30ish). The road behind the teen parent centre is being used this year to divert traffic so the congestion on Selkirk is minimized. CoW is aware of this.

School Health sub-committee update-Ian - The School Health Committee will pause until a Terms of Reference is developed to balance a diversity of interests. Nicole Schroder recently contacted YG’s Health Promotion Unit regarding sexual health and nutrition presentations at the school. The idea of a health themed week at Selkirk was floated. Every four years the Health Promotion Unit conduct a study of health behaviours of kids grades 6-10. This winter’s study will be postponed possibly until Fall. Ian could share a video from past findings at the next Council meeting.

Mic for meetings - Sue made a motion to purchase a mic up to $100 to aid those who want to join Council meetings via Zoom. Ian seconded this motion. All in favour. Grant Hartwick said the school could use a mic as well. Sue will look into options and propose the best option to Council to purchase.

**New Business:**

Questions and discussion with the Minister

1.       French Immersion Kindergarten which leads us to modular classrooms: SES does not have the physical capacity (the school is at capacity and we are getting a third modular classroom with no water or PA system) and we are not able to get French teachers and we only have one gym, library, and music room. *Is SES getting two FI kindergartens in 2022-23 or will we be capped at 1 (Council’s preference)?*

Nicole Morgan shared that the Department fully understands the Council’s goal of having only one FI Kindergarten next year. What happens with Grey Mountain Primary joining the YFN School Board could impact what happens in the fall. Where students are coming from is another consideration. A subcommittee of the three FI schools will consider if it is sustainable to keep FI at FH and SES. Tamara shared the domino effect of having to backfill vacant positions and the impact on the rest of the school. Nicole made a commitment to sit down with the School Council, SES principal and whoever else SSC thinks should be there, before the decision is made, when the registration numbers come in this winter/spring.

2.       Bussing: Council has recently sent a letter to the Department regarding current bussing concerns.

1. bus cancellations: *Why is SSC not being notified as per the regulations?* Until recently administrators were not being notified either. Nicole shared that the service is pretty unpredictable because Standard has had some significant personnel challenges (retirements, illness, pandemic). They are trying hard to keep the number of drivers up. Drivers have been flown up from BC and AB. Communication has been the big challenge. The Dep’t is working with Standard on communication timeliness and format (tools - texts and MySchoolBus Monitor). Nicole Morgan committed to following up with Council on status of the bussing app. Colleen clarified that the regulations states that the Dept’ is required to communicate cancellations with Council and Administration, not the contractor, unless the responsibility was devolved to them. Nicole said they are working on the communications with Standard.
2. seating plans: Plans are a contractual obligation on the part of Standard but they are not in place. Seating plans are supposed to be developed jointly with administrators but they are not. Nicole said she will get back to Council shortly.
3. school bus monitors: The need for an additional adult on buses (currently up to 72 kids and only 1 adult, driving the bus) raised by SSC and the transportation committee, there is a provision for additional support in the Education Act. The Department has said schools are free to hire EAs but are required to pay. Nicole said she will get back to Council shortly and suggested it would be good to include in the Review of Inclusive and Special Education regarding additional resources required.

3.       The crosswalk at Lewes and Alsek: Busy intersection. Issue in winter (not plowed). SSC has been in touch with the RCMP about people racing the light. They can’t do much/it’s not on their radar at this point. CoW said a camera would cost $1M and not feasible. Council requested that the Minister/DM let SSC know if there is ever an opportunity to raise this intersection issue. Minister McLean will raise it with the Riverdale MLA’s Tracy-Anne McPhee and Nils Clarke.

Colleen shared the following from a past meeting with the Department of Education: *An integrated Riverdale school campus transportation plan has been identified by the Department of Education as a project however it is expected this project is 3+ years from commencing. The project will focus on how students and staff are moving within the campus to various program areas (i.e. from Mercier to the field, Gadzoosdaa student residence to FH Collins, Selkirk Elementary to the fire pit, etc.). The scope of the project will not extend to how students and staff are arriving onto the campus*.

4.       Grey Mountain Primary, the YFN School Board and attendance: If GMP votes to join the YFNSB then the attendance area would be the whole Yukon (i.e., if a student in Whitehorse wanted to join GMP the school board would bus them there) . If both Whitehorse schools (GMP and Takhini) currently participating in the referendum vote to join the YFNSB then the School Board will create two attendance areas in the city. Noted that GMP is not currently a bussing school and has no bus loop.

FI sub committee meeting January 19th 6:30pm-can anyone attend? Mel will plan to attend and will email Council to see if there is a backup in case she is not available.

**Information Items:** N/A

**Next School Council meeting:**

Monday, February 14, 2022 @ 6:30pm in person and via Zoom