**Selkirk Elementary School Council**

**Regular Council Meeting**

**Monday, November 8th, 2021**

**6:30pm in person or Zoom**

**Join Zoom Meeting**[**https://yukonedu.zoom.us/j/85612842188?pwd=QlpwaWE3aUlDTmZIc3JkYkx6QVJkdz09**](https://yukonedu.zoom.us/j/85612842188?pwd=QlpwaWE3aUlDTmZIc3JkYkx6QVJkdz09)**Meeting ID: 856 1284 2188  
Passcode: 716324**

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

**In attendance:** Council members: Ian Parker, Laura Davidson, Mel Davignon, Sue Glynn-Morris, Leslie Doran (VP), Tamara Boiteau (principal), Meagan Lang (parent), Katherine Grenier (teacher), Tina Busetto (parent, Zoom), Colleen Madore (parent)

**Regrets:** None

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

**Approval of Nov 4, 2021 meeting minutes**- Laura made a motion to approve the minutes. Ian seconded. All in favour.

**Treasurer’s Report-** We received our annual allocation. We have $12271.10 in the bank and $11,271 available to spend. No invoice yet for leadership bussing yet.

**Funding Request**- Mme. Katharine Grenier presented a proposal to invest in the development of an outdoor classroom in the forest beside the soccer field to create more inclusive play opportunities during recess and more curriculum connected school opportunities during the school day. A more formal outdoor classroom could further enrich the learning and be good for diverse learners and provide health related benefits.

Sue made a motion to support the project up to $1000. Laura seconded. All in favour.

Katharine is looking for human power to help with building the mud kitchen. Katharine will give a list of items we are looking for to Tamara for the newsletter.

**Principal’s Report**-

Hiring. 5/6 FI has been filled. Carola Receveaux comes to us from Vancouver Island where she has taught French Immersion for several years. She is familiar with the curriculum, reporting, and has taught upper elementary. We are fortunate to have her join the SES team! Sofie and Carola will transitioning this week and part of next. We anticipate Sofie to be in her full LAT role the week of November 22nd. On the EA front, we would like to welcome Emma Galenzoski to the SES team.

Playground. The playground is complete! More students are using the playground and it has been a big hit. Thank you to the Department for providing the funding and support to provide more play structures for our students.

Sports. Volleyball season has come to an end. Our team did not participate in the final tournament due to the growing number of exposure notices. However, students were treated to a pizza dinner and then were able to watch a super-volley game at FH Collins.

Covid-Exposure. We have had two Covid exposures the last month: 2/3C and 6/7H and Non post intensive French students (11:20am-12pm) . Learning continued at home for 2/3C and was well supported by Samantha Carr. 6/7H is our first class with a mix of vaccinated and non-vaccinated students. The learning has continued through a blend of online, paper packages, and zooms. We are thankful to have not felt the impact as other schools. Thank you to all the parents/guardians for supporting your students during those periods and helping to keep our school safe.

**Old Business (Updates):**

Parking lot/Selkirk St Construction/Safety update- Construction on Selkirk Street is done for the time being. HPW is starting on the final design for the parking lot. City transportation engineer is looking for more information about the safety issues on Selkirk Street as unfortunately his site visits to the corridor were during non-peak times in winter.

He also indicated that Selkirk Street was added to the capital budget list for conceptual design review starting next year.

Ian will confirm when the next Riverdale Community Association meeting is and let Mel know so we can discuss a collaborative CDF application to YG.

Playground update-it’s done!

Crosswalk at Lewes and Alsek/education for students at the school cycling/walking on roads- Cars are racing the lights. SES is teaching the kids to walk their bikes across the street and to wait for the crossing guard. The crossing guard has recorded plates of those racing the light and the RCMP has followed up. The RCMP have come in uniform to the intersection during rush hour. There will be work done next year on the crosswalk.

Mel will ask Terra Riders for a quote to talk with students about road safety.

School Health sub-committee update-Ian - Had first meeting. 6 people attended. Discussed observations and opportunities. From the minutes “*It is felt that a number of factors (such as the ongoing pandemic, unprecedented school growth and many new parents and staff) have contributed to Selkirk’s former identity as an open, community-based school being somewhat diminished. There was general agreement that one of the most pressing needs is to help the school reclaim its former identity and/or form a new identity that rests on a foundation of openness, two-way communication, and overall community connection.*”

The committee is proposing a 3 hour event at Shipyards Park (first half for primary and second half for intermediate). Considering Friday Dec 3. Possibly the Saturday. Might be affected by the recently announced emergency measures.

YFNED Food Program in Schools - Tamara will follow up with YFNED (and Ian will be talking to Melanie from YFNED tomorrow) about an opt-out letter and a write up explaining the food program is for the newsletter.

Next FSL advisory committee meeting – Nov 17 3-5pm (zoom) - Mel, Tamara and Laura will attend.

Education Summit on Inclusive Education-Nov 12 8:15am-4pm - Mel will attend in the morning and Sue will attend in the afternoon.

Staff Shortages Oct 2021 - Mel shared a summary of staff absences and replacements for October. In summary, SES was short between 1 and 6 staff every day of October.

**New Business:**

PA systems in the classrooms - A parent expressed concern over the PA systems in the classroom not working. Tamara clarified that the office can call the classroom but teachers can not speak back. As a result, the school has purchased a walkie-talkie system, which will be installed through Total North. Teachers can call other classrooms with this new system. We are on the list for the install.

Bus route cancellations - Whitehorse schools/families are experiencing school bus cancellations due to labour shortages. Parents are finding often right before the bus is to arrive that it has been cancelled. One parent shared that their bus ran only 1 day of the last six. Bus routes have also been combined recently due to these labour shortages. Bus drivers have been being flown up from Calgary. The school bus app does not work and so they are texting parents. School Council and Administration are supposed to be advised that buses are cancelled but Council nor Admin has been informed. Colleen will write a letter and share it with Council to review and send to the Department.

Vaccine mandate - Some parents have expressed concern about the names of Selkirk teachers appearing on the vaccine mandate petition. Tamara does not have the right to ask if teachers are vaccinated and won’t be asking. How might this impact staff shortages? Teacher on Calls (ToC) will fall under the mandate as well. We don’t have any information on what the impact will be. Tamara has seen an increase in anxiety and stress on behalf of staff.

Council elections - Tentative date for the spring council election is May 2. Awaiting Ministerial approval.

Went In camera.

**For information:**

Letter to legislature about rapid testing

**Next School Council meeting:** Monday, Dec 13, 6:30pm in person and via Zoom.