



ASSOCIATION OF YUKON SCHOOL COUNCILS, BOARDS & COMMITTEES

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June 5, 2020

Honourable Tracy-Anne McPhee
Minister of Education
Government of Yukon
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Dear Minister McPhee,

School Re-entry Planning

On Saturday, May 30th, the Association of Yukon School Councils, Boards and Committees (AYSCBC) held its first ever Online Special General Meeting and Annual General Meeting. Though not the in-person meeting we would prefer, the proceedings were successful with representation from Member School Councils from across the territory in attendance.

During the meeting, discussion took place regarding a number of items which included School re-entry planning. As at-home learning for the 2019-20 school year is set to conclude next week, families are eager to learn about and offer input on plans for school re-entry for the upcoming 2020-21 academic year. Below is a summary of some of the comments and questions which were raised during and following the meeting:

- To accommodate health and safety measures including physical distancing and reducing physical contact, how will classes be limited to a small number of students at any one time, particularly those schools with limited capacity? For example, are longer/shorter school day hours, split class attendance morning/afternoon, combination of in class, at home learning being considered?
- How will students with learning disabilities and those who require additional learning supports at home and in the classroom be accommodated?
- How will we ensure changes to the delivery of programming across the territory are applied consistently among schools?
- What steps will be taken to ensure Yukon students are where they need to be in their learning path?
- Will families have the option to send their children to school or continue with remote learning at home?
- How will student attendance be recorded and monitored?
- Above all, how will School Councils, families and other stakeholders be engaged in the planning process? What is the timeframe for consultation and when will decisions be made known?

In addition to engaging education stakeholders on these and other considerations, it will be integral to also hear directly from families, staff and the students themselves regarding their experience with remote learning these past two and half months. This would include obtaining input regarding internet capacity, availability of devices and technology, communication with the school/teachers, access to curriculum and resources, mental health supports and other factors. Answers to these key questions will strengthen and inform planning efforts underway, particularly if remote learning will continue to be utilized in the coming year.

As we continue to navigate these uncertain and unprecedented times, communication and collaboration with our partners in education will be critical in the coming weeks and months. With this, we look forward to hearing about work underway to prepare students, staff and families for the 2020-2021 School Year and how stakeholders will be meaningfully engaged on a return to school plan which ensures the safety and well-being of students and staff first and foremost.

Thank you for your consideration in advance.

Sincerely,



Sandra Henderson
Chair

c: Yukon School Councils
Nicole Morgan, Deputy Minister