

***Draft* 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

 **May 28, 2022**

**Yukon Inn**

**11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**AYSCBC Executive Members in attendance:**

Sandra Henderson, Chair

Sheri Graham, Vice Chair

Amy McKinnon, Secretary/Treasurer

Robin Smarch, Director

Heather Milford, Director

Elaine Taylor, Executive Director

**Member Councils in attendance:**

Ted Baker (Del Van Gorder)

FH Collins Secondary SC (Alyssa Tone)

Elijah Smith Elementary SC (Jessie Dawson)

Jack Hulland Elementary SC (Misty Ticiniski, Jesse Bouchard)

Eliza Van Bibber (Mackenzie Boyden, Rhona Edwards)

Tantalus Community SC (Sandra Combs, Lorraine O’Brien)

Selkirk Elementary SC (Melanie Davignon)

Porter Creek Secondary SC (Angela Drainville)

Kluane SC (Jennifer Chambers)

St. Elias (Marsha Sparvier)

École Whitehorse Elementary SC (Donna-Marie Haughton)

Robert Service SC (Brent McDonald)

Grey Mountain Primary SC (Tim Kucharuk)

Khàtìnas.àxh Community SC (Jari Smarch, Ashley Anderson)

**Non Members in attendance:**

Catholic Education Association of Yukon (Kathleen Williams)

Cynthia Lyslo

1. **Call to order –** 11:00 am

 **Establishment of Quorum -** 14 of the Association’s 23 Members were in attendance.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

 **MOTION: That the Annual General Meeting Agenda be approved as presented.**

 Moved by Heather Milford, seconded by Amy McKinnon – Carried

1. **Opening Remarks – Chair Sandra Henderson**

The Chair welcomed delegates to the 2022 AGM of the AYSCBC and expressed appreciation for everyone able to join the meeting. The Chair thanked all members of Yukon School Councils for the invaluable work done on behalf of members’ school communities.

1. **Approval of 2021 Annual General Meeting Minutes (April 24, 2021)**

**MOTION: That the minutes from the 2021 Annual General Meeting held on April 24, 2021 be approved as presented.**

Moved by Jari Smarch, seconded by Robin Smarch. Carried

1. **Chair’s Report – Sandra Henderson**

As relayed, 2021/2022 has been exceptionally busy. Despite not being able to hold in person events until recently, the executive and Board of Directors has continued to meet monthly to advance the business of the association and address issues of importance to school councils.

Marking 23 years now in existence, the Association of Yukon School Councils, Boards & Committees (AYSCBC) has and continues to provide services and supports to Yukon school councils, with a focus on working collaboratively with its partners to promote quality education, positive student outcomes and the invaluable work of the locally elected School Councils in Yukon.

Throughout the year, the association has met with the department of Education via Zoom, face to face meetings and conference calls to highlight important issues raised by school councils. These include working to advance each of the recommendations outlined in the 2019 Education Audit, responding to concerns raised by school councils regarding school re-entry planning and calling for meaningful engagement with school councils and school communities surrounding key decisions.

This past year, the association worked with a contractor to assist a number of school councils with the completion of their financial statements to ensure the continued operations of school councils and their important work in support of school communities. Work pertaining to the process for undertaking Principal/teacher evaluations as it pertains to the role of school councils was also undertaken. AYSCBC has also been asked to lead an education planning process that will engage affected school councils in a strategic discussion about education priorities (programming & infrastructure needs) and possible solutions for the department's consideration. A contractor has been secured to assist with this project also.

An integral part of AYSCBC’s mandate is providing professional development opportunities through meetings and networking events for school council members across the territory. After 2 years of not being able to meet in person, we were pleased to host a hybrid fall gathering of school councils offering two keynote presentations and a number of other plenary sessions covering the topics of youth mental health, COVID and Kids, election preparedness, student attendance, the creation of a First Nations school board and youth wellness. Over 50 registrants representing 14 school councils from across the territory attended the 2021 Fall Gathering in person and virtually.

In January 2022, AYSCBC submitted its response to the recommendations on the 2019 Auditor General of Canada’s report, Kindergarten Through Grade 12 Education in Yukon. As outlined, concerns surrounding gaps in student outcomes particularly among First Nations and non–First Nations students and rural and urban schools, mental health supports in schools, teacher recruitment and retention and supporting student learning needs with additional supports, were raised with the Public Accounts Committee.

As a member of the Advisory Committee on Yukon Education (ACYE), the Association of Yukon School Councils, Boards and Committees (AYSCBC) has been engaged in discussions regarding the topic of inclusive and special education and the findings of the [report that was commissioned](https://yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/edu/edu-inclusive-special-education-final-report-2021.pdf). While we are supportive of this important work, the association remains concerned regarding the lack of clear and tangible deliverables, cost estimates and measurable indicators for implementing each of the recommendations. As conveyed in a letter to the department in March 2020, the association recommended that the review be conducted in a clear, transparent manner with concrete objectives, action items, timelines and deliverables for improving learning opportunities for Yukon students. With over two years having passed since the review was first initiated and no substantive improvements having taken effect in Yukon schools, these recommendations continue to stand.

The association acknowledges the work to create a working group comprising representatives of various education partners including AYSCBC as well as those who are participating in the various Communities of Inquiry that were created to advance work on the report recommendations. The association remains concerned, however, regarding the amount of time that has passed since the report was first commissioned with no tangible outcomes realized thus far, particularly as it pertains to the Auditor General’s recommendations to:

* prioritize students for specialized assessment;
* formalize Individualized Education Plan (IEP) policies and guidelines
* assess and track specialist recommendations; and,
* assess and track teachers use of recommended strategies.

Though mental health is not specifically referenced in the audit, it is directly related to the delivery of programs in support of Yukon students’ well-being. According to the results of the third pandemic learning survey (summer 2021) commissioned by the Department of Education, 49% of students reported that the pandemic has negatively and very negatively impacted their mental health and wellness. Not unlike what is occurring across the country, it is clear the COVID-19 pandemic has placed a disproportionate burden on children and youth in the Yukon. Children and youth are affected by the closure of schools, recreational programs and other public places. They are also impacted by the increasing economic pressures and stress that their parents and other caregivers are facing due to work disruptions and job losses.

Given the cumulative effects of stress, anxiety and/or depression on students’ ability to learn as well as attend school, and in light of the significant role schools play in the lives of children and youth, AYSCBC has and continues to advocate for making increased mental health services and resources readily available in Yukon schools throughout the territory. As governments put in place policies and programs to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on Canadians, AYSCBC urges all levels of government to consider the unique ways that children are made vulnerable by the pandemic and to put in place urgent measures to reduce their vulnerability.

The board of directors who have generously given of their time and expertise to the association were acknowledged and thanked.

1. **Executive Director Report – Elaine Taylor**

As reported, members of the association have attended a number of school council meetings virtually and have participated in committees such as the Advisory Committee on Yukon Education, Teacher Evaluation Committee, French Second Language Advisory Committee and the Student Transportation Committee. The association was also pleased to work with Elections Yukon, Yukon Education and the Catholic Education Association of Yukon to discuss, plan and promote the 2022 School Council General Election. The association continues to field calls and correspondence requesting advice and/or assistance with issues such as staff housing, resource allocations in schools, early learning/child care, traffic safety, delivery of special education, teacher evaluation, hiring procedures and COVID-19 protocols.

Throughout the year, the association has hosted a number of Zoom information sessions regarding the work of other organizations such as Community Building Youth Futures and the office of the Child & Youth Advocate. The association also facilitated a number of information sessions with school councils, the Yukon First Nations Education Directorate (YFNED), Elections Yukon and the department of Education regarding the creation of a First Nation School Board Agreement.

In addition to hosting the AYSCBC Annual General Meeting and Fall Gathering, the association is working on a number of ongoing projects including the review and redesign of the website, revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws and facilitating an education planning initiative with other school councils in the Whitehorse area. Throughout the year, the association has responded to requests for advice and/or assistance with inquiries pertaining to staff hiring protocols, preparation of contracts for secretary/treasurer services, legal authority of school councils, honoraria and professional development funding for school councils. I would like to thank those councils who have contacted our office throughout the year and have copied the association on correspondence. It is this very work that guides the association’s focus and ensures we are working for you!

School Council members were thanked for taking the initiative to be involved with their schools, School Councils and the association. AYSCBC also recognized and thanked the department of Education for its continued support of the association and its work to strengthen and build capacity among its member school councils in support of all school communities throughout the territory.

1. **Financial Report – Treasurer Amy McKinnon**

The association continues to exercise its operations in a fiscally prudent manner. Executive Director services are provided under contract while Executive Members serve as volunteers. The association does not have a “store front” office and therefore does not have a number of overhead expenses associated with operating an office. Contracts for bookkeeping and web hosting services are delivered by Yukon companies.

2021/2022 marks the second year of the association’s three-year funding agreement with the Government of Yukon - Department of Education. The 2020-2023 transfer payment agreement is based on the association’s core activities (professional development, communication, outreach) as well as a number of projects in support of the work of School Council members. Securing a long-term funding agreement provides certainty for the association and provides the opportunity to plan ahead.

A financial breakdown of the funding agreement is as follows:

**2020/2021: $10,000 (School Council Resource Guide)**

**2021/2022: $75,000 (See 2021/2022 AYSCBC Work Plan)**

**2022/2023: $85,000 (See proposed 2022/2023 AYSCBC Work Plan)**

Throughout the year, a number of adjustments to the budget were made in response to varying circumstances. Revisions to the AYSCBC Constitution & Bylaws resulting from recent changes to the Societies Act and Regulation, for example, were initiated during 21/22. As this project was not foreseen in the previous fiscal year, funding is being re-allocated to address this legal requirement. A number of projects were not made

Yukon School Councils were thanked for their continuing support of AYSCBC and Yukon Education for their financial support on behalf of members. As relayed, this support enables the association to do the work it does with, and for, its colleagues in supporting students and school community involvement in education.

 **MOTION: That the 2021-2022 Financial Statements be approved as presented.**

 Moved by Melanie Davignon, seconded by Ted Baker. Carried.

**8. Presentation of 2022/2023 AYSCBC Work Plan**

The 2022-2023 draft AYSCBC Work Plan was presented for review and approval. It was noted that changes may be made to the work plan as a result of COVID-19 developments.

 **MOTION: Be it resolved that the 2022/2023 AYSCBC Work Plan be approved as presented.**

 Moved by Jessie Dawson, seconded by Robin Smarch. Carried.

**9. Election of Officers**

The following individuals were elected as directors to serve on the AYSCBC Board of Directors:

* Sandra Henderson
* Sheri Graham
* Amy McKinnon
* Heather Milford
* Jessie Dawson
* Brent McDonald
* Robin Smarch

**10. School Council Roundtable**

 Updates were provided by participating School Councils.

**11. Closing Remarks**

The Chair thankedthe AYSCBC Board of Directors, staff and partners for their work to promote quality education, positive student outcomes and the invaluable work of the locally elected School Councils in Yukon.

**12. Adjournment**

 **MOTION: Be it resolved that the 2022 AYSCBC Annual General Meeting be adjourned.**

 Moved by Tim Kucharuk, seconded by Melanie Davignon. Carried.