

Association of Yukon School Councils Boards and Committees

2016 Annual General Meeting

Chair's Report

Another year has gone by and I've been privileged to serve as Chair of this Association. Being given the opportunity to work with this group of caring and dedicated School Council members and Association Executive is very motivating.

This past period was yet another important year in the on-going evolution of our mainly volunteer organization. The Executive for the term ending at this AGM consists of: Bob Laking (Chair), Neil Salvin (Vice Chair), Chris Bookless (Treasurer), Sandra Henderson (Director), Rick Halladay (Director), and Ted Baker (Director). Carol Coote is our Executive Director. All School Councils, other than those that are members of the Catholic Education Association of Yukon, are now members of this organization.

In February of 2015 we signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Education that runs until 2018. Through this (and previous) MOU(s) we have established a financial framework that ensures our organization will be able to fulfill its mandate. Key to this mandate is our commitment to work cooperatively with the Department to deliver training and support services towards the more effective functioning of our members.

There are a multitude of committees working on providing advice and guidance on improving education for our students. I've been serving on a few of these – Policy Review, School Growth Planning and Rural Advisory – among them. You will have seen emails from our Executive Director from time to time seeking persons to be involved in various committees. Please let us know if you can contribute.

School Council Conferences continue to evolve. For a number of years they were held in the Spring and Fall. One was not held in the Fall of 2015. We welcome input from our members about what model best serves your needs.

Travel funding has been a big question from many of our members. After the 2015 Conference we strongly encouraged the Department to provide guidance to Councils in a timelier manner than what transpired last year. We did this at several meetings with department management over the last several months. It is now our understanding that a new Professional development funding process has been put in place for each council that will address this issue going forward. This decision has taken much longer than we had hoped, but the design of this process was entirely out of our hands. As of this writing I do not have the details of this new plan.

I am confident that even more great things are to come, simply because of the all great people involved. A special "thank you" goes out to the Executive, staff, volunteers and Membership of AYSCBC. I thank you for everything you do.

Report from the Executive Director - AGM 2016

As we celebrate this AGM, I am mindful that it was 15 years ago that the Association of Yukon School Councils, Boards & Committees received its first funding.



With its roots planted in a unanimous resolution made at a School Councils' conference in 1999 to form an association as per section 121 of the Yukon Education Act, this organization has grown and developed in a myriad of ways. As with the growth of all 'living' things, there have been many factors that have assisted the organization to thrive and flourish, as well as a handful of 'bumps' to overcome along the way as well. It's been a great learning opportunity to have started at the inception of AYSCBC and to be still working with the Executive and all the Member School Councils to continually increase its "connectivity" and outreach support.

Once again this year, I have had the pleasure of attending many School Council meetings, both in the rural communities as well as within Whitehorse. The discussions, decisions, challenges as well as celebrations that are shared at these meetings inform my work and enable the strengthening of our relationships. These opportunities to learn from the 'front line' School Council members as well as provide information and support to them also guides my work with a variety of Yukon Education committees I sit on, including this year:

- Digital Citizenship*
- Staffing Allocation Advisory*
- Education Assistant Advisory*
- New Vision*
- Positive Behaviour Intervention Support*
- Attendance Initiative*
- Classroom Diversity*
- Student Transportation*
- School Growth Planning & Review*

Publishing monthly newsletters and continually adding to the AYSCBC website keep us growing in our 'reach' and I welcome feedback and suggestions about items or ways to make them even more helpful. Not only is our website accessed by our Yukon public but I have also received several queries from others in many parts of the world about teaching in the territory as well as other topics.

I have also been fortunate in being able to participate in several relevant professional development opportunities such as:

-Yukon Education Summer Institute August 2015

-CYFN Education Summit March 2016

-National Congress on Rural Education March 2016

AYSCBC hosted a successful conference in April 2015 and we are in the midst of hosting our second one with this AGM as a part of the agenda. The planning is considerable and it takes a good group of committed people to do so. My appreciation goes out to all those who have contributed in the preparation and carrying out of the event and most especially to all who make the time to attend. We hope that you will find it a valuable experience and are able to share your learning with your colleagues who are unable to participate this year.

And finally, this is an election year---for School Councils, the AYSCBC Executive as well as territorially! We will continue with our activities of raising awareness about the very important role of our School Councils and hope that many of you will be putting your names forward for nomination for a seat on your local School Council.

I'd like to include in my report an excerpt from an event that took place in Vancouver last month:-- The Honourable Governor General David Johnston spoke about the power of a strong public education system. He said:

*And perhaps that's the greatest gift of all you can make to Canada—to create hope. Because as the ethicist Margaret Somerville once put it, **"hope is the oxygen of the human spirit."***

We know how critical this can be for the health and well-being of our students, families, educators and communities. Thanks for all you give to yours.

Submitted by Carol Coote