**Policy Advisory Committee**

Wednesday May 21, 2014

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

– Meeting Notes –

**Attendance:**

Trevor Ratcliff - Vice-Principal, Porter Creek Secondary School

Gary Morgan - Vice-Principal, Jack Hulland Elementary School

Carol Coote - Executive Director, AYSCBC

Bob Laking - Executive-Chair, AYSCBC

Yolande Cherepak - Catholic Education Association Yukon

Trish Smilie - Director, Student Support Services

Penny Prysnuk - Superintendent, Public Schools Branch

Michael McBride - Director, Policy, Planning & Evaluation

Heidi Rumscheidt - Policy Analyst, Policy, Planning & Evaluation

**Regrets:**

Morgan Douglas-Alexander - Principal, Tantalus School

Helene Saint-Onge - Principal, Ecole Whitehorse Elementary

Debbie Janzen - Holy Family School Council

Neil Salvin - Porter Creek Secondary School Council

Julia Salo - Del Van Gorder School Council

[Note – this is a summary of discussions not a transcript]

**1. Introductions, review of agenda.**

1.1 Policy Website: a brief update on Yukon Education’s policy website was provided. The policy webpage has been reorganized. Public Schools policies are now categorized under more user-friendly headings to make them easier to locate. The page can be viewed using this link - <http://www.education.gov.yk.ca/about/Public_Schools_Policies.html> Questions or comments can be forwarded to Heidi Rumscheidt in Policy, Planning and Evaluation. An email update to school community members (e.g. schools, School Councils, Yukon Education staff) will be provided to help draw attention to the webpage.

Other related suggestions were offered throughout the meeting. There is a request to investigate having hyperlinks from the legislative or regulatory references in policies to the government legislation website. If that is not possible (there are frequent broken links on the government website) then a general link to the legislation webpage. This would help connect the policies to legislation when readers seek additional information.

There was a suggestion to create a common definitions sheet instead of listing definitions in every policy. This would help prevent inconsistent definitions (e.g. school community or IEP). The definitions could be on the website as a reference as be updated as needed.

**2. Draft Policy Review – “Safe and Caring Schools and Managing Student Discipline Policy”**

The general background to the policy was provided. Originally called the “Progressive Response to Student Behaviour Policy” it has been reviewed by the Committee twice (May and October 2013). After additional review within Public Schools the policy was combined with the Safe and Caring Schools Policy to make one comprehensive policy instead of multiple policies and guidelines.

Please see the comments on the draft policy provided separately.

**3. Draft Policy Review [new] – “Provision of Educational Programs to Yukon Resident Students Policy”**

This is a new policy developed to address the issue of when students who reside in the Yukon attend school in another jurisdiction and to clarify the responsibilities of the Department. This policy will help clarify a number of issues and requests. In the past there have been Yukon students attending schools in BC (e.g. hockey school) at no cost until recently; however BC has indicated they will no longer do so due to an auditor’s report. The Department has received requests to pay for these types of student educational programs outside of Yukon.

Please see the comments on the draft policy provided separately.

**4. Draft Policy Review [new] –“Community Use of School Facilities Policy”**

This is a new policy developed to address long standing issues with the use of schools outside of Whitehorse by community groups and individuals. Schools in Whitehorse are covered by the Joint Use Agreement with the City of Whitehorse and some community schools also have similar agreements (e.g. Robert Service School in Dawson City).

Please see the comments on the draft policy provided separately.

AYSCBC representatives indicated they will consider adding a discussion of this policy to its fall meeting agenda.

Continued….

**5. 2014-2015 Policy Priorities**

The policy priorities for the 2014-2015 year were provided to Committee members and briefly discussed. See the handout provided separately.

**6. Other Items**

Membership – Committee membership was discussed as a check-in to see if current members would like to continue on the committee, in particular school council members as elections were recently held. Carole will connect with AYSCBC members to see if there are any individuals who would like to attend.

Meeting Timing – several members indicated that May is not a good month to meet due to busy schedules. Having the meeting earlier than May and in mid-September would be better.

The next meeting will be held in September.