

Committee of the Whole Meeting

November 7, 2017

District Education Office, 33046 – 4th Avenue, Mission, BC

Members Present:

Chair Tracy Loffler
Trustee Rick McKamey
Trustee Randy Cairns
Trustee Shelley Carter

Staff Present:

Secretary Treasurer Corien Becker
Assistant Superintendent Larry Jepsen
District Librarian, Jennifer Lane
Director of Student Services, Carolyann Schmor
District Principal Aboriginal Education, Joseph Heslip
Executive Assistant Aleksandra Zwierzchowska (Recorder)

Absent:

Trustee Jim Taylor

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:33 pm by the Chairperson. The Chair acknowledged the meeting was being held on Stó:lō Territory. There are four First Nation Bands within the boundaries of the Mission School District: Leq:a'mel, Sq'èwlets, Kwantlen, and Matsqui First Nations.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Additional Item(s):

4.1 Stave Falls Communication Content

5.8 Deroche Elementary – Kids in the Kitchen, *A Program Initiative for Hungry Children*, presented by Principal, Mike Abercrombie

6.2 Preliminary research for a daycare to operate from Stave Falls and Lease Clause

6.3 Feasibility of operating a bus route to transport students to Stave Falls School and Silverdale Elementary.

6.4 Provincial Council Meeting Update

MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

3. Delegations/Presentations

3.1 International Travel Application: Cambodia, Ecole Mission Secondary

MOVED and Seconded that the International Travel Application be reviewed and forwarded to the November 21, 2017 Public Board meeting for approval.

CARRIED

Kevin Matheny, Teacher at Ecole Mission Secondary presented information from the Field Trip Application outlined on agenda. Mr. Matheny mentioned that some of the highlighted items can change, but for the most part the information provided in the trip application will remain the same.

Questions

Q: Do we have to worry about political unrest?

R: Mr. Matheny has been in touch with contacts in Cambodia who have stated that it has been very safe.

Q: What is the cost per student?

R: \$3,500; fundraising is for the building costs, but the remainder of funds will go towards the student's airfare.

Q: How will the group address health concerns?

R: There is a reputable Doctor in Abbotsford that has been used by the school in the past. The Doctor sits down with students and educates them about specific health concerns. There is no concern for malaria or the zika virus; students will receive necessary shots well in advance.

4. Unfinished Business

4.1 Stave Falls Communication Content

The Secretary Treasurer mentioned that Staff is compiling the preliminary print material for the mailer. It was brought to our attention that there are concerns surrounding certain wording. We have re-drafted the content to mimic the resolution. Staff would like to hear from the Board regarding communications content:

Trustee Cairns agreed with using the words preliminary registration but noted it's important to emphasize that the school is closed. The words pre-registration indicate that the school is open and accepting registrations which is not the case and suggested, "Intent to Register in efforts to obtain data for the Board to deliberate if there is feasibility to re-open the school."

Q: Will the message announce the school years in which registration is open for? R: Yes

Comment: The word survey should not be used as this gives the public the wrong message. Multiple surveys have been conducted by the Stave Falls Association, this is more than another survey and each registration submission matters.

The Secretary Treasurer mentioned to the Board that if they have concerns with "Intent to Register" or "Survey", Staff will remove the wording to make it more neutral.

Trustee McKamey is concerned with using certain wording as it implies that the school is opening and setting an expectation. It was requested that Staff gather information and that the delivered message is clear and concise across the district. We are seeking information to base a decision and we are looking for language that is neutral.

Other recommendations noted:

- Remove the word survey but leave the wording for "intent" to be honest to the public;
- When using the words Pre-Registration, we need to ensure that there is clarity that the school is not open currently;
- Pre- Registration for a possible re-opening Stave Falls Elementary;
- Pre- Registration for Data gathering purposes;
- Instead of survey use data gathering and note that data gathering will be open from November to December;

- Board is gathering data and based on findings, the Board will use this information for future deliberation.

We need to be careful with the message content and ensure the message is received neutrally by all parents in the District.

The Secretary Treasurer noted that this was an opportunity to include Committee members to collect feedback. Staff will take this information and move forward with suitable changes.

5. Staff Reports

5.1 CURRICULUM – standing item: Monthly Curriculum Update

Joseph Heslip shared a handout and discussed the following items:

- Conducted a successful meeting at Mission Secondary School to discuss the indigenous curriculum for English and Social Studies. Elders will be present in some classrooms at the school to assist teachers and students;
- Peggy Janicki will be working in our District; she has 15 years of experience with grades K to12;
- Mission Aboriginal Education team will be attending and presenting at the First Nations Education Steering Committee. Highlights include the Reconciliation in Mission website.

Jennifer Lane

- A Handout was provided by Jennifer Lane and various information was highlighted;
- Also provided information highlighted on the district curriculum website.

Carolyn Schmor

- Discussed the Universal Design for Learning which is an educational framework that allows a teacher to design learning for all the students in the classroom.

Larry Jepsen

- Stefan Stipp will be presenting at Heritage Park Middle School in February 2018;
- Proud to announce Mission will take part in the Joyful Early Literacy Initiative;
 - Proving 8 days of training here in Mission over a period of three years;
 - Successful results are happening in vulnerable communities;
 - Key aspect for preparing children to be good readers.

5.1a Report Card Update -5.1a Report Card Update- Principal, Tina Phelps and Principal, Angela Condon

- New report card template meets Ministry criteria;
- Some schools were using report programs that no longer matched the redesigned curriculum;
- Now referred to as Learning Standards which addresses new onset language; Emerging, Developing, Proficient, and Extending;
- Pilot project that is open to all teachers in the district;

- Opportunity to recognize what reporting is working and what needs revising;

The goal is to gather feedback and present this information to an open committee meeting in January.

Q: Will parents be informed about this pilot project?

R: Currently, we are experiencing the use of different report cards even in one classroom. The pilot project will have very little affect; however, we are happy to communicate this information with parents.

Q: Do we have percentage of teachers who wish to participate in this pilot project?

R: Not currently as this is a critical week. After this week, we will be able to determine more definitive numbers. We can collect this data.

Q: Will parents have an opportunity to provide feedback.

R: Yes, feedback should be provided to the administrator. We would like the report card to be parent friendly. Parent teacher interviews are a great opportunity to bring forward this information.

5.2 Aboriginal Education Report Update

The District Principal of Aboriginal Education prepared a PowerPoint presentation. Some highlights include:

- Discussion about the Enhancement Agreement Grants;
- 1115 Aboriginal students in mission;
- CBC News attended the Orange Shirt Day ceremony;
- Connectivity Survey revealed positive results where Aboriginal students marked Always or Often to a list of questions;
- Examples were provided of all the different Aboriginal curriculum initiatives occurring at each school.

Q: Did the connectivity survey reveal any surprising data?

R: We were expecting a long-range dip in the data collected from the Middle Schools and High School, but results did not show any dips. We are always looking for ways to improve.

Q: Were these questions asked of all the students?

R- No, I believe this is Aboriginal student focused.

5.3 SOGI Curriculum Update, Principal, Sharon Widdows

Darren Forrest and Sharon Widdows are working on this initiative together. The followings items were highlighted as potential goals for the available funding:

- Host a year end breakfast for students with guest speakers;
- Conduct an exit meeting with students at the end of the year;
- Compile a list of resources available at all schools to develop a starting point;
- Purchase additional resources for teachers;
- Guest speakers to attend schools and deliver presentations;

- Create a SOGI committee comprised of members from stakeholder groups;
- Set a goal to offer one SOGI lesson in each classroom by the end of the year.

5.4 Staff Report on Riverside College Portable Construction

The Secretary Treasurer received a report from the Principal at Riverside College who does not recommend moving forward with this project. There are three new Teachers who are crafting their teaching skills and will not be able to oversee such a project.

This report did spark a conversation with the Principal for building a small home. The idea is to start small and see where it goes.

Q: Would the portable construction be a topic up for discussion in the future?

R: Yes, it is something the College can reconsider in a couple years.

5.5 Parking and Transportation, Dewdney Elementary

The Secretary Treasurer and the School Principal met onsite with the Ministry of Transportation. It is a classified as a highway and regularly used by gravel trucks.

Some ideas that were recommended:

- Creating a crosswalk;
- Adding extra signage;
- Setting up sandwich boards.

Trustee Loffler noted that each school has its own unique issues at pick up and drop off times. If the Board waives transportation fees for the school, this results in unfair treatment to other schools.

The Secretary Treasurer noted that item was presented to the Board an information and asked how the Board would like to proceed.

Q: Are the parents providing any solutions?

R: When Staff met with Ministry of Transportation and the Principal of the school, more on-site parking was suggested. The school district does not have control over street parking, only parking on-site. If we decided to revise the on-site parking possibilities, we would have to hire an Engineer to complete a study.

A suggestion was made to contact the Community Policing unit who once would set up speeding signage on this road as precautionary efforts.

5.6 Major Projects and Initiatives Update

The related information attached to the agenda are intended as a monthly update. Unless there are specific questions, a discussion is not required.

5.7 Monthly Financial Summary Report – September 30, 2017

Secretary Treasurer referred to the report that was outlined in the agenda. It was noted that a financial summary report can now be generated at the push of the button rather than preparing one manually. This will allow the Board and Senior Staff the opportunity to review financial information on a regular basis.

5.8 A Program Initiative for Hungry Children, Principal, Mike Abercrombie

Mike Abercrombie provided a handout and started his presentation. This initiative improves the quality of food that we can provide to our most vulnerable students. The goal is to offer the program to students during school hours. The framework for this initiative is based on three criteria:

1. Improve the quality of food that is provided to vulnerable students;
2. Offer this initiative during school hours rather than after school;
3. Create participation and connectivity to build relationships.

6. **New Business**

The Chair noted that there is ten (10) minutes remaining and suggested that items 6.1 and 6.4 be presented at the next Public meeting under Liaison reports.

6.1 BCSTA Board Chairs Meeting Update

Update postponed until next Public Board meeting.

6.2 Preliminary research for a daycare to operate from Stave Falls and Lease Clause

6.3 Feasibility of operating a bus route to transport students to Stave Falls School and Silverdale Elementary.

The Chair confirmed that printed copies of items 6.2 and 6.3 were shared at the start of the meeting and read both items as outlined in the handout. There were no comments from the committee members in attendance. A discussion took place among Trustees and the following comments were noted:

- Items are being presented to the committee as information items;
- Protocol has been followed to share items with the COTW prior to being presented at an upcoming Public Board meeting;
- Trustees would like to debate the motions at the table;
- Difficult to have a fulsome conversation without Trustee Taylor present.

No further discussion is necessary as the motions will be debated at the next Public meeting.

6.4 Provincial Council Meeting Update

Update postponed until next Public Board meeting.

7.1 Minutes of Previous Meetings

MOVED and Seconded that the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes dated October 3, 2017 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Q: The statement regarding custodians removing compost nightly seems inaccurate. At this time, we have limited information, perhaps we should update this statement?

8. Information Items

No discussion took place.

9. Adjournment

Minutes



**Moved and Seconded to adjourn the meeting.
CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm.

Certified Correct:

Original Signed by Rick McKamey
Chair Board of Education

Original Signed by Corien Becker
Secretary Treasurer

December 12, 2017
Date

December 12, 2017
Date