

School District #75 (Mission)
Public Meeting of the Committee of the Whole Minutes
February 4, 2020, 3:30 pm
District Education Office, 33046 4th Avenue, Mission, BC

Members Present: Board Chair, Tracy Loffler
Vice-Chair, Randy Cairns
Trustee, Shelley Carter
Trustee, Rick McKamey
Trustee, Julia Renkema

Staff Present: Superintendent of Schools, Angus Wilson
Secretary Treasurer, Corien Becker
Assistant Superintendent, Karen Alvarez
Director of Student Services,Carolynn Schmor
Acting District Principal of Indigenous Education, Vivian Searwar
Executive Assistant, Aleksandra Zwierzchowska (Recorder)

Others Present: Indigenous Mentor Teacher/ MTU Aboriginal Chair – Peggy Janicki, School Principal/ PVPA Representative – Linda Ziefflie, School Principal/ PVPA Representative – Lynn Cummings, MTU President – Janise Nikolic, MTU VP – Ryan McCarty, and DPAC – Dionne Hairsine.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

It was noted that item 7.1 is being presented by the entire Board of Education.

3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

3.1 The Secret Pocket

Peggy Janicki, Indigenous Mentor Teacher shared the story behind The Secret Pocket. Peggy's mother, Mary attended a residential school and had sewn a pocket into her petticoat so she could steal and hide food in a secret pocket. The University of the Fraser Valley has honoured this story by sewing a secret pocket into a graduation stole to present each student at convocation.

Peggy received permission from UFV to allow Mission Public Schools to carry out the tradition. Inside the pocket of the stole would be the story behind The Secret Pocket and the Halq'emeylem word "mi'emhoel" meaning "blanket" and "pocket that is filled". Should the SD proceed, a formal acknowledgement should be issued to UFV. This would align with Coast Salish Laws.

The Board welcomed the idea and asked if there were any monetary commitments associated with the initiative. MTU advised that they support the initiative and will present a motion at their next meeting regarding financial support. The Board advised that it will be difficult to provide any contribution for this year's convocation, however, it will be discussed for future budgets.

4. CURRICULUM

4.1 Early Learning Framework

The Assistant Superintendent provided a presentation on the revised Early Learning Framework, Play Today: BC Handbook, and Let's Play!

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Boundary Review - Revised Draft Survey Questions

The survey questions are presented for consideration and final review.

A request was presented to add for consideration by "the Board" in last sentence of the opening statement.

A question was asked how the information will be shared: word of mouth, social media, district and school websites.

It was recommended that question six include an option to "avoid overcapacity".

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Equity Scan Monthly Update

The Superintendent reported that the meeting opened with an opportunity for every member to get to know one another on a personal level. External members to the organization provided comments about the feeling of everyone coming together to address equity of Indigenous Students. All the members felt they were contributing in some form. Another meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2020.

6.2 Indigenous Language Education Policy

The Superintendent advised that this a first draft of the policy and merely a starting point. A comment was provided that the Strategic Plan, Enhancement Agreement and Equity Scan can be reference in the policy.

A question was asked about the Ministry owning the IRP. Clarification was provided that Seabird First Nations did all the work to complete the plan. It belongs to them and they received approval from the Ministry.

The draft policy will be shared with Indigenous Communities and at the next Aboriginal Council Gathering. The policy will be referred back to the Committee of the Whole.

6.3 Summit Enrolment Analysis

At the November Committee of the Whole, the committee requested information about the number of students in the district who returned to a regular classroom and the number of students that are "out of district".

It was noted that the K-9 program has 2 teachers and the 10-12 level has 3 teachers. Confirmation was provided that additional supports are also provided to the students that require them.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

7.1 Board Assessment and Effectiveness

This item is being presented to advise partner groups that the Board will be engaging in a Board assessment.

Reference was made to the Auditor General's Report from 2013. Since then, the Board has engaged assessments on many occasions during Closed meetings.

One resource that be used to assist with the review is, "A guide for BC School Boards" produced by BCSTA. A recommendation was provided that BCSTA can also facilitate a Board Effectiveness Review if the Board wishes.

7.2 Strategic Plan Monitoring and Reporting

Based on some of the conversations that were shared at the BCSTA Learning Session, an email will be shared with the Board to establish a process for monitoring and reporting out on the Strategic Plan.

The Board will forward this item to a future meeting.

8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

8.1 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes, January 14, 2020

MOVED and Seconded that the Committee of the Whole minutes dated January 14, 2020, be approved.

CARRIED

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 pm.

Certified Correct:

Original Signed by Randy Cairns

Original Signed by Corien Becker

Vice - Chair, Board of Education

Secretary Treasurer

The minutes were approved on March 3, 2020.