

**School District #75 (Mission)
Public Meeting of the Committee of the Whole Minutes**

**January 12, 2021, 3:30 pm
Zoom Meeting**

- Members Present:** Board Chair, Tracy Loffler
School Trustee, Randy Cairns
Trustee, Rick McKamey
Trustee, Julia Renkema
- Members Absent:** Vice Chair, Shelley Carter
- Staff Present:** Superintendent of Schools, Angus Wilson
Assistant Superintendent, Karen Alvarez
Secretary-Treasurer, Corien Becker
Director of Student Services,Carolynn Schmor
District Principal of Indigenous Education, Vivian Searwar
Executive Assistant, Aleksandra Crescenzo (Recorder)
Executive Assistant, Ilona Schmidt
- Others Present:** MTU President - Ryan McCarty, Teacher - Janise Nikolic,
Teacher - Shannon Bowsfield, Mentor Teachers – Camille
Anderson and Frank Chan, Teacher – Angie Bout, CUPE
President - Faye Howell, School Principal – Linda Hamel,
DPAC Representatives - Cheryl Blondin and Jaquelyn
Wickham.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm by the Chairperson. The Chair acknowledged that Mission Public Schools is 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

MOVED and Seconded the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

The Board Chair shared Trustee Carter's regrets for not being able to attend the meeting. The Chair welcomed Ilona Schmidt who will be replacing Aleksandra Crescenzo while she goes on maternity leave.

3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

3.1 HR Department Update

The Director of Human Resources was unable to attend the meeting. The Superintendent reported on the department activities related to Mental Health, Staffing and highlights of new work since the pandemic. It was noted that the Human Resources department is under stress and there is a fair amount of illnesses/ leaves within the department.

A question was asked about staffing. The total provided for teaching staff is a mix of Fulltime and Teachers Teaching on Call (TTOC) positions. It was noted that the cost for TTOCs is less than usual as teacher absences are lower than in a normal year. There is a shortage of Building Service Workers.

4. CURRICULUM

4.1 Monthly Curriculum Update - Technology Overview

Mentor teacher Frank Chan provided an update on technology use in the School District. Highlights included how the use of technology aligns with the Strategic Plan priorities. Mentor teacher Camille Anderson shared the training/support that was offered to teachers during the pandemic and how teachers at MSS are using Scholantis to support student learning. Future goals for technology in the School District include offering more selection for professional in-services, professional development, improving infrastructure and improving parent-teacher communication by enhancing the parent portal.

Do we have the ability to provide less printed materials and is summit supporting similar online supports which may lead to fewer brick and mortar schools? Some experiences can only be delivered in person and some students need a face-to-face connection. Each student learns in a different way. The ability to turn in assignments has definitely improved as a result of online student learning. Summit is not using Scholantis but is looking at making the transition for K-9 students.

The online learning supports are encouraged as an addition to a brick and mortar school, and these tools can be adopted post-COVID. Challenges

with online learning include time constraints and students who are failing classes as they struggle with adjusting to online learning.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Anti-Racism Policy

At the December Committee of the Whole, the Board requested that the Draft Anti-Racism Policy, be reviewed and forwarded to the partner organizations for comment. Recently the policy has been shared with Middle and Secondary classes for their review and input. We have not received any feedback from partner groups; however, we are anticipating student feedback in the next month.

Once feedback is received from students, the goal is to bring the policy to the Public Board meeting on February 16, 2021.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Boundary Review Update

The Secretary-Treasurer provided an overview of the Durieu and Steelhead catchment areas that are outlined in the agenda report. The impact on Dewdney Elementary would be an additional 42 students. If a catchment change was to take effect, we would need to restructure the classrooms at the school to support adding the new students. If a catchment change was to take effect in the Steelhead Area, there is enough space at Stave Falls to accommodate the change.

The data is presented as information and no formal recommendation is being brought forward. Trustees noted that this information is a good starting point to consider when reviewing boundary changes.

6.2 Planning and Development Review

Staff have summarized the development applications referred to the School District by the District of Mission. The Secretary-Treasurer (ST) referred to the total of New Unit referrals found on page 31 of the agenda. It was noted that the total number of units for 2016 is lower than in other years as the ST started with the School District (SD) halfway through the year and did not capture the total for that year. Based on the development summary report, the ST estimates that the SD will capture approximately 85% of the students which could result in 1400 new students in the next three plus years. The SD will need to do some planning to be able to absorb the increase in enrolment. This includes pushing for the expansion

of Albert McMahon Elementary, a replacement of Hatzic Elementary, and advocating for a new school in the North Cedar Area. Other options include possibly reopening Durieu and adding portables at certain sites.

A question was asked about reopening Ferndale and relocating Facilities to another location. There has been a conversation to reopen the school. The challenge is relocating our facilities department. We would need to acquire a new site for them and have a conversation with the Ministry about their input on this site.

What is the financial impact of reopening a school and will we open schools without receiving funding from the Ministry? If we plan far in advance, we can apply for capital funding. With Stave Falls (SF), we didn't have much lead time.

Has SF received rural funding? Yes, it has been received.

The Board needs to revisit the growth of the School District and discuss how to address it.

6.3 Superintendent Mid-Year Report

The Superintendent provided an update on student success data, student attendance and wellness, as well as comments on staff wellness and support. Information was just received that Fraser Health is looking at how they communicate COVID exposures.

Are we doing anything different to contact at-risk families? Fundamentally this process is different as a result of COVID.

DPAC is writing a letter to the Ministry advocating for mental illness supports and welcomed input from the Committee about more concrete ideas that would support this initiative. While suicide assessments have doubled, the Superintendent noted that there is more to the issue than just funding.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

7.1 Ministry of Education - Mental Health in Schools Strategy

The Director of Student Services provided a presentation on the School District's initiatives in relation to the Ministry's Mental Health in Schools Strategy. A copy of the PowerPoint will be available on the website or at the request of anyone who wishes to receive a copy. An overview was provided on:

- The meaning of mental well-being and positive mental health and that this involves the capacity to think, feel, and act in ways that improve our ability to enjoy life and deal with its challenges.
- The focus on resources that assist with building capacity as a means to promote students' positive mental health.
- The key actions for mental health in MPSD classrooms are:
 - working with educators to strengthen tools and resources;
 - working with early learning educators to improve outcomes for children through the Early Learning Framework;
 - developing common language and understanding of mental health terms to improve mental health literacy and reduce stigma; and
 - developing strategies to support educators to address substance use through the curriculum.
- New initiatives in the School District that will be supported with the Ministry's grant funding include:
 - specific support staff positions;
 - Paths Training;
 - Mindfulness Training;
 - Ensouling Our Schools: A Framework for Mental Health, Well-being, and reconciliation;
 - Open Parachute curriculum; and
 - additional workshops and programs provided to our schools.

The PEACEFUL Schools method are being used at Hatzic Elementary, Edwin S. Richards, and Christine Morrison. Some schools have received the training. The goal is to have all schools trained.

8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

8.1 Special Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes dated October 27, 2020

MOVED and Seconded that the Special Committee of the Whole minutes dated October 27, 2020, be approved.

CARRIED

8.2 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes, December 1, 2020

MOVED and Seconded that the Committee of the Whole minutes dated December 1, 2020, be approved.

CARRIED

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 pm.

Signed by T. Loffler

Chair, Board of Education

Signed by C. Becker

Secretary-Treasurer

The minutes were approved on
February 2, 2021 at the Public
Committee of the Whole meeting.