

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

**June 1, 2021, 3:30 pm
Zoom Meeting**

Members Present: Board Chair, Tracy Loffler (arrived at 4:05 pm)
Vice Chair, Shelley Carter
Trustee, Julia Renkema
School Trustee, Randy Cairns
Trustee, Rick McKamey (arrived at 3:35pm)

Staff Present: Superintendent of Schools, Angus Wilson
Secretary-Treasurer, Corien Becker
Assistant Superintendent, Karen Alvarez
Director of Student Services Carolynn Schmor
District Principal of International Education, Collen Hannah
Director of Facilities, Dana MacLean
District Inclusion Mentor, Shannon Bowsfield
Executive Assistant, Ilona Schmidt (Recorder)

Others Present: DPAC Chair - Cheryl Blondin, DPAC Treasurer - Jacquelyn Wickham, MTU President - Ryan McCarty, MTU Vice President - Janise Nikolic, CUPE President - Faye Howell, MSS PAC Rep - Dionne Hairsine

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Vice Chair has asked for 30 seconds of silence in remembrance of the tragedy of 215 children lost in the Kamloops Residential School.

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm by the Vice-Chair. The Vice-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'ewlets, Kwantlen, and Matsqui First Nations.

The Chair sent her regrets for arriving late to the meeting due to conflicting engagement with BCSTA.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

3.1 DPAC: Mental Health and Technology Survey Results

498 parents, students and teachers submitted their thoughts in the DPAC Mental Health, and Technology survey. The survey identified a strong need for support services in Mission. Not enough services for under 12 mental health support, with anxiety as the highest. 12+ age support is also needed. Other areas identified as needing support were eating disorders, chronic (depression), family (inter-generational trauma), ND = neuro-diverse, disabled...

A suggestion came to share this presentation and resources in the Youth Lounge area, newspaper, and keep the momentum for advocating for further resources going. The Board appreciates all the valuable information. DPAC will provide links to existing resources

4. CURRICULUM

4.1 Monthly Curriculum Update

Assistant Superintendent provided a year-end summary of teacher activities while navigating new resources, equipment, trying to build relationships, sense of belonging, and still creating meaningful learning opportunities. Some highlighted activities were:

- Curriculum walk & talks,
- MSS book club,
- Elementary and Middle School - Developing Mathematical Understanding (developing number sense in students). Ministry project to create new performance standards for numeracy in elementary. Rebekah engaged seven teachers with the initiative.
- Continuing Learning - Joyful Literacy, Novel approach at Middle school (Yrsa and Joanne)
- French - presentation was done recently, also did book clubs, inclusive practices, library, novel approach strategies.
- Assessment Pilot: Being more explicit about why we are learning led to more student buy-in. Students have more autonomy and improve. The students became kinder together, and the pressure of getting good grades was removed. Confidence came through. Students were engaged and motivated. Teachers asked for more Pro D around tools. Student emails are needed, so students can post themselves.
- Transitions - Continuum of Learning - Math department meetings MSS & HPMS: Mentor teachers - shared learning, research based, classroom practice, collaboration.

Performance standards from the Ministry are at the very beginning stage. New meaning of proficiency. Timeline for implementation will be shared.

Is there a timeline from SD75 on the new pilot way of learning - no. The pilot was not rolled out everywhere, it was only taken on by a few teachers. It is shifting the role children play in assessment.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Strategic Plan

Board presented a DRAFT of the Strategic Plan with the plan to forward it to the June Board meeting.

A question was asked about strategic priorities - goals, strategies, measures - How are the strategies related to Measures. The steps are very general. What are we creating as a concrete step (IE: Richmond is creating a numeracy framework). Maybe an action item needs to be added, and some definitions (diversity in race, disabilities, etc)

A question was asked about meaning of a positive learning experience. Happy student? Good grade?

Embedding accountability - how do we know that things are being accomplished?

The Secretary Treasurer clarified that the strategies are not specific actions. Staff will need to identify specific actions in their work (i.e. social-emotional learning, mentor teacher support). Goal is taking a high-level strategic plan, creating an action plan, and tie it together through budget.

Goals of the board are philosophy on paper, so staff can develop a growth plan. Ministry is coming up with Framework for enhancing Student Learning.

The current Strategic Plan was changed 2 years ago and has been tweaked this year. It is a guidance for staff, a fluid, multi-year document, but does not change every year.

Effective Learning Environments: an Audit of all schools - access to all students (Example: Dewdney has a 2nd floor that a student with mobility issues would not be able to access), Adding inclusive playgrounds.

p. 12 - every time the Assistant Superintendent is presenting, the measures are tied back to the Strategic Plan alignment

BOARD would like to REVISIT STRATEGIC PLAN BASED ON COMMENTS. Any suggestions to be emailed in.

5.2 Electric Bus Business Case

MOVED and Seconded that the Business Case for an Electric School Bus be forwarded to a Special Board of Education Meeting after the COTW meeting on June 1, 2021, for consideration.

CARRIED

Loss of 8 spaces (if we replace 5 busses, we will need another bus).

A comment was made that the younger generation is coming to school. Climate is on their mind. Electric bus is a way of the future. We could break even maybe sooner. DOM has electric vehicle fleet: 2 Nissan Leafs, and 14 charging stations. DOM does not have any mechanics on staff. Manufacturer offers free training.

Electric vehicles have less maintenance. The range falls within the same parameters to a diesel bus. Range loss (4% per year) They are far more reliable overall, until something does brake.

Electric bus can likely not be charged at a regular charging station (as a car would).

A comment was made, for the Trades & Training Committee that Riverside Mechanics can look at teaching electric car mechanics.

CUPE appreciates that the company would train a mechanic. At the end of the day, making sure not to impact a position for CUPE.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Halq'emeylem Program Update

The Principal of Indigenous Education sends regrets for not attending, as many people are seeking guidance following the tragic discovery in the Kamloops Residential School.

SD75 is reworking Halq'emeylem program for the Middle Schools. LD - locally developed program.

Staff will provide details to board for consideration

6.2 Safer Schools

Staff provided a summary of post-incident follow up. SD75 has a great relationship with the RCMP. Some student feedback was also reviewed. SST will be an ongoing partner in the future. Recommend ironing out policy manual.

One regards where SD75 seemed weak is Violent threat risk assessment and the up-to-date training is ongoing (common vulnerability).

Trustees appreciate student feedback. Hatzic Crusaders - has been an ongoing issue. Would support the original Hornets, or another name. PAC tried in the past. The sense of belonging is not there with this very outdated and inappropriate name. *Follow up in September

6.3 MDI Results Review

MDI Results have been shared. Fundamental stats are concerning. Many new people moving out to the Valley who have not connected with the community yet.

MTU mentioned teacher wellness data - teacher wellness declines over time. The ability to connect is being affected. If teachers do the bare minimum, they cannot deliver what they are supposed to.

A question was asked about an overall well-being of children: what is the duty of teachers to ensure that someone is picking children up? School is responsible for the safety of a student. The Superintendent will follow up. *** Board to follow up on afterschool dismissal with a District wide lens.

Overall drop in well-being may be an evidence that the Middle school configuration (8 teachers in a year) needs to be addressed. The MDI is a conversation starter. Social/emotional development is concerning. Only 5% of students feel happy. All of these are skills that need to be taught in the classroom

Has there been any options for older kids to mentor younger ones? Introducing more peer mentoring. MSS, Hatzic, Heritage have Leadership. The students are very involved. There may be extension of it as a solution.

6.4 Special Program Exemption from the BC Office of the Human Rights Commissioner (BCOHRC)

Following Equity Scan - Indigenous students should see Indigenous teachers (same with women in trades etc). 20 districts have used this exemption to support hiring. Options we have:

- proceed on with the process (causing issues with union groups)
- go back to unions
- rewrite the positions

MTU met with HR. MTU and CUPE have no philosophical issue with the idea but would like to have been involved from the outset. HR is having conversations with BCPC. No standing president of CUPE after this weekend.

BOARD: Further discussion to be had on this issue.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 2021/2022 Draft Board Meeting Calendar

MOVED and Seconded to extend past 6:30 pm.

CARRIED.

Changes to the 2021/2022 meeting calendar

Move COTW Meeting from Sep 7 to Sep14. Change COTW Meetings to Apr 5, May 3, June 7th

CUPE + MTU require copies of calendars

TTAC - does Mandate expire in June 2021? Follow up.

8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

8.1 Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting, May 4, 2021

MOVED and Seconded that the Committee of the Whole minutes dated May 4, 2021 be approved.

CARRIED

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM.

Original signed by T. Loffler

Chair, Board of Education

Original signed by C. Becker

Secretary-Treasurer

The minutes were approved on
June 22, 2021, at the Special
Public Board of Education meeting.