

School District #75 (Mission)**Public Meeting of the Committee of the Whole Minutes****May 4, 2021, 3:30 pm****Zoom Meeting**

- Members Present:** Board Chair, Tracy Loffler
Vice Chair, Shelley Carter
School Trustee, Randy Cairns
Trustee, Julia Renkema
- Members Absent:** Trustee, Rick McKamey
- Staff Present:** Superintendent of Schools, Angus Wilson
Secretary-Treasurer, Corien Becker
Assistant Superintendent, Karen Alvarez
District Principal of International Education, Collen Hannah
Executive Assistant, Ilona Schmidt (Recorder)
- Staff Absent:** Director of Student Services Carolynn Schmor
District Principal of Indigenous Education, Vivian Searwar
- Others Present:** Principal – Andrew Merry, Vice-Principal/French Program
Co-Ordinator – Shauna Néro, MTU President – Ryan
McCarty, CUPE President – Faye Howell, District Inclusion
Mentor – Shannon Bowsfield, DPAC President – Cheryl
Blondin, DPAC Treasurer – Jacquelyn Wickham, MSS PAC
Rep - Dionne Hairsine, Parent – Marek Nikolic

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'ewlets, Kwantlen, and Matsqui First Nations.

Trustee McKamey sent his regrets for not attending. The Assistant Superintendent joined the meeting at 3:35 pm

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be amended.

AMENDMENT: Add Item 5.1. Boundary Review - Hatzic Elementary

CARRIED

MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

4. CURRICULUM

Item 4.2 was presented first, and some further items were not presented in the original agenda order to accommodate presenters.

4.2 Shauna Néro: FRIM Language Acquisition

An update on French programs and language acquisition in the district was provided. Mission offers French Immersion at two elementary schools (Ecole Mission Central and Ecole Christine Morrison), one middle school (Ecole Heritage Park Middle School) and at Mission Senior Secondary. In addition, we offer [Intensive Core French \(ICF\) at Windebank Elementary](#) and Ecole Heritage Park. We also offer Core French and other language acquisition opportunities.

Shauna presented stages of Second Language Acquisition

- Preproduction
- Early Production
- Speech Emergence
- Intermediate Fluency
- Advanced Fluency

Brain changes when students transform from monolinguals to bilinguals. S. Krashen's Affective Filter Hypothesis and L2 Acquisition was reviewed. When the affective filter is high, learning or understanding & communicating in L2 is low.

French Kindergarten registration rates are increasing slowly. Both schools are now more balanced. Retention rates are getting more balanced over time. Graduation rates can still be improved.

Student-centred learning is being used in 4 classes (2 at CME, 2 at EMC) Students got to see Marc Tardif (Magician) show and an Outdoor Francophone festival is being prepared for June 2021. A bi-lingual student video about Greta Thunberg was shared. Ministry website being utilized: Learning in French together. Book club: Club de lecture Access for Success - 3 sessions. Next year, learner profiles will be added. Connecting language research in the classroom.

Looking ahead: Focus on Phonological awareness. Supporting diverse learners: using ISP. The program has French-speaking EA. All French immersion positions have been filled this year. [OLEP](#) funds partially funded participation in the district career fairs, professional development & Collaboration - Trauma-informed practices and social-emotional learning.

Staff confirmed that OLEP funding is provided by the the Federal Government, specifically to support the french programming in schools, including teacher recruitment, and Professional Development. More books coming for the Intensive French Program.

Grade12 - many electives, students can get a double dogwood diploma or a French proficiency certification which does not expire. Certification can allow students to bypass university classes.

4.1 Monthly Curriculum Update

The Assistant Superintendent discussed ways to strengthen transitions into Kindergarten, from elementary to middle school, middle school to secondary. The assistant superintendent provided a summary of the work being done. Transition is a process over time and is very important to support the whole person (social, emotional, cognitive, physical).

- Ready Set Learn - Outdoors for children birth – 3yo
- Welcome to Kindergarten (every Elem. School)
- Playdates at the Playground
 - Summer playdates at every school site
 - Build community and sense of belonging
 - Familiarize children with the playground and activities to do there.
- Gradual entry to Kindergarten - first 2 wks of September gradually increase the amount of time, size of group, and complexity of tasks.
- StrongStart educators are present in some K classrooms to support transitions
- Elementary to Middle school transition
Hearing from students and families is welcome. Surveys coming, Gr 6, Gr 8, ParentSurvey. Virtual parent meetings, Leadership students will address questions. Family info guides will be posted on websites.
Additional Supports
- Middle to Secondary Transition - meetings supporting the continuum of learning, Math department started.

Transition and any step of support for the students is appreciated. A question was asked: What can a parent do if a student is disrespected by a teacher. The process would be contacting the teacher, principal, school district, ombudsman. The Superintendent offered to connect with the parent.

A question was asked regarding changing paperwork for Kindergarten Transition. Current paperwork is more deficit-based. The Assistant Superintendent will follow up with the Director of Student Services.

A question was asked about the middle to high school transition, namely Gr 6 visiting the Middle school - is there a reason for moving to virtual. It is harder to get the teachers to the secondary school.

A question was asked if the Summer playdates are new, and if the employees will be paid for summer work? All employees working in the summer will be paid accordingly.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 International Program Update

Staff provided an update on the effects of this year on the International Program in SD75, as well as projections on next year's enrolment and structure.

The International department is currently up in numbers, compared to projections and has been working on the largest intake since January. There has been a shift away from students coming from China for the past few years. Recruitment is conducted through more virtual presentations, although there isn't a lot of interest using this format. We are observing a collapse of Chinese students, and a reduction of Korean students. (normal 75, now 35).

Current foreign student diversification includes countries such as Vietnam, Taiwan, Nigeria, Italy, Spain, Bangladesh, Germany, Turkey, Qatar, Iran. The International Department is able to charge tuition upfront. Some difficulties have arisen due to the pandemic – such as Turkey has just been shut down for a month, and Qatar/Iran visa processes are stalled.

A comment was made that China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan - population of young people is reducing and they do not expect many students to graduate. There are pressures within these countries for students to stay home. International travel will likely be more difficult, as students will not be able to travel back and forth as often.

A question was asked about changes coming with vaccines etc - is there any deadline for the students, so they can still come at a later date? Possibly in January. Intake is flexible, based on MSS numbers. Students are coming mostly during a break to accommodate term roll-overs.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Boundary Review - Hatzic Elementary

Options for consideration

Hatzic Elementary is expected to be over capacity for September 2021, based on the current enrolments at the school. The following are thoughts

staff are considering, and staff are looking for direction for additional research. The information requested and formal options would be presented at the May Board meeting.

Options presented include:

- Stop accepting any cross-boundary requests
- Send all cross-boundary students attending Hatzic back to their regular catchment school.
- Offer Dewdney to Durieu families
- Add a portable

The Board would like to see how many students from Deroche are coming to Dewdney? A question is how many Durieu families would voluntarily move to Dewdney? There are a lot of moving parts.

A comment was made that there should be a tie-in in place at Hatzic from before. The last portable had a sink. There should be lower cost of using existing tie-in vs actual new installation. Grandfathering K students if they have siblings at the school should be considered.

A comment came that it is really appreciated that SD75 will be looking at Durieu families in the Dewdney catchment. Have Durieu families been contacted? Staff have not started consulting with the families yet. There was one survey so far. Discussion is to be started. More formal direction to come from the Board in May. SD75 is looking at more than one option. At one point, there were 2 portables at Dewdney. When they changed the boundary over 10 years ago. Now with the growth boom mid to East of Mission, this may be the perfect time to realign the boundaries to support the Dewdney school.

Many discussions over the years took place about grandfathering in K children with siblings already going to the school, how many K's are we looking at?

A question was asked what the enrolment would be if we do not send students back to their original schools.

A comment came regarding the portable: It has a limited ability to make a difference at this point in time.

A question was asked about students having spots held: will there be any issues? Will overcrowding be even greater? Those are all already factored in. Families have until the end of June to let their schools know. Most have been in touch with the SD75. If portable is not added, we will have to remove kids, as there is not enough space. If no portable is added, we are over the limit in 11 out of 13 classes.

A comment came to allow cross-boundary only for siblings. The Board chair does not agree with sending students back. Dewdney - Durieu boundary may be changed back long term. Portable is needed. The Chair prefers to add portable and not move kids.

A question was asked about the 5yr capital plan with Hatzic... we need a new school or an upgrade. It can be presented to the Government.

Consult with families before the board meeting, so we can get some data back and build on the data we have.

A comment came that the growth is coming from houses being built in rural areas. Could a portable compromise the chances of a new school?

A comment came that perhaps the grandfathering should have an end date. The influx of new families is happening everywhere. There is not enough room district-wide. Overall, new schools would be great, but it will take some time.

The Secretary-Treasurer inquired if the board is interested in having staff summarize what we have discussed today - and send it to Durieu families? September should be voluntary - decision has not been made. Staff will draft communication to the Durieu families for feedback before the the next Board Meeting.

A comment came that if parents have a choice between Hatzic and Dewdney, bussing could present a few challenges may be difficult.

A comment came that if the boundary changes, this coming year should be voluntary, and next year it should be set.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.2 Summer School

Staff provided an update on SD75 plans for Summer School 2021. It is the 4th year SD offers Summer School. The structure will be fairly similar to last year with some small adjustments. There will be 8 blocks of classes to offer. Still deciding on the courses.

MSS semesters are a bit different. COVID caused some students to struggle, and those may want to take Summer school to improve grades. A question came if teachers can offer to tutor students? MTU – the question is what can be offered free of charge? It needs to be discussed carefully.

A question came about support for Gr 9 entering Gr 10. All students have had an interruption in learning. Everybody missed a lot, and we need to meet the kids where they are now. WW2 impact on students was huge and almost permanent. If we get to capacity, parents can always go to Abbotsford if needed. More comprehensive courses are also offered in other districts.

A question was asked about the provincial overview of estimated grant allocation - will this funding help Summer school (\$17,000 for SD75). The overview is based on estimates from February. We will submit actual numbers and grants will adjust.

6.3 IT Plan Update

Staff provided an update on the status of reviewing the IT Plan, as the current plan has expired. Initial IT plan was hardware. Now looking at

software platforms, what services we need for staff. SD75 continues working on the new plan. It was noted that teachers like some platforms and do not like others. Is there any consensus? IT committee needs to do a full survey of teaching staff.

WiFi hubs, laptops, tablets are to be refreshed.

Part of the conversation going forward - how can technology be used more effectively. Covid has brought this to the forefront. Some teachers who were resistant to technology are using it now. Hardware issues have been fixed. Are we a leader with technology? Not yet. How far do we want to go?

A comment came, that in the next 5yrs, SD75 has to embrace what has been productive.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 BCSTA School Life Cycle Funding Report

The Board Chair brought forward information about Life cycle maintenance (the work which must be completed over the “life” of a building to ensure it remains in peak operating condition). B.C. schools suffer from an ever-increasing level of deferred life cycle maintenance. BCSTA wrote a paper to define the problem and make recommendations for consideration by the government to correct the shortfall. Some information is alarming. Would this document be helpful to the long-range facilities plan?

Every SD knows which school needs funding most. SD75 has 14 funding requests.

A comment came that the Ministry should fund new construction based on this information as well. Municipalities and SDs would benefit. Maybe something to talk with DOM?

8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

8.1 Meeting Minutes - Committee of the Whole, April 6, 2021

MOVED and Seconded that the Committee of the Whole minutes dated April 6, 2021, be approved.

CARRIED.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

9.1 BCSTA AGM Motions

The Board has shared and discussed the BCSTA AGM Motions.

A comment came re: p26, Item 33 Childcare in place for 2023. ECE salaries should be brought up, so more people are interested in the ECE career.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:44 pm.

Original signed by T. Loffler

Chair, Board of Education

Original signed by C. Becker

Secretary-Treasurer

The minutes were approved on
June 1, 2021 at the Committee of
the Whole meeting.