

School District #75 (Mission)
Public Meeting of the Committee of the Whole Minutes
October 6, 2020, 3:30 pm
Heritage Park Middle School and Zoom Video Conference
33700 Prentis Avenue, Mission, BC

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

Staff Present: Secretary-Treasurer, Corien Becker (Via Zoom)
Superintendent of Schools, Angus Wilson
Assistant Superintendent, Karen Alvarez
District Principal of Indigenous Education, Vivian Searwar (Via Zoom)
District Principal of International Education, Collen Hannah (Via Zoom)
Executive Assistant, Aleksandra Crescenzo (Recorder)

Others Present: Via videoconference: MTU Representatives: Ryan McCarty, Janise Nikolic, Shannon Bowsfield, Rhona Macintosh, CUPE Representative: Faye Howell, DPAC Representative - Cheryl Blondin, Jaquelyn Wickham, and School Principal Ms. Grewal via in-person.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 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 that the Agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

One addition: Item 7.6 - Committee/ Board meeting locations

4. CURRICULUM

4.1 Monthly Curriculum Update

In 2016-17 the Ministry of Education created an opportunity for school districts to revise their assessment and reporting practices to align more closely with the redesigned curriculum (K-9). Districts can either follow the newly revised Student Reporting Order or a locally developed reporting policy. Teachers at some schools have requested the opportunity to begin shifting assessment and reporting practices that follow the locally developed reporting policy. Some schools will participate in a pilot to revise our methods of communicating student learning in 2020-21.

A template is not yet available. The locally developed reporting option allows space for student self-reflection and focuses on core competencies.

4.2 Sacred Teaching

The Elders have chosen The Sabe, Sa:sq'ets; Honesty (the'itqel) as the Sacred Teaching for 2020-2021. The teaching of honesty is taught to us by Sabe (usually pronounced as saw-bey).

Is there a plan to honour all the sacred teaching artwork? The Principal of Indigenous Education is not aware of any plans but will review the possibility of honouring the 7 sacred teachings next year when the teachings come full circle.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Strategic Plan Review

The Board will schedule a special meeting to discuss updating the Strategic Plan.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Indigenous Update - Band Outreach

The Principal of Indigenous Education advised that the School District hired one teacher and two liaison workers to support families on reserve. The current focus is to build trusting, caring and nurturing relationships with the families.

6.2 International Program

The Superintendent advised that the government has opened international borders and is allowing the arrival of new international students. The

School District is expecting additional students with this change. Staff are working on 1701 reports and the finance department is working on routine ministerial reports. Staff need some time to gather and prepare any additional information.

A request was presented to receive an update on the financial reports and the estimated enrolment numbers for the November Committee of the Whole. The Secretary-Treasurer will need to confirm with the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer if he will have time to prepare an analysis.

The District Principal for International Education confirmed that all available spots at schools will not be filled with international students. The plan is to leave some spaces open for regular enrolment.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Board Meeting with First Nations Bands

Prior to the COVID Pandemic, the Board approved a motion that the Board endeavour to meet with local First Nation Bands on an annual basis. The Board would like to arrange meetings with the governing bodies of each band to build relationships and present the opportunity to listen to the bands on potential ways the Board can support them. The Principal of Indigenous Education will facilitate with scheduling the meetings.

7.2 Trustee Appointments for Committees and Community Liaison Groups

Trustees will email the Board Chair with their preferred committees. Staff will update the Aboriginal Education Advisory Council to Indigenous Education Advisory Council and include the Trades & Training Committee to the list. The Board discussed eliminating the UFV Community Council.

A request was put forward that the Board receive a brief portfolio and contact information for each Committee specifically Mission Literacy in Motion, Mission Community Foundation, and the Mission Traffic & Transit Committee.

7.3 Elections BC

The BC Election has been called for Saturday, October 24th, 2020. Elections BC has confirmed the use of seven schools for polling stations.

7.4 Student Mental Health

A recommendation was brought forward that the Board collect feedback from students on their mental health and well-being. A suggestion was presented that staff connect with school counsellors, teachers and liaison workers about what they are witnessing with mental health. If a survey is issued, there needs to be thorough consideration regarding the content and format for the questions. The survey needs to consider all levels of education differently. We also need to address teacher/ staff stress as it affects student stress. A suggestion was provided that support resources be shared with students and staff. In January we have the MDI survey which provides some in-depth questions.

Cheryl of DPAC offered to meet with the Board to further discuss this opportunity and how DPAC can assist.

No action is necessary at this time, the Board would like revisit this item at a future committee meeting.

7.5 Child Care Program Policy

On August 31, 2020, Ministerial Order No. M326 was issued, directing that School Boards establish policies regarding the provision of childcare programs. The school district expects to receive guidance from the BCSTA regarding template policies and procedures in the next few months.

Staff will begin to develop a program for consulting with parents, parent advisory groups, first nations, the community, and daycare operators.

A suggestion was provided that the policy includes a condition that if space is needed for education, the childcare provider would need to vacate the space.

7.6 Board and Committee Meeting Locations

The Board discussed conducting Committee of the Whole meetings via videoconference only. The consensus was that the Board would like to maintain the status quo and meet in-person as well as via videoconference.

8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

8.1 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes dated September 15, 2020

MOVED and Seconded that the Committee of the Whole minutes dated September 15, 2020, be approved.

CARRIED

A request was provided that staff include information about how many female students are enrolled in trades programs at Riverside for the next Trades Committee meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm.

Chair, Board of Education

Secretary-Treasurer

The minutes were approved on
November 3, 2020 at the
Committee of the Whole meeting.