

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

**August 25, 2020, 4:00 pm
Heritage Park Middle School & Via Videoconference
33700 Prentis Avenue, Mission, BC**

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

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

Others Present: CUPE President – Faye Howell, MTU President – Ryan
McCarty, School Principal – Linda Hamel, and DPAC
Representatives Dionne Hairsine and Cheryl.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4 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 presented.

CARRIED

3. STAFF REPORTS

3.1 Restart Plan - September 2020

The Chair noted that COVID related plans can change rapidly. The purpose of today's meeting is to communicate the information that is

available as of today. Overarching themes for today's discussion include items like media issues, holding spots for programs/ schools of choice, learning groups and what happens if a staff member or student gets infected or reports symptoms.

The Superintendent provided an overview of the restart plan for Mission Public Schools. Highlights included the guiding principles for the plan, learning group challenges, models for elementary, middle and secondary schools, distance learning, overall health & safety, COVID procedures, communication with the public and partner groups and looking ahead. The Superintendent noted that holding seats has many challenges and may affect School District funding.

Questions and comments were shared about school waiting lists, learning groups, processes for when a student or a staff member is ill or contracts COVID, social distancing, masks, challenges with applied skills and possible workarounds, liaison workers, and limitations with playing sports.

A request was suggested that the Board discuss a policy on masks and require that all adults in the building wear a mask.

Below are the questions and responses presented during the meeting:

Why not Surrey's model for 10- 12? This model would be a significant cost (approximately \$400k) to the School District.

What about teachers with medical issues. Will there be accommodations?
Yes, accommodations do exist.

Remote school options consist of Summit Learning Centre for elementary and secondary grades.

What if we are at 60% enrollment? Are we looking at reducing classes?
The School District would look at moving resources.

If a staff member gets a typical cold and stays home for 3-5 days, can they return when they feel better? Yes, pending that the doctor confirms it's just a cold.

Noon hour supervisors are not connected to a learning group.

Will TTOCs receive H&S training? Casual employees will be brought in one of the two first days for training.

Will DL teachers receive additional support with an influx of DL students?
Yes. It will take time to complete the onboarding and training plan. It needs to be done in a graduated process.

Will teachers be provided with handheld thermometers? No

Is there any way we could school at home with support from teachers as we did March thru June? Or even split the LG to keep numbers lower and only have elementary children in school part-time, as we did in June? The Ministry has directed that SDs provide face-to-face instruction.

Are the Trustees satisfied that the plan will keep staff and students safe?
The plan will minimize safety issues, we have to start somewhere, it is a fluid plan that will be updated as we move along.

The secondary school plan is set - we were waiting for confirmation from the Ministry. The middle schools have a few challenges that are being worked out.

Are there daytime custodians in elementary? Yes, we are hiring 8 more positions, but we are experiencing challenges with filling them.

What learning options are being offered remotely for children with special needs? It was recommended that parents reach out to the Director of Student Services for the best options for their child/ children.

Are we increasing noon hour supervisors time? We are not sure.

Will we have access to assessment software? The Tech committee needs to meet to discuss software options.

A question was asked about the one stall and bathroom at MSS. The Superintendent needs to have a conversation with the principal about this item.

Is there going to be specific PPE requests from individual schools?
Student Services will have specific requests, some staff may request items based on personal needs. No requests will be made to families. Masks will be provided to students, but there is a limited supply.

A question was asked about flu shots. We are working out the details for this year. We experienced difficulties finding a contractor to fulfill last year contract.

Are schedules going to change for grade 12 students? Minimal changes but it is a possibility.

Are teachers allowed to diplomatically ask students to wear masks? Yes, but a parent can challenge this request.

MOVED and Seconded to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

CARRIED

When will secondary students receive a notice when to report to school? The SD was waiting for the Ministry's approval. Notices will be forthcoming.

Will MyED be available at the start of the school year? It was down for work-related updates. The Superintendent will follow-up on this item.

4. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 pm.

Certified Correct:

Original signed by T. Loffler

Chair, Board of Education

Original signed by C. Becker

Secretary-Treasurer

The minutes were approved on
September 15, 2020 at the
Committee of the Whole meeting.