

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

**April 5, 2022, 3:30 pm
Zoom Meeting**

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

Staff Present: Superintendent of Schools, Angus Wilson
Secretary-Treasurer, Corien Becker
Director of Student Services Carolynn Schmor
Assistant Superintendent, Karen Alvarez
Director of Operations, Dana MacLean
District Principal of Indigenous Education, Vivian Searwar
Executive Assistant, Ilona Schmidt (Recorder)

Others Present: MTU President, Ryan McCarty, Speech Pathologist, Gina McCarty, CUPE President, Nansy Gibson, Jacquelyn 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 THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

3.1 MTU - Social Media

MTU President has presented their concerns & recommendations, and would like to bring attention to the Social Media policy review sooner than planned. The Superintendent and Trustees all agree with all the concerns, as social media has affected everyone in some way.

A question was asked about the survey Q7 - did the teachers have to seek out support for mental health? Q8 - Why would the union be less aware than the administrators? People had to take medical leaves, seek out professional support. Damage is measurable and real. Union vs Management: not every member has an absolute trust in the MTU. Members go to administrators in crisis quicker than to the union.

A comment was made that there should be some moderator legislation. We have the Respectful Schools policy. Parents and social media are outlined there as well. DPAC is a channel for parents. Media should investigate before airing something. Many unacceptable behaviours have been seen online. We all need to work together to inform people.

A comment was made that we can make threats (legal action), but if we cannot follow through, the threats may be more counter-productive. There is a small number of negative people who now have a platform to voice their view. Not everyone believes what they read on Facebook; however, it does have a far reach. Trustees and Staff need to get together and set something up, so that we all have a sense of comfort. It is extremely frustrating. The Board and senior staff are behind district staff.

A question was asked if the MTU is aware on any other district having policies about online conduct. No. We do have our list of policies 2.8, 2.9 to be worked on. In the MTU survey, there were 130 responses from approximately 480 teachers.

A comment was made that if a social media conduct policy was put in place, it would be extremely hard to police. Many of the people online are not even parents or part of the schools. People may get angry about being "policed."

4. CURRICULUM

4.1 Speech-Language Department Service

The Director of Student Services introduced Gina McCarty, the district's Speech Pathologist. Speech-Language Department has currently 4.5FTE, 4 part time, 2 full time employees. 1 part time position is dedicated to students with Complex needs.

Appreciation for the value of the SLP service to children in the district has been expressed by the Board and Partners. SLP is integral and works in partnership with school staff.

SLP brings a vast quantity of technical knowledge. Language acquisition is a complex process, which helps promote student success.

A question was asked about the greatest challenges recruiting to SD75. We are 100% staffed at this moment. There is a provincial shortage of SLP. Currently have backlog due to COVID.

A comment was made that outside of SD75, services were not operating at all through covid. Child Development Centre did not provide service at all. Last year, there were only 25 graduates from UBC. There are not enough available.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Indigenous Education Department Update

The District Principal of Indigenous Education presented her department update. A question was asked if integrating existing language keepers and our existing

teaching staff would be an option for Halq'emeylem teaching? Elders have language knowledge, but often not a teaching degree.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 FESL Peer Review

The Board Chair shared the process and themes observed across the province. SD75 is participating in self-peer review and will be reporting out to the Board in May.

A question was asked about the number of districts having enhancement agreements and LEAs. A lots of other districts have done equity scans. A video from SD75 was shared as an example of good work.

A question was asked about the Cycles of review - do we have enough people working with youth in care?

7.2 Climate Change Policy

The Secretary-Treasurer started the conversation by presenting existing procedures and asked what the Board would like to see in the Climate Change Policy. BCSTA has a climate change working group meeting until June. SD75 has completed their Survey. Purchasing policy will be reviewed next year.

A suggestion was made to integrate the electric vehicle procurement/purchase policy, as it speaks to greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

Trustees would like to see the metrics of how we are doing since 2011?

Energy greenhouse waste reduction is a good starting point. We can get some data for the last 5-7yrs. Staff would like some concerns from Trustees and/or community regarding climate change. Procedures are all staff procedures. Some of the elements of purchasing are overlapping and can be streamlined during the review.

MTU suggested to integrate low carbon footprint into the new high school. Recognizing climate change – SD75 needs to be able to keep teachers safe and working in cold/hot conditions. The climate change is here, it is happening, and effects will likely be seen more often.

A comment was made that costs are increasing, and likely affecting our budget. Should more metrics be added to the existing list?

A comment was made that we should compare greenhouse gases from a diesel bus vs the EV.

A suggestion was made for a discussion with the City Council - can SD75 contribute to the cooling stations?

A suggestion was made about considering walkability and safety to catchment schools: considering how many kids can walk/bike... get to school without using a car.

Emergency preparedness. The Board should publicly acknowledge and recognize that climate change is real (as there are still people who deny it).

Staff will look at energy consumption data to get a trend line. Will look at what was done with HVAC (upgrading). Not all of our schools have air conditioning. Upgrading will come at significant costs.

7.3 Indigenous-Focused Graduation Requirement Engagement

The Board Chair has withdrawn the motion, as the engagement is meant for individuals, it is short, and does not allow for the Board to elaborate. The Board should encourage and share the information to the community.

7.4 Board Meeting Agenda Setting Procedure

A suggestion was made to add what happens when a request has been denied, or when it moves to another agenda setting meeting.

7.5 Delegations Procedure

The Board appreciates the procedure and form being in place, as it simplifies evaluating/planning delegations.

7.6 Trustee Code of Ethical Conduct Policy

MOVED and Seconded THAT the updated Draft Trustee Code of Ethical Conduct policy be reviewed and revised as necessary, circulated to the public through the engagement site engage.mpsd.ca for further feedback, and returned with comments to the May Committee of the Whole meeting. CARRIED

The Secretary-Treasurer advised that some of the additions have come from other school districts.

A comment was made that misconduct vs human rights - issues in other contexts should be addressed.

A comment was made that Respectful schools policy covers Trustees as well.

As Trustees are not employees, the policy states what is expected (reference to respectful schools/workplaces) but trustees cannot be disciplined the same way as employees. Procedure outlines steps and process. This procedure aligns nicely with Respectful schools Policy.

A comment was made about agenda p.57: trustees may not use schools for benefit of friends or family - examples: trustee having a business, asking a interest free loan, family business doing plumbing for the school district...., free advertising for a business (may be difficult to follow in some circumstances, in a small community).

MTU commented that - should a trustee run off-course, trustee suspensions, as occurred in Victoria, should not happen.

As a Board, we have a responsibility in acting in a manner that instills confidence and trust in public education for all.

Sanctions - staff should not be controlling or recommending sanctions. For misconduct, these can be imposed by the trustees.

7.7 Trustee Conduct Complaint Procedure

MOVED and Seconded THAT the Trustee Conduct Complaint Procedure, be reviewed and revised as necessary, circulated to the public through the engagement site engage.mpsd.ca for further feedback, and returned with comments to the May Committee of the Whole meeting.

CARRIED

Procedure outlines steps and process. This procedure aligns nicely with Respectful schools Policy. **Trustees agreed that the whole procedure should be brought into the Policy.**

Censure/suspension of trustees has happened recently - is something like this something we should add to the policy/procedure?

Respectful Schools have references to Human rights. No need to duplicate. Safe and caring schools is still in place. Respectful schools to be reviewed later this year.

There is a different approach to students vs approaching the adults (workplace).

p. 60 of the agenda: What is natural justice (adequate notice, fair hearing, and no bias). How to recognize if decision is unbiased? This section needs to be reviewed.

7.8 **Schools of Choice & Busing**

MOVED and Seconded THAT the Transportation Services Policy be amended to clarify that:

- 1. Students choosing to attend a school of choice (Hillside Elementary or Edwin S Richards Elementary) will not receive regular busing services. Busing to these schools would only be available if a student is placed at a school of choice.**
- 2. The middle school catchment for Hillside Elementary is Heritage Park Middle School. However, busing for students that attended Hillside Elementary whose regular catchment for middle school would be Hatzic Middle School.**
- 3. Busing for middle school students will generally only be provided to Hatzic Middle School. Therefore, the former school of choice students that require busing to attend a middle school would be bused to attend Hatzic Middle School.**

and THAT the motion be forwarded to the April 19th Board Meeting for consideration.

DEFEATED

A number of students have been attending Hillside, and are expected to be bussed to HPMS. We do not have enough buses to provide a bus to HPMS. We would have to do a realignment of boundaries.

Trustees suggested that given the fact that we do not have any Schools of Choice for Middle schools, busing should be based only on the residential address. P. 65 of agenda – revising: Middle school - students would have to go

back to their residential address catchment school. The Secretary-Treasurer will do an analysis, so that the split of students between HMS and HPMS is done equitably. It was noted that cross-boundary students also do not get a bus.

A question was asked if kids having a safe, walking route or wanting to have a walking buddy is being considered.

A comment was made regarding p. 65 - catchment area students are #3 on the priority list (to be reviewed) - student assigned by the board should be switched with #3.

A comment was made regarding p. 70 - transportation - safe walkable route - we may need more buses, so the kids can get to school safely and not walk along busy highways. Sometimes, the bus is just necessary.

The Board MOVED & Seconded for Staff to bring data alignment by residential address for middle school catchment area back for consideration.

CARRIED.

8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

8.1 Special Committee of the Whole RE: 2022-23 Budget, February 22, 2022

MOVED and Seconded that the Special Committee of the Whole minutes dated February 22, 2022 be approved.

CARRIED

8.2 Committee of the Whole Minutes, March 1, 2022

MOVED and Seconded that the Committee of the Whole minutes dated March 1, 2022, be approved.

CARRIED

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm.

Original signed by T. Loffler

Chair, Board of Education

Original signed by C. Becker

Secretary-Treasurer

The minutes were approved on May 3, 2022, at the Public Committee of the Whole meeting.