

School District #75 (Mission)

Public Meeting of the Committee of the Whole Minutes

March 1, 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  
District Principal of Student Services, Curriculum, Beth-Anne Cullen  
Executive Assistant, Ilona Schmidt (Recorder)

**Others Present:** ECME Vice-principal, Jasvir Gill, FLC Principal, Tom Nguyen, FLC & Student Services Counselor, Dan Thiessen, HTA Principal, Kevin Watrin, Celeste Coldwell, CUPE President, Nansy Gibson, MTU Vice President, Shannon Bowsfield, DPAC Chair, Cheryl Blondin, Youth Care Worker, Tami McLellan, Principal, Angela Condon, Lisa Stevens

**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 to add Item 7.1 Meetings in Person.  
CARRIED**

**Moved and Seconded THAT the Agenda be adopted as amended.  
CARRIED**

**3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

**3.1 Youth Housing Crisis in Mission**

The Assistant Superintendent introduced Principal of Fraserview Learning Centre Tom Nguyen, Ex-FLC Principal, now HTA Principal, Kevin Watrin, and Dan Thiessen (counsellor at FLC and District Counsellor for Student Services).

There has been a shortage of support services for youth for years. There is a 6-8-mth waitlist at CYMH after clinicians assess youth.

There are 6 mixed beds available for youth in Mission at the Diamondhead Hotel, in close proximity to adults. Some youth have been banned from there. There is unsupervised drug use happening in rooms. There are no youth engagement workers on site. Youth are exposed to multiple daily overdoses. Sites are often full, and there is a high risk of exploitation.

The real story of an existing student was shared. The student had a traumatic upbringing and was removed from her family. The student was placed in Abbotsford, as there was no space in Mission. Staff brought the student to Mission, being concerned about drug use. The student got connected with street people at the Diamondhead, and her drug use increased. Experience shows that at-risk youth require diverse, multifaceted support (shelters, housing, employment opportunities, etc).

Prevention, Emergency Response, Transition out of homelessness. This cannot be done without collaboration with the city and partners.

Prevention - District introduced Safe Schools Liaison - may be implemented into the existing system. Youth need to become more stable. They are not able to access the support because they are surrounded by adults who are much further entrenched in their drug use etc. Our emergency response for youth is not enough. Transition - integrating them into society - needs more work through Outreach.

A proposal was introduced:

- Extending hours at MYHouse
- Increased Mental Health Services
- Youth Housing - emergency and long term,
- More educational and employment opportunities,
- create a committee about youth shelter/housing crisis,
- increased collaboration with the City of Mission,
- Involve stakeholders including a partnership with Fraser Health.

A comment was made about Leq:a'mel facing similar issues. The Board should have this on the Agenda in the future. The intervention program is done by the health department. Everyone works within our roles/responsibilities. It is extremely difficult to know where to turn. No agency truly works together. We need to bring this up with the City. A more holistic approach is needed. Trustees will keep pushing for the supports for students. **Youth in Crisis Committee** is needed to bring awareness to the Ministry and everywhere possible. Maybe more services at Fraserview? We could target silo services, to try making them overlap. There is a new Youth Centre. Hopefully, the Safe Schools liaison will help.

The presentation came from a big collaborative effort. It came from conversations with community partners. The community is open to collaboration. Having K. Lamoreaux's words "shaming never caused any change" – the presentation is bringing to light the need for collaboration. The presenters would like to present this to the City.

### 3.2 Student Services Update/Inclusive Education

The Director of Student Services presented her Powerpoint and introduced Beth-Anne Cullen, Dan Thiessen, Jas Gill, Shannon Bowsfield (District Mentor Teacher), Celeste Coldwell, Lisa Stevens - Transitions, learning support teacher.

We are noticing data discrepancies in Indigenous and non-Indigenous data, and we are working on vetting the info timely.

2 grants were received for the Mental health in Schools Strategy. 17 main initiatives were listed. ECME was the one school that took the initiative.

Early Action Initiative Grant funds (Educational, Family, Students)

CUPE staff got a presentation about Equity

Staff being pulled in to teach have impacted the amount of support available to students.

CLEVR software utilization is in its early stages and will update the workflow of our tasks. Student services staff are identifying hiccups in the accessibility of sites (March 3, accessibility audit at HMS).

Triangle Community Services and Buxton Consulting - we want students graduating and participating in the community. We want to help and get pre-employment skills, to reduce barriers.

Psychologist reports have improved greatly.

AAC specialist is vacant. School support specialists have been teaching

The Board appreciates the links to the Strategic plan being very comprehensive and the Student voice (letter shared about accessibility).

Inclusion outreach: ONLY 15% of youth provincially with barriers to employment will go on to have meaningful employment. We need to prepare them for adulthood.

P. 6 - numbers do not change very much. Is it because of a lack of assessment? Assessments can lead to category Q, K, C. C is funded. We have universal supports, as long as it is documented. If there is persistent difficulty over time, Psych Ed assessment can be done.

Autism - multidisciplinary team determines assessment.

Learning disabilities - Cat Q - related to remedy. Q before was severe disability, Q of now is broader. New category J. Girls have not been assessed very often and more kids are getting recognized.

LST and ISP can better support students with more finely tuned interventions.

A question was asked about getting an elevator on a priority list - even if it is for one student. One student at Dewdney needs help to get upstairs. Can an EVAC chair be used? An inquiry was sent to engineering about follow-up. Waiting for parts for the elevator.

A question was asked about access to more funding for Transitions into the workplace.

TOC shortages have been enormous. Jas Gill: ECME got \$5000. How do you get students to want to come to school? People sometimes need to be pushed to take care of themselves. ECME utilized yoga, meditation, archway fitness - dance party outside. Craft hour. Cultural awareness. The grant was very appreciated and had a great effect. More of this needs to be appreciated by other staff.

District got \$120,000 (1st year got \$30,000). Some of the money has been spent on training that lasts. There are 41 of the district student support staff that got training, Emotion-focused Learning.

#### **4. CURRICULUM**

##### **4.1 Monthly Curriculum Update**

The District Principal of Student Services is spearheading Social-Emotional Learning in the District. Currently focusing on Adult well-being. If teachers are using SEL, they can protect themselves from burnout. 13 volunteered in schools to work with SEL.

Fraserview students will teach a lesson for Grade 5. Students will get tutor credits.

SEL & Curriculum competencies overlap.

Next year, schools are to complete a survey about their use of SEL pillars. Teachers have done the survey themselves. Will redo the survey in June, plus add student voice.

MindUp Curriculum is related to SEL. MindUp for educators, MindUp for adults are free, and available.

#### **5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **6. STAFF REPORTS**

##### **6.2 HAWD Report**

The Siwal Si'wes Annual Report encompasses the highlights and lowlights of the HAWD report.

15.2% of students of SD75 are Indigenous, 110 are Nominal roll, living on reserve.

6-yr high school completion dropped by 10%. Adult Dogwood increased by 20%

Participation in Ministry surveys has been very low.

The report also showed a sense of belonging, friends. Stories from different schools.

Suspension rates are very high, especial for boys. Boys Club, an Indigenous mentor is being provided.

Comparison between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous students. Why do we need to compare?

High # of students take workplace math vs Pre-Calculus.

Success data shared was only for the Indigenous (not comparisons).

Halq'emeylem - it has been a challenge finding someone fluent enough to share.

The Superintendent provided that Adult Dogwood Diploma is easier to complete, and that may be the reason for having so many.

Outreach program last year - success was only keeping students attending and engaged.

All the work is a slow process of changing systems, as much as we try. Trustees are proud to share the show of hard work of our Indigenous Department staff. SD75 is recognized across the province.

The results are painful and disappointing, considering how much hard work and effort has been put in. Some other districts in the province had a similar dip as we have. (aware of 4, CHWK and a few smaller communities). We are similar in demographics. After March break, the District Principal of Indigenous Education will compare notes with their staff.

#### 6.1 K-7 Summit Learning Center

The Superintendent followed up on changes to online learning and the development of regional centers, online HUBS. We would like to maintain some sort of online presence for our secondary students, to help with getting them a variety of courses. Abbotsford, Langley, Kelowna will have a HUB.

We need to make a move.

K-9 enrolled students in Summit: 83 FTE. K-7 enrolled: 39, K-6: 31 FTE

Drawing down the K-7 Summit decision should be made at the Public Board meeting. The Superintendent would like to hear some Q&A to see how to proceed and what recommendation to make. The Board would like to know what Staff is leaning towards.

The Superintendent suggested a gradual approach - Reduction in FTE of staffing, continue one more year, and recommend other options after that.

We are competing with districts that are 3-4x our size. We will lose students in this in the long run. Some of them may not return to "real" school.

Trustees would also like to see a cost comparison to the recommendation.

40 students = one teacher for online learning

## 7. **NEW BUSINESS**

### 7.1 Meeting Locations

The Board is considering meeting in person by April 2022. Partners prefer a hybrid format of meetings, to be able to participate from home. Future room restrictions will need to be considered.

Trustee Renkema would like to see if TTAC would like to meet in person.

We can wait until after spring break.

A comment was made that we do not have the luxuries of speakers, cameras, high-tech board room, and hybrid meetings may be difficult to facilitate.

**We can start April COTW via zoom... and the Board meeting in person.**

**7.2 FESL Peer Review was referred to April COTW**

**7.3 Climate Change Policy was referred to April COTW**

**8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

8.1 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes, February 1, 2022

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

**CARRIED**

**9. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.**

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 pm.

Original signed by T. Loffler

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Chair, Board of Education

Original signed by C. Becker

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Secretary-Treasurer

The minutes were approved on April 5, 2022 at the Committee of the Whole meeting.