

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

**September 14, 2021, 3:30 pm
Heritage Park Middle School
33700 Prentis Avenue, Mission, BC**

- Members Present:** Board Chair, Tracy Loffler
Vice-Chair, Shelley Carter
School Trustee, Randy Cairns
Trustee, Rick McKamey
Trustee, Julia Renkema
- Staff Present:** Secretary-Treasurer, Corien Becker
Superintendent of Schools, Angus Wilson
Assistant Superintendent, Karen Alvarez (arrived 4:38 pm)
District Principal of Indigenous Education, Vivian Searwar
Executive Assistant, Ilona Schmidt (Recorder)
- Staff Absent:** Director of Student Services, Carolynn Schmor
District Principal of International Education, Collen Hannah
- Others Present:** DPAC Chair - Cheryl Blondin; CUPE President - Nansy Gibson; CUPE Past President - Faye Howell, District Inclusion Mentor, MTU Vice President - Shannon Bowsfield; MTU President - Ryan McCarty (arrived 4 pm)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:37 pm by the Board Chair. The Board 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.

The Assistant Superintendent and MTU President sent regrets for arriving late due to scheduling conflicts. The District Principal of International Education sent her regrets for not attending. Nansy Gibson, the new CUPE president was introduced.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

4. CURRICULUM

4.1 Monthly Curriculum Update

The Assistant Superintendent reviewed and provided a handout with updates on the Curriculum, tied directly into the Strategic Plan objectives. Peggy Janicki is leading the Self-Location initiative for mentor teachers to see/show where we are coming from. The goal is to identify what is in our core, by relationships and represent this with visuals.

Assessment pilot may include HPMS. Students may be experiencing learning gaps. We need to give students coping skills but also need to pay attention to the well-being of SD75 Staff.

This is another EDI year (how Kindergarten students are entering school).

The District Principal of Indigenous Education mentioned a book: Equity Centered Trauma-Informed Education – The author will come to SD75 and do 5 learning sessions.

Student email accounts are being implemented this year to support assessments.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Boundary Review - Durieu and Steelhead - Next Steps

The Secretary-Treasurer presented all recent information regarding boundary realignment due to substantial growth in several areas of Mision, such as Albert McMahon and Hatzic. We may need to wait until November to get the latest Baragar numbers. The Secretary-Treasurer can report back as soon as she gets the info, hoping for the November 2, 2021 Committee of the Whole. Any change needs to be made early enough in the year so parents can make arrangements.

All of the provided information will soon go to the <https://engage.mpsd.ca> portal for input from the community.

Trustees are in favour of continuing the process of the possible school catchment boundary realignment for the Durieu and Steelhead areas.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 School Opening Report

The Superintendent provided an overview of the start of the school year. Enrolment has already changed since the agenda has been printed.

Projected 100 students above last year, added 35 by June, and we are about 200+ at this point. There are 93 new international students. New townhouses are being constructed.

Several admin changes took place:

- Karina Zimmerman, VP of Albert McMahon
- Shannon Greig, Principal of Ecole Christine Morrison Elementary,
- Jas Gill VP of Ecole Christine Morrison Elementary
- Kelly Hennessey, VP of E.S.R. Elementary
- Tom Nguyen, Principal of Fraserview Learning Centre
- Sheri Montgomery, VP of Hatzic Middle School
- Kevin Watrin, Principal, Hillside Traditional Academy
- Tazmin Manji, VP of Ecole Mission Central Elementary
- Lani Vetter and Lisa Fraser, VPs of Ecole Mission Senior Secondary
- Lynn Cummings, Principal of Riverside College
- Tricia Alderson, Principal of Stave Falls Elementary
- Isabella Lam, Principal of West Heights Elementary
- Amanda Evans, VP of Windebank Elementary School

Linda Hamel is with SD75 for 2 more months. 33 new teachers have been hired, SD75 filled 39 of the 43 positions.

This year, we have 213 new postings in support staff across the board and have added a large number of EAs. There is still a need for more noon-hour supervisors and bus drivers. We have more EAs to hire.

COVID19 update: mask mandate for Grades 4+, masks are mandatory on buses. Sports and field trips can go ahead.

Vaccine passports are not needed yet, but there may be changes, depending on events. Some protests took place. SD75 is holding three vaccination clinics at schools, but vaccines are NOT mandatory.

The need for EAs is based on designations. If a child in K is not designated, there is no funding. We are disproportionately receiving more students with special needs. Budget projections are kept as close as possible to being more accurate. EA - student connections are very important, therefore, we monitor the numbers closely. Last year there were 397 designated students within K-9.

Students showing on waitlists: we have added 2 more teachers – one to West Heights and one to Silverdale. So far, most students have been placed at schools. Enrolment pressures are pushing the capacities of schools. Staff are reviewing every site and possible classroom space. So far, we have identified 5 potential additional classrooms we can use.

One of the exercises is getting the Manager of Operations in place, so the Director of Facilities can support the Capital needs.

International students: 150 is our normal number, we projected for 70, and we are currently close to 100 students – from diverse areas: students are from Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Germany, Vietnam, Japan. We are comfortable with the numbers, as, at this level, the space capacity is not affected.

6.2 Summer Learning Report

Kelly Hennessey provided a comprehensive overview of her Summer program. Summer school has been Grade 9 oriented from the beginning. We added Grade 10, and we are looking into adding Grade 11 next year, as the program has been successful.

6.3 School District Transportation Contract

Ministry of Education required a transportation agreement for nominal roll students or students on reserve. Education coordinators of the First Nations, the Manager of Transportation, the District Principal of Indigenous Education, and the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer have tracked the 99 nominal roll students and calculated the costs. Information is shared with the Nations. Once certain the information is correct, the agreement is signed and sent to the Ministry. Not funded by targeted funding.

6.4 Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL)

FESL has been evolving for 8yrs now. School districts need to be aware of areas of challenges, and what to do to address them. Every September, we will need to submit this information to the Ministry of Education (MOE). This is the first version. MOE is asking for no more than 10 pages. We are basing the report on the Strategic Plan. The budget next year will follow this format as well. The Board needs to approve this report before the end of September.

FESL ties into goals we have for reporting, and what we have in the Strategic Plan. Part of this report will be placed into our Annual Report, so there is only one report that goes to the public. The Annual Report will be presented on September 28, 2021. MOE wants to know SD's response to their data.

Info on/off-reserve can be provided. Data on how students feel - based on students who participated in the survey only. There are in-depth surveys and ways of communicating with students with disabilities. Certain non-verbal students can touch words on their communication devices.

6.5 Bylaw, Policy & Procedure Review and Updates

The Secretary-Treasurer started doing Policy work a year and a half ago. Some of this work has been on hold throughout COVID. A new community

engagement portal is being launched, <https://engage.mpsd.ca> It will have targeted questions for input from the community. The Secretary-Treasurer would like to schedule Special COTW to specifically review the policies.

OCT12, 2021 and NOV23, 2021 are days available. The Executive Assistant will send out invitations.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Annual Board Work Plan

The CUPE Past President left the meeting at 4:32 pm

The Board Chair stressed the importance of connecting the Board with the Students and asked for input on what the Board and partner groups see as important items to track with the Annual Work Plan. Staff is trying to streamline processes and to create a clearer reporting structure and preliminary budget work. The Work Plan has to be flexible and will evolve. The draft will be brought back to November 2, 2021 COTW.

MTU President advised that local bargaining is to start as early as November 1, 2021 - Trustees would like to be informed and up-to-date.

Trustee Renkema would like to receive a copy of all the reports submitted to the Provincial Government.

7.2 Sept.30 Day of Truth and Reconciliation

MOVED and Seconded that the following motion be forwarded to the September Board Meeting for consideration:

THAT 2021/2022 District Calendar be amended to change September 30th from an instructional day to a statutory holiday.

CARRIED.

7.3 School naming policy

Victoria has a policy that schools cannot be named after people. Vancouver has a new policy on having an English and Indigenous name. We have a few schools that may have an issue with a name, i.e. Dewdney Elementary, Hatzic (historical research). Team naming should be reviewed as well. What was celebrated at one time may not be celebrated today?

What are the parameters for naming a school? Equity Scan - be inclusive, equitable.

We need to research all the school names.

The naming from the past can be used as an educational tool, so people understand why it was named that way, and we should provide an

explanation for why it may need to be renamed. Decolonization - dismantling the systems is needed.

Siwal Si'wes - the first nations are moving forward. A suggestion was made to create a visual of the First Nations territories on a map overlapping with the School District #75.

8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT HERITAGE PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETORIUM UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:33PM.

Original signed by T. Loffler

Chair, Board of Education

Original Signed by C. Becker

Secretary-Treasurer

The minutes were approved on
October 5, 2021 at the Public
Committee of the Whole meeting.