

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

**February 2, 2021, 3:30 pm  
Zoom Meeting**

- 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  
Director of Student Services Carolynn Schmor  
Assistant Superintendent, Karen Alvarez  
District Principal of Indigenous Education, Vivian Searwar  
District Principal of International Education, Colleen Hannah  
Executive Assistant, Ilona Schmidt (Recorder)  
Executive Assistant, Aleksandra Crescenzo
- Others Present:** Hillside Traditional Academy Principal - Linda Hamel,  
Silverdale Elementary Principal - Rob Clarke, ESR Principal  
- Sharon Widdows, Ecole Mission Central Vice-Principal -  
Shauna Nero, ESR Vice-Principal - Karina Zimmerman,  
Presenter - Julie Bond, Teacher - Angela Bout, Parent -  
Alicia Hurd, Teacher – Anais St. Laurent, DPAC Chair -  
Cheryl Blondin, MSS PAC Rep - Dionne Hairsine, CUPE  
President - Faye Howell, Parent - Jacquelyn Wickham,  
Teacher - Jen Tench, Teacher - Jennine Chapman, Teacher -  
Kaitlyn McRobbie, MTU President - Ryan McCarty, MTU  
Vice-President, Janise Nikolic

**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 Childcare Rapid Renovation Fund

Fraser Valley Labour Council Executive member, teacher and resident of Mission, Julie Bond, discussed possible access to funding new childcare space creation or expansion within the public sector.

**The deadline to apply is March 12, 2021.**

Reference: Rapid Renovation Fund

Julie suggested promoting dual usage of Strong Start or Klub Kids spaces, and having EAs, or Lunch Time Supervisors to work before school. With Learning cohorts, daycare on site would be a better solution than transporting students offsite. Childcare fees can be collected from parents for ongoing support, and there are subsidies available.

A question was asked if this is the first year for the Rapid Renovation Fund to be offered? Is it ongoing? It is not known. It is a one-time fund. Likely not ongoing, as it is not to pay for salaries.

A comment was provided that the Government walked away from Strong Start and the Ministry should bring this under the childcare mandate. Families face the same issues as in the past. Ministry could do a lot more than putting band-aids on ECE, such as creating sustainable funding.

The Board will follow up with the District of Mission on the Childcare issue at their next joint meeting.

The CUPE President shared that the New Westminster SD is piloting a childcare project called the Seamless Day Model. Before or after school care is provided by existing staff. The idea is being promoted by the B.C. Coalition of Child Care Advocates as part of an effort to make affordable, quality childcare accessible to more families throughout B.C.

#### 3.2 Complex Trauma

Beth-Ann Cullen, Acting Principal of Student Services and a Principal of Hatzic Elementary, focuses on the mental health and wellbeing of struggling students. Beth-Ann educates both students and educators to develop behaviour plans and to rebuild pathways for students to follow, utilizing Trauma-Informed schools and Peaceful Schools concepts.

Information was shared about the traumatic response of children's limbic system triggering automatic survival actions of Flight, Fight, or Freeze.

A question was asked if the SD is only looking at this approach in terms of students or also in terms of staff? COVID shifts everyone into working through trauma. On March 2, April 23, 2021, Angela Murphy is presenting to staff. Resources are available for staff as well.

A question was asked about children having issues at home. Are there resources for Parents? Presentations are directed more towards teachers, but Behaviour Plans are presented to parents. Support for

students/parents is available. The Peaceful Schools model can be flipped and used at home.

The Director of Student Services commented that the SD has been building on trauma-informed practice and the principles of [Dr. Chuck Geddes](#) from Complex Care and Intervention have been well received. The plan is to spread the teaching among more educators, so they are better prepared.

## 4. CURRICULUM

### 4.1 Monthly Curriculum Update: Communicating Student Learning (CSL)

Staff introduced 4 teachers to share their experiences during Term 1 with the CSL Pilot and digital portfolios using Fresh Grade Connect, Paper Portfolios, and Scholantis.

- Kaitlyn McRobbie (Grade 5/6 teacher at Hatzic Elementary),
- Jennine Chapman (Intermediate teacher at ESR);
- Jennifer Tench (Intermediate teacher at ESR);
- Anais St. Laurent (Grade 1 FRIM teacher at Ecole Mission Central)

The Pilot introduces a significant shift from a report card structure to a communication structure by utilizing contemporary teaching and encourages:

- student critical thinking and flexibility
- collaborating with students in the learning environment
- embracing physical, mental, and emotional wellness
- increase student ownership of learning
- self-awareness and learning about learning, not just work completion
- Impact vs volume

A question was asked about transitioning this model to Middle School. We can continue this model up to Grade 9. In Grade 10 and higher, a letter grade is required.

A question was asked if the improved assessments demonstrated deeper/better comprehension. Students have acknowledged points of progress and communicated their areas where they experienced challenges.

A question was asked if students are struggling with the reflection piece? Portfolios allow a lot of flexibility in how a teacher can teach. The portfolios teach the children to reflect on things and why reflecting is important in life. Getting away from letter grades clarifies that every student is responsible for their learning to demonstrate growth.

A question was asked if IT has looked at the technical issues. The technology committee is looking into creating student emails.

A comment was provided about the daunting workload, time spent on prep if applied in older grades, and how students would adjust to deadlines. Deadlines are utilized, just not boxed in. Report cards do not all go out at

the same time. Timelines change, as learning does not stop and start on our schedule. The new approach adds more fluidity. It takes some training, but kids can learn selectiveness and uploading even in Grade 1. Trustees see the importance of implementation of the CSL starting at the Elementary level. The pilot program shows what is effective and what is not.

The Secretary-Treasurer inquired how can SD help as an organization with Teacher learning and growth with CSL. Teachers indicated that time is needed to learn about CSL and how to do things more efficiently. Teachers want to use Pro D time to develop better skills and plan better.

## **5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **6. STAFF REPORTS**

### **6.1 Capstone Projects**

Staff provided background on Capstone Projects and shared their experiences from listening in on several presentations at MSS. The Capstone is a new aspect of Career Education that all students must complete to graduate. The Capstone represents a passion area for the student but also reflects process and self-assessment as they work to transition to the workplace and/or the post-secondary world.

Students researched in detail and presented on various topics.

### **6.2 Safety in Schools**

The Superintendent provided an update on safety in schools following the assault incident at HPMS earlier this month. The School District is planning a VIRTUAL FORUM on February 18<sup>th</sup>, which will host a short presentation, and break out into smaller groups to connect with parents and representatives from schools, the District of Mission, RCMP, UFV. The discussion topic will be: How can we make things better at schools?

- To date, series of meetings took place.
- Vice-Principals report seeing serious social interaction issues and a lot of inappropriate language.
- HPMS staff reported on commentary from students, not wanting yet another anti-bullying program.
- SD posted for more Noon Hour Supervisors at Middle schools. HPMS is hosting a meeting with the LGBTQ group.
- Ongoing collaboration with Safer Schools Together
- VTR training for staff
- Conversations took place with UFV, RCMP and other agencies.
- Sharron Widdows is planning with schools for presentations.
- Numerous emails from parents coming daily. Ideas and suggestions are recorded in a spreadsheet.

A question was asked about getting feedback from students at Hatzic Middle School. Response: there is a plan to interact with students. SD acknowledges a strong need for student voice input. A comment was provided that students need to understand the definition of harassment and that it happens even outside of school hours. The Superintendent voiced the teachers' willingness to help, wanting to have activities. SD is looking into possible COVID safe sporting events within cohorts.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

### 7.1 Governance and Accountability

MOVED and Seconded that the following resolution be forwarded to the Public Board meeting on February 16, 2021:

THAT the Board of Education direct staff to begin the development of an accountability and reporting policy.

**CARRIED**

### 7.2 Childcare Policy

Staff discussed the development of a formal policy regarding childcare in MPSD schools. The School District has 3 childcare operations in three schools, in addition to the afterschool Club Kids program operated by the District of Mission. We are waiting to receive a draft policy from BCSTA or policies developed from other School Districts. The Ministry of education is having formal discussions about bringing childcare under their mandate.

Trustees and Staff agreed to wait for an update from BCSTA and the Ministry. The Secretary-Treasurer will monitor and bring to Board for discussion any possible capacity issues arising with the growing district population.

### 7.3 Shifting Educational Format

The Superintendent discussed innovative practices teachers and principals have undertaken this year.

Streaming is an advantage for some classes to do lecture presentations, enabling interaction between other schools or even districts.

Innovative Proposal from MSS has been sent to the Ministry: On Wednesdays, students would do morning classes online, and afternoon would be support time, in-person or virtually. Details need to be clarified if the legalities are in place.

A question was asked about the Middle Schools and Junior High model. There are issues with being in the same class for too long. Are students getting the education they need? The Superintendent clarified that teachers have been surprised about how positive the system has been (taking breaks, going for walks). Discussions are taking place at the admin level, observing the collective agreement. MSS model seems to have

figured out the prep. Linear blocks and different models are being considered.

MTU has done surveys in the field about aspects of hybrid teaching to be used after the pandemic; however, it has been agreed across the Board, that conclusions need to be wholesomely discussed.

A concern was raised by a parent with less instructional time affecting vulnerable learners (mentioning UBC's MDI Index showing our district as lacking relationships kids have with adults). More guidance is needed. Middle-schoolers congregate at Elementary schools during shorter days.

A parent provided a comment on the Middle School model being a very good experience for some students, who can attend band in off time instead of early in the morning. It seems to be safer.

## 8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### 8.1 Committee of the Whole Minutes, January 12, 2021

MOVED and Seconded that the Committee of the Whole minutes dated January 12, 2021 be approved.

**CARRIED**

## 9. INFORMATION ITEMS

### 9.1 Special Committee of the Whole on February 23, 2021 re: Amended Budget.

There may be another meeting scheduled. waiting for staff input and confirmation.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

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Signed by T. Loffler  
Chair, Board of Education

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Signed by C. Becker  
Secretary-Treasurer

The minutes were approved on  
February 16, 2021, at the Special  
Committee of the Whole meeting.