

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

**November 3, 2020, 3:30 pm**

**In-person: Heritage Park Middle School, 33700 Prentis Avenue, Mission, BC**

**Remote: via video-conference**

**Members Present:** Board Chair, Tracy Loffler  
Vice Chair, Shelley Carter (via Zoom)  
Trustee, Randy Cairns  
Trustee, Julia Renkema

**Members Absent:** Trustee, Rick McKamey

**Staff Present:** Superintendent of Schools, Angus Wilson  
Secretary-Treasurer, Corien Becker (Recorder)  
Assistant Superintendent, Karen Alvarez  
District Principal of Indigenous Education, Vivian Searwar  
(via Zoom)  
District Principal of International Education, Colleen Hannah  
(via Zoom)

**Staff Absent:** Executive Assistant, Aleksandra Crescenzo

**Others Present:** MTU President Ryan McCarty, MTU Representative Janise Nikolic, DPAC President, Cheryl Blondin, School Principal, Linda Hamel and District Inclusion Mentor Teacher, Shannon Bowsfield.

**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**

## 4. CURRICULUM

### 4.1 Student Progress Assessment and Communication Policy

MOVED and Seconded that the draft Student Progress Assessment and Communication policy be reviewed by the Committee of the Whole; and

That the draft Student Progress Assessment and Communication policy incorporate the recommendations from the Joint Educational Advisory Committee; and

That the draft Student Progress Assessment and Communication policy as updated be forwarded to the Regular Board meeting on November 17, 2020 to consider approving in principle.

### **CARRIED**

This year we have 20-24 elementary teachers from 6 elementary schools who have asked to participate in the Communicating Student Learning (CSL) pilot.

A draft policy has been created to provide guidance for the assessment and communication process of student learning. The draft policy will be reviewed by the Joint Educational Advisory Committee on November 9th, 2020. The recommendations will be incorporated into the policy for review by the Board at the Regular Board meeting on November 17, 2020.

A comment was provided to consider the positive side of indigenous contributions as well as addressing oppression.

Question: Will there be a formalized way to get parent and PAC feedback?

Response: Feedback is a part of the pilot project. Feedback will be sought from teachers, parents, and students.

### 4.2 English Language Learning (ELL) Update

The District Principal of International Education provided an overview of the English Language Learning (ELL) and English as a Second Dialect (ESD ) services offered with Mission Public Schools.

ELL student enrolment is increasing year over year. There are 31 ELL kindergarten registrations this year, with a total of 357 students (budgeted 300 students). The SD is monitoring for parents that arrive with work permits. Last year a number of students arrived after Sept 30<sup>th</sup> – these additional students do not come with funding.

#### 4.3 International Education

The District Principal of International Education provided a status update on the International program for 2020/2021.

9 additional international students will be arriving this week – students are coming from Mexico, Japan, and Europe. These students are already programmed into the schools. An additional 25 students are expected for February, and 4 new students have inquired about February as well.

### 5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### 5.1 Anti-Racism Policy

MOVED and Seconded that the Committee of the Whole provide direction regarding a draft Anti-Racism Policy.

#### **CARRIED**

In September 2020, the Board directed the development of an Anti-Racism policy. Staff have initiated the development of the policy. In October, the Board considered a draft policy that was presented by Trustee Cairns; the Board directed that the draft be forwarded to the Committee of the Whole for discussion with partner groups. Therefore, there are two similar drafts to consider.

The committee provided the following feedback:

- The policy should address racism for Trustees, the superintendent, and senior management as well.
- Curriculum comments could be part of administrative guidelines.
- Would like to see a more proactive approach, eliminating complacency. Would like to see classrooms organized to represent diversity, as well as hiring practices to demonstrate diversity.

The Committee requested that the two draft policies be blended together, and that staff develop a work plan for the procedures. The draft policy is requested to be forwarded to the December Committee of the Whole meeting.

### 6. **STAFF REPORTS**

#### 6.1 Enrolment Summary - September 2020

The Secretary-Treasurer provided an overview of the enrolment summary for the 2020-2021 school year.

Overall, MPSD saw an increase of 32 students in all programs this year, although details for the Summit and Riverside programs have enrolment counts in February and May as well, this may alter the totals for the year. After considering the reduction of international students, the actual enrolment is 12 students less than what was budgeted for in June. Even with students choosing other education options, overall, MPSD has a relatively stable enrolment.

## 6.2 Whistleblower Protection Policy

MOVED and Seconded that the Draft Amended Whistleblower Protection Policy be reviewed, amended as required, forwarded to the partner organizations for comment, and returned to the December Committee of the Whole for further consideration.

### **CARRIED**

In accordance with the Public Interest Disclosure Act (PIDA), School Districts have been asked to develop or update a policy to address public interest disclosures to align with Provincial Legislation. Staff have updated the school district Whistleblower Protection Policy to ensure we are complying with the legislation. The policy is being presented to the Committee for preliminary review.

## 7. **NEW BUSINESS**

### 7.1 DPAC

A discussion ensued regarding assigning a Trustee Liaison to the DPAC Committee and the possibility of the SD offering DPAC an annual grant.

A few trustees indicated that they could support the idea of a specific liaison, while others did not think it was necessary.

Funding for DPAC could be considered with the amended budget or the 2021/2022 budget.

DPAC noted that they did receive \$2,500 from gaming revenue, and that this funding can only be used for parent education.

DPAC indicated a need for funding to support communication or advertising to try and draw in parents from every school to the DPAC.

### 7.2 Heritage Park Daycare

The Secretary-Treasurer provided an overview of the License of Occupation for the Heritage Park Daycare. The License of Occupation with the Crown (Province of BC) for the land on which the Heritage Park Daycare is situated is up for renewal. Staff are in the process of completing the renewal application and updating the license of occupation for the Daycare.

7.3 Additional in-class days at Ecole Mission Senior Secondary

The Superintendent has initiated discussions with the Ministry & Fraser Health, to consider modifying the number of cohorts that can be in one space at a time, to try and increase the opportunity for more classroom instruction time at MSS.

7.4 Learning Loss and Transition to Ecole Mission Senior Secondary

Concern was expressed regarding the current middle school model and the quarter system, and the concern with students having a year and a half between courses if taken at the start of one year, and the end of the next year.

The committee discussed a few potential corrective measures for next year, specifically for specialty programs such as ICF or music; including a brief refresher at the start of the new class, or possibly a refresher during summer school.

The Committee discussed possible advocacy with the Ministry.

The Committee would like to continue the discussion on this throughout the year.

7.5 Process for external applications for agenda items

MTU expressed frustration with getting items placed on the agenda and would like clear communication from Trustees on getting items on the Agenda. MTU provided a specific example regarding the Special Pocket project for Grads.

**8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

8.1 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes, October 6, 2020

MOVED and Seconded that the Committee of the Whole minutes dated October 6, 2020 be approved.

**CARRIED**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 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  
December 1, 2020 at the  
Committee of the Whole meeting.