

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

**September 15, 2020, 3:30 pm
Heritage Park Middle School Cafetorium and Zoom Videoconference**

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

Staff Present: Secretary-Treasurer, Corien Becker
Superintendent of Schools, Angus Wilson
Assistant Superintendent, Karen Alvarez
Executive Assistant, Aleksandra Crescenzo (Recorder)

Others Present: Via videoconference: MTU President - Ryan McCarty, –
Janise Nikolic, DPAC Representative - Cheryl Blondin,
Jaquelyn Wickham, School Principal – Linda Hamel, District
Principal of International Education - Colleen Hannah, and
District Principal of Indigenous Education – Vivian Searwar.

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 Monthly Curriculum Update

A variety of learning opportunities are planned for teachers for 2020-21 that align with the Strategic Plan and Ministry restart plans during COVID.

Teachers were surveyed in June 2020 regarding pro-d topics they are interested in. Areas of high interest were assessment, social-emotional learning (particularly emotional literacy), mathematics, First Peoples Principles of Learning, and use of technology. The three foundational areas that will be included as a part of everyone's work:

- Assessment
- Social-emotional learning
- Indigenous worldviews and perspectives

What is used for social-emotional learning? There is a framework that is available and various strategies are applied in the classroom.

Is Halqemeylem being taught in all elementary schools? No, the principals sign up their school, which is on first come first serve basis.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Indigenous Language Education Policy

The draft policy was shared at the Aboriginal Council Gathering but there was a much-reduced level of involvement of Band member/ Elders through COVID. At the request of the Advisory and Band members, many items were tabled to the fall. The draft policy will be added to the agenda for the September Advisory Gathering, and it may be included in the Equity Scan conversations as well.

5.2 Hiring Practice for Women in Trades

The Board approved a motion in October 2019 that supported policies and hiring practices for gender-neutral language. Human Resources staff are currently reviewing all postings templates to acknowledge inclusion and indigenous perspectives. Staff need to work on some recommendations for hiring practices for Women in Trades with the School District to ensure there are no impediments in our current policies.

A suggestion was presented to inquire how many female students are currently enrolled in Trades programs at Riverside. From that group, it would be useful to survey female students about barriers in the trades industry.

5.3 BCSTA / FNEESC Conflicting Conference Dates Motion

MOVED and Seconded that the following motion be forwarded to the Public Board meeting on September 22, 2020:

THAT the Board of Education recommend that BCSTA in the future move the dates of the BCSTA Academy Conference in November, so it does not conflict with the FNEC Conference dates.

CARRIED

The motion was originally approved at the Public Board meeting on October 15, 2019 and was forwarded to the British Columbia School Trustees Association to be debated at the AGM. Due to COVID, the AGM was cancelled, and the motion was not addressed. The motion is being brought forward one more time to be resubmitted to the BCSTA for debate at this year's AGM.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 School Opening Report

The Superintendent provided a report on enrollment, growth of DL, bussing, held seats, international students, and other factors unique to 2020. The child-size masks did not arrive on time. As soon as they arrive, the SD will provide them to the families who requested them. Summit Learning Centre has processed over 200 registrations and has approximately 300 more email requests to review. Additional teachers have been hired for Summit Learning Centre including one additional temporary secretary. Overall enrolment for the 2020-21 school year seems to be up by 100 students. There are 52 international students in Mission with a few more estimated to arrive.

6.2 Summer Learning Program

The Superintendent reported on the Summer Learning Program for 2020. Due to Ministry COVID protocols, classes were capped at 14 which cost the SD more to run the program than in previous years. Overall, it was a success, with almost all students (97%) successfully completing their course of studies, getting them on track to graduate on time.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Holding Seats for Students during COVID-19

MOVED and Seconded that the following motion be forwarded to the Public Board meeting on September 22, 2020:

THAT the Board defer any action on enrollment space allotment policy and guidelines until the Feb. 2021 enrollment counts are in, at which time the Board and Senior Staff will reevaluate.

Further this motion will be subject to the following requirements.

Requirements:

1. For 20/21 as an emergency measure MPSD will hold seats at schools for students at Summit Learning Centre K-6. The Board and Staff will reevaluate after the Feb. 2021 second enrollment count.
2. Only students enrolled in Summit Learning Centre qualify as they are still within MPSD, students enrolled in other DL's or Home School options will not have their seats retained.
3. Waiting lists for schools of choice are frozen until the Feb. 2021 second count and revaluation, with some possible exceptions which staff identify.
4. Students attending Summit Learning Centre wishing to return to their regular school may only do so at natural junctures, eg: the first of the month or at the discretion of Senior Staff.
5. While the intent is to defer until the Feb. 2021 second enrollment count, MPSD Senior Staff and the Board may pause this exception to policy if demand is unsustainable and cap the variance.

CARRIED

With the Ministry of Education moving to the modified Stage 2 of the BC's Education Restart Plan, to bring K-12 students back to the class full-time, the Board recognizes that some families are hesitant with in-class instruction. The Board discussed deferring any action on enrolment space allotment until February 2021. The SD will hold seats for students that are enrolled in the Distance Learning Program at Summit Learning Centre.

The Secretary-Treasurer recommended revising the motion to read, "that the SD hold spaces for students enrolled in Summit Learning Centre until February 2021." The motion was not amended to this recommendation.

A question was asked why February 2021 and not the entire year. The Superintendent noted that this date is provided as a check-in point.

The Secretary-Treasurer advised that there is a financial implication for holding seats. If we are holding even 100 seats for students, this will come at a significant cost to the SD.

7.2 CotW and Board meetings during COVID-19

The Board discussed Board/ Committee meeting parameters considering the physical distancing requirements in response to the COVID 19 pandemic.

A recommendation was put forward to host a few meetings at Hatzic Middle School.

The Board supports in-person and online video conferencing options and noted that there are benefits to offering both options for future meetings.

A revised schedule will be issued once it is updated.

7.3 Anti-Racism Policy

MOVED and Seconded that the Board look to implement an anti-racism policy in Mission Public Schools, then have staff develop one in conjunction with appropriate partner groups and bring back to the Board for consideration.

AMENDMENT

MOVED and Seconded that the following motion be forwarded to the Public Board meeting on September 22, 2020.

AMENDED MOTION

MOVED and Seconded that the following motion be forwarded to the Public Board meeting on September 22, 2020:

THAT the Board look to implement an anti-racism policy in Mission Public Schools, then have staff develop one in conjunction with appropriate partner groups and bring back to the Board for consideration.

CARRIED

The School District has a Respectful Schools & Workplaces Policy, but the policy does not specifically address systemic racism. The purpose of this policy is to build a foundation of change that is free of racism.

It was suggested that staff and students review policies like the Respectful Schools & Workplaces Policy every two years.

7.4 Strategic Plan Review

The plan was approved in 2019. The Board is committed to annually reviewing the plan, and any progress made to advance the plan.

The Board requested that Staff report out on the strategic plan measures throughout the year. The Chair will prepare a motion for the Public meeting to provide direction for reporting on the plan measures.

The SD is working on updating the Enhancement Agreement and the Equity Scan. Once the agreement goals/ objectives are reviewed with the elders, the Principal for Indigenous Education will update the Board. This update will affect some of the goals outlined in the SP.

A comment was provided that the measures listed under Effective Learning Environments do not provide effective assessments of the goals. The measures do not address mental wellness and inclusion.

8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

8.1 Special Committee of the Whole meeting minutes dated August 25, 2020

MOVED and Seconded that the Special Committee of the Whole minutes dated August 25, 2020, be approved.

CARRIED

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 pm.

Chair, Board of Education

Secretary-Treasurer
The minutes were approved on
October 6, 2020 at the Regular
Committee of the Whole meeting.