

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

February 23, 2021, 3:45 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
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Derek Welsh
Director of Student Services, Carolynn Schmor
Director of HR, Tina Phelps
Director of Operations, Dana MacLean
Assistant Superintendent, Karen Alvarez
District Principal of International Education, Colleen Hannah
District Inclusion Mentor Teacher, Shannon Bowsfield
Executive Assistant, Ilona Schmidt (Recorder)
- Others Present:** Principal – Linda Hamel, Teacher - Angela Bout, DPAC Chair
– Cheryl Blondin, DPAC Treasurer – Jacquelyn Wickham,
CUPE President – Faye Howell, MTU President – Ryan
McCarty, MTU Vice President – Janise Nikolic

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 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

4. CURRICULUM

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Enrollment Projections 2021/2022

Staff shared enrollment projection submitted to the Ministry on February 12th for the next three years. Regular enrollment is expected to increase by approximately 73 students, and the School District is anticipating a shift of some students back to regular schools from the distance learning program.

Staff expect that approximately 50% of the students currently enrolled in Summit will remain in the distance learning program, and 50% will return to a regular program.

Staff also expect an increase in the number of special needs students, which is expected to increase funding in this area.

The enrollment projections are the first step in building a budget for the next school year.

6.2 2021/2022 Preliminary Budget Priorities

Staff presented partner groups' budget priorities received from DPAC, MTU, CUPE, MPVPA, and Management.

A question was asked about struggles finding qualified teachers to teach language or trades. Is there some Mentorship available to help them be better instructors or any help facilitating language resources? The Superintendent clarified that there are a couple of models - letter of permission, followed by mentoring, where the language instructor is released from another classroom. Another model, especially for indigenous language teaching, is a certified teacher being present along with the Elder.

A question was asked about school reconfiguration, regarding item #5 of the PVPAs priorities. What is the rationale or benefits of the reconfiguration? This item needs to be discussed going forward and referred to future COTW

DPAC inquired about Teacher Librarian & Mental Health resources. Mental Health support may need to continue next year. The School District may have to advocate for more.

The Board Chair acknowledged all the submitted priorities and concluded that commonalities/themes are mental health and technology. The new budget should include a focus on Mental Health support and technology.

It was noted that the LGBTQ2S group suggested improvement in the safety of facilities and support.

Staffing concerns will be discussed at the Closed Board Meeting.

Some parts of the wish lists are very specific, which can be decided by staff, and may not require review by trustees.

School safety - if the kids do not feel safe, they do not learn. Safety should be prioritized.

A question was asked regarding PVPA's literacy mentor teacher request. Issues with literacy at schools should be addressed. Joyful Literacy is different and creates a bias that parents and children have not been exposed to reading. Parents feel blamed that they have not done their part if their child is not reading well by Grade three. Often, children are read to but cannot read themselves. There seems to be not enough literacy instruction.

VP time at Middle Schools vs teaching time has been discussed, as well as an increase in teacher librarian time.

The Secretary-Treasurer has enough guidance to start calculations for developing 2021/2022 Budget and will bring it back to the board for further discussion.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Letter to Minister Whiteside re Trades Funding

MOVED and Seconded that the Board of Education send the letter to the Minister of Education Whiteside advocating for the reinstatement of funding by the Ministry of Education to support Trades Training.

CARRIED

Local viewpoints are important for the Minister to consider. The New direction is not allowing students to study. The Chair appreciates expressing Mission-specific challenges and suggested the letter should also be forwarded to the MLAs.

The Chair would like to Sign the Letter Sincerely, not Respectfully.

It was noted that the parties who are truly involved and understand the challenges best, have already provided their concerns in the draft letter and no further input is needed.

8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

8.1 Special Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes, February 16, 2021

Approval of Minutes is to be deferred to March 2, 2021 COTW to correct a typo. \$500,000 instead of \$5000 to be allocated in contingency.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 4:41 pm.

Signed by T. Loffler

Signed by C. Becker

Chair, Board of Education

Secretary-Treasurer

The minutes were approved on
April 6, 2021 at the Committee of
the Whole meeting.