

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

December 7, 2021, 3:30 pm
Zoom Meeting

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

Members Absent: Trustee, Shelley Carter

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

Others Present: Principal, Lynn Cummings, Principal, Jim Pearce, Camille Anderson, Principal, Angela Condon, Lauren Rushton, DPAC Chair, Cheryl Blondin, MTU President, Ryan McCarty, Parent, DPAC Communications Rep, Candace Koch, CUPE President, Nansy Gibson

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.

Trustee Carter sent her regrets for not attending the meeting.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**3.1 TTAC Presentation**

Trustee Renkema presented and summarized the Report to the Board dated June 2021. The Trades Training Advisory Committee seeks to promote interest in trades, to bring more awareness to trades training to students. ITA will fund youth students in trades. The programs are longer, so students become more familiar with the program. MSS has over 600 students in Applied Skills. Next year, Riverside may include warehousing. The benefits to Riverside are much smaller class sizes. Students get hands-on experience. We need to build stronger relationships with local trade companies, host trade shows, keep the support of the Mission City forestry department, encourage pairing of business courses with trades, create educational tools for all grade levels. We would like to create opportunities for students to start working soon after graduation.

Lynn Cummings and the students from Riverside College presented a showcase on trades:

- Hunter and Liam presented Plumbing Foundation Level 1 technical program.
- Ethan and Suzia presented Carpentry and acknowledged that instructors have been encouraging and building up students' confidence
- Logan and Mark presented Construction/Electrical.
- Dylan and Joe presented Hairstylist foundations.

A question was asked about the amount of time spent on knowing that the students have health and safety rights and responsibilities. Instructors Anthony Balog and Jeremy Gray: before students start, they have extensive safety training. Students are exposed to all the tools they will be exposed to in the industry in a controlled environment. Students are shown WCB regulations and are taught that they have the right to refuse unsafe work. Young workers are brand new to the environment. They need to understand how to walk through the worksite safely. Students get certified with first aid and job safety.

A comment was made that one of the challenges after the floods is finding certified and properly trained contractors/tradespeople. It was noted that we need to ensure we help the students to get fully certified, and help the community as needed.

A question was directed at the students, about how they would like the Board of Education to support trades in the community. The hair program is looking for stand-behind sinks and better ventilation. Carpenters would like more space, as space is very limited, ventilation indoors. More accessible parking.

4. CURRICULUM

4.1 Monthly Curriculum Update

School/Student safety: the most important is school culture.

4.1.1 Work supporting school climate and staff Pro-D

Staff expanded the conversation about school safety beyond rules and policies to help to focus on what we want to grow instead of what we want to stop. The presenters included some lingering questions and challenges we are working through.

MSS: Getting back to the new normal. Can we revisit what we were doing in the past, restart? Staff-driven assessment, critical thinking strategies. School Culture Committee was formed with 5 goals:

- parent and community connection
- student social involvement,
- staff culture and professional growth,
- connections between students and staff,
- academic culture.

Assessment redesign: larger assessment practice with staff (Implementing “*Softening the Edges with Katie White*”). Staff have embraced the movement. We need to be cognizant that as many people are tired, there are still others that want to get involved.

Realign instructional team leaders: *50 Strategies to Boost Cognitive Engagement* - by Becky Stobaugh to engage students in their learning.

Challenges: Grade12s need more motivation to come in and do work. Editing Mathematical inventory. Paired Workplace 10 Math with Woodworking 10 classes. We can do better with courses. When we bring more students to trades/math, there are lots of ideas, but everything comes with a price tag.

Increased connections: staff present in halls, homerooms activities, clubs are starting again.

Gradual entry - only one grade came into the school at the same time, where grade-specific activities were planned. Students received MSS T-shirts, led by the leadership team. MSS would like to continue, as it sets a very positive tone for the start of the year. Trustees acknowledged the importance of transitions. The Gradual entry could become a template for other schools as well.

Soft Opening for the Studio: First Peoples Principals of Learning - weaving and learning about knots. Connecting Math with indigenous stories.

Students presented a slideshow of pictures of what is happening at MSS.

The Assistant Superintendent acknowledged the multi-layered approach and ongoing process can be powerful.

A quote from BCSTA Trustee Academy was shared from Jennifer Charlesworth: "If you don't have a sense of belonging, who will pick you up when you fall?"

4.1.2 Work to support transitions, student survey

Transitions: HPMS: Brainstorming about transitions started 2 years ago, pre-Covid. Grade 6 students were starting to feel anxiety about Middle school. Virginia Avery did a Master's Program research. A big part of easing anxiety is instilling the Growth Mindset. Students need to hear about growth from their peers. We needed to know what exactly are students anxious about. A Grade 6 Transitions survey was developed and passed along to all feeder elementary schools. Logistical, academic, social-emotional concerns. 23% of students were worried or scared of starting middle school. Students were worried about bullying, the amount of work, navigating the building. Staff shared data with Grade 8 students and asked for reflection. Students wrote letters to future HPMS students, where they shared the reality of Middle school. All the letters were sent out to Grade 6 students. Moving forward, creating a dialogue is what HPMS would like to try. Also, a follow-up survey. Are there still concerns. Is there an adult in the building that you feel connected to? Teacher involvement has been astounding. Grade 6 visit was done during the last week when current students are gone, and teachers had a chance to meet and connect with their future students.

HPMS also planned activities for Grade 7s, to make Transitions easier and to instill a sense of belonging.

The Assistant Superintendent expressed appreciation for the initiative.

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

6. **STAFF REPORTS**

6.1 Flood Update

November 13 and 14, 2021: The flood has not affected Mission, as we are situated on a hill; however, 53% of our staff do NOT live in Mission. The situation was changing fast. Tuesday, we were still closed. While the Barrowtown pump was in danger of failing, the Superintendent was talking to the Ministry of Transportation, Education etc. There was no communication from the Abbotsford EOC. The HWY1 closure was a challenge. HWY7 was very congested, so we hired flaggers. Fuel rationing came in, school field trips and sports got cancelled. Western Fraser Valley

had a meeting with the Ministry of Transportation without inviting the City of Mission and SD75. The order of no travel on HWY7 has been somewhat resolved. There was more communication on Wednesday.

Ministry of Education was trying to provide shuttle buses, hotels; however, there were none available. Staff ended up staying with friends.

HWY 7 situation is now "normal" and the fuel shortage should be over by next week. Ministry of Education has reached out regarding Mental Health support. Chair Loffler was involved with contacting local officials.

The Board acknowledged everyone's work. MTU moved a union meeting to accommodate everyone.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Procurement to purchase electric vehicle replacement

MOVED and Seconded THAT the Board direct staff in future procurements to purchase electric vehicle replacement for Bus and Fleet whenever feasible and that this resolution gets forwarded to the Public Meeting for the consideration of approval.

CARRIED

Global warming, the amount of moisture in the air, atmospheric rivers - any action we can take is moving forward.

7.2 Emergency Preparedness Update

- The Superintendent promoted the use of the Alertable app
- Update on emergency kits at schools and worksites: there is an issue, as there is no mandate. Often, the consumables are going bad. We need to do a survey.
- The Superintendent also promoted a message of being prepared to families
- Communication with parents is key
- The Superintendent pointed out the distinction between FVRD and Mission - nobody seems to know that they don't actually live in Mission when they are in the rural area.

DPAC has a committee about emergency preparedness.

Communicating with parents - a parent contacted DPAC about not being contacted by HPMS in the case of the gas leak.

We may need a process of checking the emergency supplies. We may need to start with a framework, and on a regular basis check on things.

7.3 Cross Boundary

Elementary students need to register at their neighbourhood elementary school, fill out the Cross-Boundary form. At this time of year, students get a letter of the Cross-Boundary renewal. In grade 6, students get a letter in December. Schools are asked to email and send in a physical copy of the letter. Cross-boundary requests are re-approved on year-by-year basis.

All requests are looked at by the date submitted, but also by reasons. Students are informed at the end of June, and a few are informed at the beginning of September when we know actual numbers. Dewdney/Stave Falls, we have been able to let them know ahead of time.

This Summer, we have received requests because of daycare. When we deny a Cross-Boundary request, it is usually based on numbers. Siblings are higher up on the list, but we are not always able to accommodate them. Albert McMahon does not accept any new Cross-Boundary students.

We do get Cross-Boundary requests for French Immersion at the elementary level. CME and MCE have evened out.

AME and their approx 700 students - number of the extra students go to choice schools, ESR or Hillside.

A comment was made, that the one school year is clearly stated in the policy. The Board Chair suggested that the policy states that the approval is not guaranteed.

A comment was made, that it is really hard for the children to change schools, once established in the school. Staff is cognizant of this, and it is becoming harder and harder to manage. Some schools are not accepting any Kindergarten Cross-Boundary. Most parents do not know policies, and there is a need for better communicating the policies to them.

8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

8.1 Special Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes, October 26, 2021

MOVED and Seconded that the Special Committee of the Whole minutes dated October 26, 2021, be approved.

CARRIED

S-T: OCT19 Note that proposed amendments regarding the Public Interest Disclosure were made to the procedure, not the policy. The policy does not have any amendments.

As such, I have made the following notations in the minutes. I think this needs to be spoken to, and clarified, when the minutes are approved.

6.6 Public Interest Disclosure Policy

MOVED and Seconded that the draft Public Interest Disclosure Policy be approved in principle and the formal public engagement in the review of the draft policy be initiated.

CARRIED

MOVED and Seconded that the draft procedure be amended, definition 1.1 Designated officer to remove the words "*or any other senior member of Personnel designated by the Superintendent from time to time*"

CARRIED

MOVED and Seconded that the draft procedure be amended, and 3.1 "Board Chair" be added.

CARRIED

MOVED and Seconded that the draft procedure be amended, 3.1c to remove the Designated Officer other than the Superintendent, and replaced with Secretary-Treasurer.

Note: As procedures are approved by the Superintendent, the noted amendments will be incorporated into the final approved procedure.

8.2 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes, November 2, 2021

MOVED and Seconded that the Committee of the Whole minutes dated November 2, 2021, be approved.

CARRIED

8.3 Special Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes, November 23, 2021

MOVED and Seconded that the Special Committee of the Whole minutes dated November 23, 2021, be approved.

CARRIED

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

Public Board Meeting is next week, on December 14, 2021

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:29 pm.

Original signed by T. Loffler

Chair, Board of Education

Original signed by C. Becker

Secretary-Treasurer

The minutes were approved on
January 11, 2022 at the Public
Committee of the Whole meeting.