

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

November 2, 2021, 3:30 pm
Zoom Meeting

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

Members Absent: Trustee, Shelley Carter

Staff Present: Secretary-Treasurer, Corien Becker
Superintendent of Schools, Angus Wilson
Assistant Superintendent, Karen Alvarez
Director of Operations, Dana MacLean
District Principal of Indigenous Education, Vivian Searwar
District Principal of International Education, Colleen Hannah
Executive Assistant, Ilona Schmidt (Recorder)

Others Present: MTU President, Ryan McCarty; MTU Vice-President, Shannon Bowsfield; DPAC Chair, Cheryl Blondin; DPAC Treasurer, Jacquelyn Wickham; Principal, Angela Condon; Principal, Lynn Cummings; Administrative Support Principal, Linda Hamel; CUPE President, Nansy Gibson; Candace Koch; Parent1/City of Mission Taxpayer (removed as no name was provided)

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 sends her regrets for not attend the meeting. The District Principal of International Education had conflicting meetings and apologized for arriving later and leaving the meeting early.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be approved as presented.

Item 7.2 was moved up the Agenda as 1st presented to accommodate scheduling conflicts for the District Principals of International and Indigenous Education departments.

Item 4.1 was removed as Curriculum/Learning update was presented as a part of Item 6.2

CARRIED

7.2 Indigenous Liaison

The Board discussed a potential position of a Board liaison to the First Nations. Having an Indigenous Board member with knowledge of the First Nation communities, Treaties, protocol, is a huge asset in further relationship building. Trustee McKamey has already been doing this liaison work. If we create a Liaison, we formalize this position. After elections, this Liaison may stay as Knowledge Keeper (non-voting member).

To be presented at the Public Board of Education meeting, November 16, 2021 .

3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

3.1 International Education Update

The District Principal of International Education has provided a detailed update on the department. The focus has been on finding more long-term, graduating markets (Turkey, Vietnam) but COVID brought delays and challenges. The Japanese market is very strong, behind Germany. Students have been here in Mission for the experience, taking part in Outdoor Education classes and various extracurricular activities.

Agents and families are noticing that Mission is a very welcoming community. \$30,000 grant was received from BC Council for International Education and International Education Mobility Programs (BCCIE IEMP)

The Board acknowledged the value of the diversity that comes in from different countries. Students learn from every experience.

Concern was shared about a potential conflict of older students from China and Taiwan due to their countries' current politics.

4. CURRICULUM

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Trades Training Advisory Committee (TTAC)

TTAC is comprised of local trades representatives, trustees, and staff. It only lacked having representatives from the student body (MSS and Riverside). MPSD has provided students with an opportunity to start working in Trades straight after completing secondary school. TTAC can look for more partners to build partnerships. One year may be too short of a mandate to achieve any real results. 3 members at large may need to be looked at, to have enough voting members.

Community connection and commitment can only grow with the growth that is taking place in Mission. Trustees are in favour of extending the TTAC further.

Terms of Reference: #2 and #3 should be revisited. Scope: Overall, the goal of TTAC is to improve the program for the District. TTAC could create a survey of local businesses, to see what trades/training they require.

A question was asked about the format of recommendations. What is the framework for discussing the recommendations? TTAC Chair Renkema is looking forward to presenting the TTAC Report to the Board.

A question was asked if students will be connected with TTAC in the future. The intent to add student representation is there. COVID complicated such a connection.

The Director of Operations expressed full support of what TTAC would like to achieve, noting that SD75 has to work through some challenges (space, dust collection etc).

A suggestion was made to follow the City Council's decision with regards to the use of containers.

Item was referred to the formal PUBLIC BOARD MEETING, November 16, 2021

5.2 Child Care Facilities Policy

MOVED and Seconded that the draft Child Care Facilities Policy be reviewed and revised as necessary and forwarded to the November Board Meeting for consideration of approval in principle and to initiate formal public engagement in the review of the draft policy.

CARRIED

The initial draft policy has been revised. Added additional community groups, children with disabilities, early learning framework. Also, made changes to the cost framework. Provided more clarity for licensee and charges, along with expectations on reduced fees.

There are ways with RFP structures to provide reduced-cost childcare.

The Secretary-Treasurer clarified that SD75 has a different agreement with the City of Mission with regards to Klub Kids, which should not impede the other programs. SD75 is having conversations with the City of Mission about before and after-school care.

Information about bringing inclusion into childcare, support for disabled/neuro-diverse children was provided. [MACL Supported Child Development Program](#) has a new Local Advisory Committee, that would like to have representation from the School District as well. Contact [Sarah Bell](#).

A question was asked about an inventory of classroom space in the district. If the space is insufficient, would portables be a solution?

The Secretary-Treasurer clarified that staff of the Licensees are not part of our bargaining unit.

A question was asked if this policy is in conjunction with the Universal Childcare Act. The Provincial government has directed all school districts to provide childcare at reduced fees. This is a Policy to guide a process, should we follow through and open more childcare spaces.

The Ministry asked for mandating childcare by 2023. How can we accommodate the mandate? Will they provide funds? At this point, there is nothing in the Childcare policy that would stop us from providing childcare. We also have the Heritage Park Daycare (non-profit). The agreement is being updated. A policy like this gives SD75 the ability to strengthen the agreements. Policies can be changed if the legislation changes. The purpose is to promote childcare; however, we do not have staff nor finances to provide childcare at this point.

A note was made to capitalize the word Indigenous within the policy.

We have a mix of for-profit/non-profit providers. A concern with the implementation of expectations at non-profit vs for-profit childcare was expressed. Some of the large for-profit organizations have different values.

A question was asked about ensuring the proper reporting, and adhering to the policy when implementing in Non-profit/For-profit. With this policy, we would be required to reduce the fees we charge. At that point, we would open the agreements, and we could modify the existing agreement. We can still have reporting mechanisms and have control.

A question of the viability of having non-profits was asked. For-profit companies often have a larger pool of staff. There may not be enough non-profits available.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 BCTEA Update

The Superintendent and District Principal of Indigenous Education attended the Jointly Convened Annual Meeting focused on the Tripartite Education Agreement on Oct 27 and 28, 2021. First Nations oriented anti-racism programming discussed the 3 main points:

1. *Racism of low expectations*: Evergreen diploma, where not everyone graduates with a dogwood program. Adult Dogwood program - only 3 courses are required. In Mission, around 13% of Indigenous learners graduate with the Adult Dogwood, and only about 4% of non-Indigenous learners graduate with the Adult Dogwood program.
2. *Course streaming* - putting students on an easier path.
3. *Alternative Education* - over-representation of Indigenous students

Recent graduates shared that having a connection with staff helped them. The challenges in the Indigenous communities may be long-term.

A question was asked if there is any information about the intersectionality of the students being Indigenous and other "risk factors" (ADHD, disabilities, neuro-diverse?) Do they have the same access? We don't

have specific data for Mission, but we can review. Diverse needs, socio-economics are a factor. Students on reserve seem to have lower results than compared off-reserve students.

6.2 Follow-up to Safer Schools Together (SST)

The Assistant Superintendent provided an update on the activities undertaken to implement the recommendations of the Safer Schools Together assessment report. Initiatives include:

- The Crisis Management Manual (SST forms on Learn75).
- Ongoing staff training in Trauma-informed practices
- SST trained administrators and community partners (CYMH)
- Ongoing VTRA training for administrators, all have Level 1, some have received Level 2.
- Out in Schools (2SLGBTQIA+ education program to engage youth in building safer, more inclusive communities) worked with the Middle Schools.
- Constable Robinson is organizing gang prevention for middle and secondary schools. Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent meet Constable Robinson monthly to stay up to date.
- Information on the ERASE program is on MPSD and school websites, and we have ordered posters.
- School climate and student belonging in the schools has been discussed along with MDI (connectedness to adults). COVID created long-term challenges with no clubs or extracurricular activities. Some activities are slowly resuming.
- Student voice: The Superintendent is meeting with students with both HMS and HPMS.
- More lunch-hour supervisors are needed.

A question was asked on the number of VTRA reports completed this year, and if we actions are working? (The Assistant Superintendent will bring the information back)

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

7.1 Cleaning Protocols

Summary of changes was presented: two main differences: last year: as per BCCDC, high-touch points needed to be cleaned twice a day (library, doorknobs). The high-touch point areas get cleaned once, not twice a day this year. BSWs are still doing all regular cleaning. Last year, we had 12FTE daytime cleaning, and we purchased disinfectant sprayers for every site, making the disinfecting process quicker. We still have higher custodial hours compared to pre-covid.

Annually, the Secretary Treasurer reviews enrolment data to ensure resources are being allocated based on need. Additional hours are allocated as needed.

A question was asked about protocol where there are repeated Covid cases. There is a large disinfecting machine brought to the site.

7.3 SD69 Letter to Minister Whiteside RE: Bus Replacement Funding for Electric Buses

The Board discussed writing to the Ministry of Education requesting funding for electric vehicles, and show leadership towards emission-free vehicles. The decision will be made at the Board Meeting on November 16, 2021.

The cost of an electric bus is much larger than the cost of a diesel bus. The government should help the procurement and support the electric technology.

7.4 FSA

FSA is an important and valuable system-wide measurement. FNEC indicated that they use the data provided by the FSA. FNEC needs about 80% participation to get some meaningful data for Grade 4 and Grade 7. The Board discussed writing a letter to parents to encourage their children to take the FSA. The Board would like to open this dialogue, to bring equity to the Indigenous children, as the inter-generational challenges are enough on their own. Data gathering and presentation needs to improve so parents understand the importance. Mission's rate for completing the FSAs is quite low, around 50%.

There was literature sent out to parents encouraging NOT to take the FSA. Fraser Institute provides misinformation about the FSA results.

8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

8.1 Special Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes, October 12, 2021

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

CARRIED

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

9.1 Government Surveys

The Ministry is surveying new assessment practices and substance use, links were shared.

9.2 Ventilation Systems Update

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm.

Original signed by T. Loffler
Chair, Board of Education

Original signed by C. Becker
Secretary-Treasurer

The minutes were approved on
December 7, 2021, at the Public
Committee of the Whole meeting.