



# Revelstoke Board of Education

## Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009

### Minutes

In Attendance: Margaret Verhaeghe, Doug Hamilton, Brenda Percell, Sue Leach, Michelle Cole, Lynne Barisoff, Jannica Hoskins, Anne Cooper and Shan Jorgenson-Adam and Guest: Audrey Nanimahoo

#### 1. Agenda Additions

- None
- Welcome Audrey Nanimahoo. Audrey is trying to start a Community Native Committee. She is looking into accessing grants to bring in cultural activities through the gallery. She wants to host a National Aboriginal Day on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 and plan for National Day of Healing and Reconciliation in May.

#### 2. Minutes of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 – no errors or omissions.

#### 3. Supervisor of Aboriginal Student Services Report

- Lynne Barisoff provided a written and verbal report
  - Revelstoke Secondary School is planning an event for the National Day of Healing and Reconciliation.
  - The support block will be offered again next year at RSS. This block promotes Aboriginal culture and completion of academic work.

#### 4. Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement

- Anne Cooper shared feedback from the meeting with the Ktunaxa Nation that included the following points:
  - All in all we had an excellent meeting where we were able to highlight the context of the Enhancement Agreement to date, the key elements and especially the commitment statements.
  - We discussed that at some point the document is basically “approved for release” as it is a living document which makes people more comfortable with publishing it even with issues of thoughts regarding wording and formatting.
  - We clarified that the reason we believe that a school-leaving certificate is a success is because the students on school leaving certificates in our school district are students who have a diagnosed special need. It is very rare that curriculum is modified in the district for any other students.
  - We discussed the importance of having strategies for teachers, administrators and support staff to develop skill and enhance awareness.
  - We discovered that the Ktunaxa Nation uses an Environmental Learning Plan in addition to an Individualized Education Plan. This supports student’s physical, social and other needs beyond intellectual.



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- We revised the draft with feedback from Marilyn James.
- Finalizing the Enhancement Agreement
  - Anne will try again this week to touch base with Colleen Hodgson from the Métis Nation.
  - A letter will be drafted and sent regarding signing ceremony and approval to release
- Initial thoughts regarding signing ceremony
  - Possible date – 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September
  - Shan to call Victor Jim to discuss dates
  - Shan and Anne to draft signatory and bearing witness(es) document
  - Location – open event - Columbia Park Elementary School gym, supper,
  - Ceremony Subcommittee confirmed – Shan, Jannica, Lynne, Margaret and Michelle

5. Adjourned

Next meeting June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009