



Revelstoke Board of Education

Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Meeting October 7th, 2014

Minutes

We recognize and honour the special relationship that exists with the First Nations within whose territories we live and learn.

Called to order at 4:14 pm.

In attendance: Michelle Cole, Lisa Moore, Nadia McLaren, and Ariel McDowell

Regrets: Bryan Dubasov and Mike Hooker

1. Agenda Additions
 - Pro-D events
 - Aboriginal Education Student Assistant posting
 - Analysis of reading results for Aboriginal students in the district
 - Graduation symbol for Inuit graduates
2. A review of the April 1st, 2014 Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes:
 - No errors or omissions
3. Review of the 2013-2014 Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement Annual Report
 - The report was distributed with some discussion regarding the purpose and history of enhancement agreements.
 - Notes from student discussions in the Spring of 2014 were displayed and shared informally at the end of the meeting.
4. Enhancement Agreement – Process for 2014/15
 - Michelle Cole described the process leading up to the first Enhancement Agreement, including a series of workshop events, some feasting ☺, and the evolution of a document that had input from a broad range of students, parents, educators and community members.
 - Discussion about who/what resources we have that can be accessed here in Revelstoke.
 - Consensus that there may be a role for some sort of “asset mapping” project to draw on local elders and expertise. Nadia was invited to speak a little about her filmmaking, art and illustrating background, and offered to do some presentations for the community and schools.
 - May need to reach out to beyond our community to get input from all 4 local first nations.

- Ariel McDowell will contact the Provincial Enhancement Agreement team as suggested by Ted Cadwallader, Acting Direct/Field Director of the Ministry of Education, Learning Division, Aboriginal Education in his August 25th, 2014 letter.
 - Goal is to have community meetings through January, February and March of 2015, with a signing ceremony event at the conclusion.
5. Reports
 - Lisa Moore shared her report.
 6. Correspondence:
 - Correspondence was reviewed.
 7. Pro-D Events
 - Ariel McDowell shared information for upcoming workshops
 - FNEESC Regional Session in Kamloops Nov. 24-25 (info at www.fnesc.ca/regional)
 - Can I Play Too? Autism presentation October 24th in Salmon Arm (\$20 registration)
 - Compassion Fatigue workshop in Revelstoke Nov. 21st <http://www.cfclinics.com/#!/compassion-fatigue/c246l>
 8. District posting for Aboriginal Student Position at Revelstoke Secondary School
 - Recruitment for a replacement is currently underway.
 9. Analysis of Reading Results for Aboriginal students in the district
 - Ariel McDowell provided the summary of reading results for the district's Aboriginal students in grades K-9. The analysis was done by Nian Zhu, District Principal, Student Support Services, based on data from May, 2014. The results indicate that just 6% of the students are at risk for low reading achievement – a percentage that is consistent with the incidence of reading disability within the general population. Schools will continue to provide targeted support to all our struggling readers. Additionally, one of the roles of our Aboriginal Student Assistants is to provide direct support for Aboriginal students' academic achievement.
 10. Graduation Symbol for Inuit Graduates
 - The committee will continue to ask for input about whether to offer a specific Inuit symbol to our graduates of Inuit heritage, or whether to adopt a graduation symbol that might recognize the broader heritage of all of our Aboriginal graduates (beyond the sash or blanket, which are currently offered).
 11. Adjourned:

Meeting adjourned at 5:11 pm.
Next meeting will be at 4:00 pm on Thursday, November 6th, 2014 at the School Board Office, Upper Office