



## Revelstoke Board of Education

### Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Meeting June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015

#### Minutes

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

Called to order at 4:00 pm.

In attendance: Michelle Cole, Lisa Moore, Leslie Savage, Sherrelle Anderson, Laura Stovel, Teria Davies, and Mike Hooker

Regrets: Ariel McDowell, Lissa Cancilla-Sykes, Nadia McLaren and Dana Reaume

1. Agenda Additions:
  - Upcoming Protocol Meeting on Hate Crimes.
  - Ad Hoc Meeting with Virgil Seymour regarding the Columbia River Treaty.
2. A review of the Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015:
  - It was noted that the mural project unveiling is to take place on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 5:30 to 7:30 in the Revelstoke Secondary School common area (MacPherson Court).
  - Lisa Moore will talk to students regarding a short talk acknowledging National Aboriginal Day.
3. Aboriginal Graduates:
  - There are four Grade 12 students that will be recognized at the graduation ceremonies and will receive a gift.
4. Requests from the Board of Education were made regarding wording for opening of meetings, space for programs and the “Two-Spirit” wording for the new policy of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity from the Policy Review Committee of the Board:
  - The recommended wording to recognize traditional territories at the commencement of School Board meetings is:

*“We would like to honour the four nations on whose traditional land we live and learn: the Sinixt, the Ktunaxa, the Secwepmec, and the Syilx. We respectfully acknowledge indigenous people, recognizing that our students come to us with Aboriginal ancestry from a variety of ancient homelands.”*
  - Space set aside in each school for Aboriginal students and programs
    - Arrow Heights Elementary School and Columbia Park Elementary School both have designated permanent space for the Aboriginal Education support programs.

- Revelstoke Secondary School has office space located in the counseling area and shares classroom space with the Social Studies Department.
  - Begbie View Elementary School has no permanent space and shares space in the multi-purpose room for programs.
- The Committee supported the wording provided in the Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) definition of “Two-Spirit”. Committee noted that the definition doesn’t include that being given the gift of two spirits (male and female) has traditionally been considered a privilege and it is recognized that there is a wide matrix associated with spirits, meaning there are many, many variations on the range between male and female and a combination of those spirits.
5. Community Aboriginal Liaison Position:
    - Michelle Cole provided background with respect to the body of work in the community that is needed to establish more of a community presence of Aboriginal peoples and welcomed Teria Davies to the role of Community Aboriginal Liaison.
    - The Committee reviewed the process for administering the contract which is supported by a grant from Columbia Basin Trust.
  6. Upcoming Protocol Meeting on Hate Crimes:
    - At the upcoming Protocol Meeting on Hate Crimes, Lisa Moore and Mike Hooker will both be speaking at the beginning of the meeting.
  7. Ad Hoc Meeting with Virgil Seymour regarding the Columbia River Treaty:
    - Virgil Seymour is bringing attention to the Columbia River Treaty through a project entitled “Put the Fish Back in the River”.
  8. Reports:
    - The reports from Lisa Moore, Revelstoke Secondary School Aboriginal Student Assistant and Nadia McLaren, Elementary Aboriginal Student Assistant are included in the Summer 2015 Newsletter.
    - Newsletters are sent to all Aboriginal Education partners as a means to keep everyone informed with respect to the work around Aboriginal education and our Enhancement Agreement.
  9. Adjourned:

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.  
Next meeting will be at pm on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the School Board Office, Upper Office