



Revelstoke Board of Education

Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Meeting October 1st, 2015

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 4:00 pm.

In attendance:

Lisa Moore, Sherrelle Anderson, Lissa Cancilla-Sykes, Michelle Cole, and Ariel McDowell

Regrets: Leslie Savage, and Laura Stovel

1. Agenda Additions:

- Update of Aboriginal Student Support numbers for the Ministry (Ariel McDowell)
- Orange Shirt Day (Michelle Cole)
- Letters from students who received the Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee bursary in June of 2015
- Plaque for the Jerry Whitehead mural outside the Performing Arts Centre

2. Review of the Minutes from September 10th, 2015

- one correction: the Revelstoke Museum and Archives Sinixt display will be open October 22nd, 2015 (not September 22nd, 2015)
- need to confirm the date for the Sinixt visit (Ariel McDowell will do this and communicate to the committee members)
- still looking forward to seeing the canoe and mural displayed; Jeff Wilson has made a great temporary display of the canoe in the RSS library

3. Enhancement Agreement

- Michelle Cole, Sherrelle Anderson, Leslie Savage, Ariel McDowell and Lisa Moore met on September 17th, 2015 to begin to organize the feedback from all the consultation sessions
- thank you to Lisa Moore for typing out all 115 points from the chart paper
- further discussion and four major goal areas have been decided:
 - a) Aboriginal teaching and learning for all students across the curriculum
 - b) Success and well-being for Aboriginal students

- c) Enhanced Aboriginal presence in community
- d) Build capacity of educators in SD19 to implement Aboriginal content/knowledge/ first peoples' principles of learning
- developed a very rough sketch of the four goal areas that is representative of the geography of Revelstoke
- Ariel will categorize the notes into objectives, strategies, and indicators as a draft to work from for next meeting
- we will make time for a 15 minute working session at the November 5th, 2015 Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee meeting

4. Reports

- the Fall Aboriginal Education newsletter is out and in circulation to all the schools and families of Aboriginal students
- the newsletter will be sent to all our Enhancement Agreement participants so they can know what is going on
- Lisa Moore shared her report and shared that she had been to a professional workshop on Mental Health First Aid
- Sherrelle shared her letter of introduction in the newsletter, and gave an additional report orally:
 - a. She spent the first two weeks contacting parents, and has been in touch with almost all of them
 - b. She spent last week meeting every child K-7 with Aboriginal ancestry and giving them the Ab Ed permission slips
 - c. Almost all permission slips have been collected from elementary students
 - d. Has started in classrooms this week: in Grade 6/7 doing a unit on language and language loss, in Grade 1 doing a unit on season change and integrating that into a year-long project with connections to the Medicine Wheel, in Kindergarten doing a unit on Dog Salmon
 - e. Ran a dip net making station at the annual Fish Festival for 117 Grade 2 students

5. 2015 Aboriginal Student Support numbers

- Ariel shared that we have 116 students with identified Aboriginal ancestry, 111 of whom wish to participate in Aboriginal support programs this year

6. Orange Shirt Day

- there is a new campaign to remember those affected by Residential Schools
- takes place on September 30th of each year
- we may want to participate next year
- include as an April 2016 agenda item so we can begin planning for the event

7. Thank you letters from scholarship recipients

- Aimee Bedard sends thanks to the Committee for her \$500 scholarship. Aimee is doing some upgrading and hopes to be registered in a post-secondary program in September 2016. The Committee agrees to hold her scholarship until September 2016.
- Jordan McCabe wrote a letter of thanks to the Committee for his \$500 scholarship. Jordan is registered at a post secondary institution and has made use of the scholarship money. He intends to study architecture.

8. Plaque for the Jerry Whitehead mural outside the Performing Arts Centre

- At Mike Hooker's request, Lissa Cancilla-Sykes has submitted the wording for the plaque to Susie Salon, who will order the plaque
- Ariel will follow up with Mike Hooker regarding the date for the installation of the plaque

9. Adjourned:

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Next meeting will be at 4:00 pm on Thursday, November 5th, 2015 at the School Board Office, Upper Office