



Revelstoke Board of Education

Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Meeting November 5th, 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: Michelle Cole, Lisa Moore, Leslie Savage, Sherrelle Anderson, Lissa Cancilla-Sykes, Ariel McDowell, and Mike Hooker

Regrets: Laura Stovel

1. Agenda Additions
 - Audit of the Education of Aboriginal Students in the BC Public School System
 - Truth and Reconciliation Posters
2. A review of the October 1st, 2015 Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes:
 - Change references to mural artist George Littlechild to Jerry Whitehead
 - Lissa Cancilla-Sykes and Leslie Savage will write up a short informational plaque for display with the sturgeon-nosed canoe
 - Ariel McDowell will use Nadia McLaren's artist statement to inform a short informational plaque for display with the mural.
 - Both plaques (for the mural and sturgeon-nosed canoe) will be completed by the end of December.
3. Scholarships
 - The Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee generally plans for 4 scholarships of \$500. This year there are 8 graduates who are expected to graduate.
 - Scholarship monies not allocated are carried forward to the following year.
4. Medicine Wheel Update
 - Lissa Cancilla presented a model of the proposed Medicine Wheel rock arrangement made for the Greenbelt by students Frank Allen and Alex Tilden. These students have also presented to David Rooney, a representative of the Greenbelt Society. The approval of the Greenbelt Society is required in order for the project to proceed.

5. Enhancement Agreement (EA)
 - The EA working group will meet on November 26th, 2015 to further develop objectives, strategies and indicators within our 4 goal areas. When that is completed, Committee member will be asked to provide the draft document to local and nearby contacts. The timeline for the signing the 2nd Enhancement Agreement is June 2016.

6. Reports:
 - Sherrelle Anderson provided an oral report:
 - Kindergarten students have been learning about the Journey of Dog Salmon, and have done related crafts. Displays of their work are up at BVE and CPE.
 - K/1s have been learning about the Owl creation story and the story of cedar.
 - Primary classes are learning about seasonal changes from an Aboriginal perspective, using the Medicine Wheel as a frame. Students have taken their learning outside and gathered photo and physical evidence of the Fall season. This activity will be done for the rest of the year as seasons change.
 - Grade 7 students are learning about language preservation, the history of Treaties in Canada from a First Nations perspective. Students are also learning that First Nations veterans are honored on Remembrance Day with cedar wreaths and students made some of the cedar wreaths for display.

 - Lisa Moore provided a written report.

The December 2015 reports will be in the Winter 2015 Aboriginal Education Newsletter. Please provide any newsletter items to Ariel McDowell by November 26th, 2015.

7. Audit of the Education of Aboriginal Students in the BC Public School System
 - Ariel McDowell advised that the Auditor General has released a report of the audit of the education of Aboriginal student in the BC Public School System. Ariel will post the audit in the Aboriginal Education conference on First Class. The audit report notes that while improvements have occurred in the past 10 years, Districts and the Ministry need to do more to ensure Aboriginal students have success equivalent to their non-Aboriginal peers.

8. Truth and Reconciliation Posters
 - Mike Hooker has posters to distribute to each of the schools. The posters summarize the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

9. Adjourned:

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.
Next meeting will be at 4:00 pm on Thursday, December 3rd, 2015 at the School Board Office, Upper Office