



Revelstoke Board of Education

Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Meeting November 3rd, 2016

Minutes

***We would like to acknowledge and honour the four nations
on whose traditional land we live and learn:
the Sinixt, the Ktunaxa, the Secwepmec, and the Syilx.***

Called to order at 4:03 pm.

In attendance: Michelle Cole, Blake Bara, Chantal Wilson, Lisa Moore, Leslie Savage, Lissa Cancilla-Sykes, Karin O'Neill, Laura Stovel, Jennifer Wolney, and Ariel McDowell

1. Agenda Additions
 - Columbia River Conference (Laura Stovel)
2. A review of the October 6th, 2016 Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes:
 - No errors or omissions
3. Enhancement Agreement
 - Strengthening staff competence and confidence in implementing the Goals of the Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement (AEA) has been a key focus so far this year.
 - Ongoing Pro-D opportunities to help staff feel confident integrating our AEA include:
 - Plant walk October 21st with Lisa and Karin;
 - Upcoming presentation December 5th designed for Educational Assistants "Aboriginal Worldviews and Perspectives";
 - RTA Pro-D Committee is planning to bring in BCTF workshops for next year (one Elementary, one Secondary).
 - Speakers are also being brought in for the community and other service providers:
 - Dr. Lee Brown, Director of the UBC Institute of Aboriginal Health on February 24th, 2017
 - Dr. Martin Brokenleg, author of *Circle of Courage*, on May 5th, 2017.
 - Regional invitation to attend SD 83's Pro-D on February 17th, 2017 featuring Dr. Leroy Littlebear, storytelling, Aboriginal materials and resources and author Nicola Campbell.

4. Acknowledgment Wording for Revelstoke Board of Education Meetings
 - With the changes to our previous recommended opening acknowledgement, Lisa Moore and Ariel McDowell will work to provide revised wording. Michelle Cole will sign the letter as Chair.

5. Reports:
 - Lisa Moore's provided a written report. A few highlights include:
 - Continuing in the Aboriginal Education Support Block as there are 5 different classes going on, Lissa Cancilla Sykes and Lisa Moore continue the "One Room Schoolhouse" approach.
 - Visited two Art classes to talk about Aboriginal art – what it is, how to be respectful, what cultural appropriation is, examples of modern Aboriginal artists.
 - Maintaining contact with parents, in particular parents of a few high-needs students.
 - Visited classes at Begbie View Elementary School with Karin O'Neill to talk about residential schools and to assist with sewing.
 - Developed professional development program with Karin O'Neill on Seasonal Rounds and traditional plant use.
 - Visited a grade 12 English class with Ariel McDowell, District Principal, Aboriginal Education. The class is studying the book *1984* and the teacher noted the similarities with the residential school system.

 - Karin O'Neill
 - Presented Residential School lessons for Grades 4 through 7 classes, based on learning lessons developed in the Comox Valley
 - Materials centered on the importance of empathy and compassion.
 - Amazing discussions, students didn't want the series to be done.
 - Has led to spin-off projects:
 - CPE Grade 4 inquiry, "What can we do to raise awareness about the history of Residential Schools for our own community?"
 - AHE Grade 3/4 class is raising money for a project.
 - Cultural programs at lunch have been very well attended.
 - Some classes are learning dances (Circle dancing).
 - Language – learning to count to 10 in Cree.
 - Beading and sewing has been popular with Intermediates.
 - The Boy's group is cooking bannock, sharing it with their class and then teaching the class how to make it.

6. Agenda Addition – "One River, Ethics Matters". Laura Stovel presented a conference opportunity for Saturday, May 13th, 2017 in Revelstoke. The conference will bring together all four Nations, as well as interested individuals and groups to look at efforts to restore the health of the Columbia. Laura asked the Advisory Committee what classes or school groups could be involved. It was suggested that she contact Sue Leach at Columbia Park Elementary School who is doing a year-long inquiry on

7. salmon with her Grade 5 class. It was also suggested that she contact Kim Floyd at Begbie View Elementary School as her class is interviewing long time Revelstoke residents to learn about Revelstoke before the dams were built and flooded parts of this area. There may be an opportunity for a display of art at the Visual Arts Centre which would correspond with the conference; student artwork would be a beautiful addition.
8. Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Next meeting dates (all at 4:00 pm at the School Board Office, Upper Meeting Room):

December 1st, 2016
February 2nd, 2017
March 2nd, 2017
April 6th, 2017
May 4th, 2017
June 8th, 2017