



Revelstoke Board of Education

Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Meeting October 3rd, 2017

Minutes

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

Called to order at 4:00 pm.

In attendance: Chantal Wilson, Lisa Moore, Lissa Cancilla-Sykes, Jillian Wiesner, Jessica Stewardson, and Ariel McDowell

Regrets: Michelle Cole, Laura Stovel, Amanda Richardson and Mike Hooker

1. Agenda Additions

- Thank you to Jessica Stewardson for chairing in Michelle's absence. Michelle has let the Committee know that this will be her last year as Chair, and she encourages us to begin looking for a replacement.
- Carousel of Nations – Lisa will talk about this briefly after her report.

2. Introduction of Amanda Richardson, School District No. 19 (Revelstoke) Trustee Representative on the Committee.

- Amanda was unable to be here, but Jillian Wiesner has joined our Committee as the RTA representative, so we did brief introductions and a welcome.

3. A review of the June 1st, 2017 Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes:

- No errors or omissions noted.
- Discussion about the Next Steps listed for this year. Ariel noted that the huckleberry jam for our meeting was a gift from Virgil Seymour's cousin. We hope to be able to develop strong connections with the new Sinixt representative, Shelley Boyd. Lisa noted that she will travel to visit members of the Ktunaxa with Advisory Chair Cole this month.

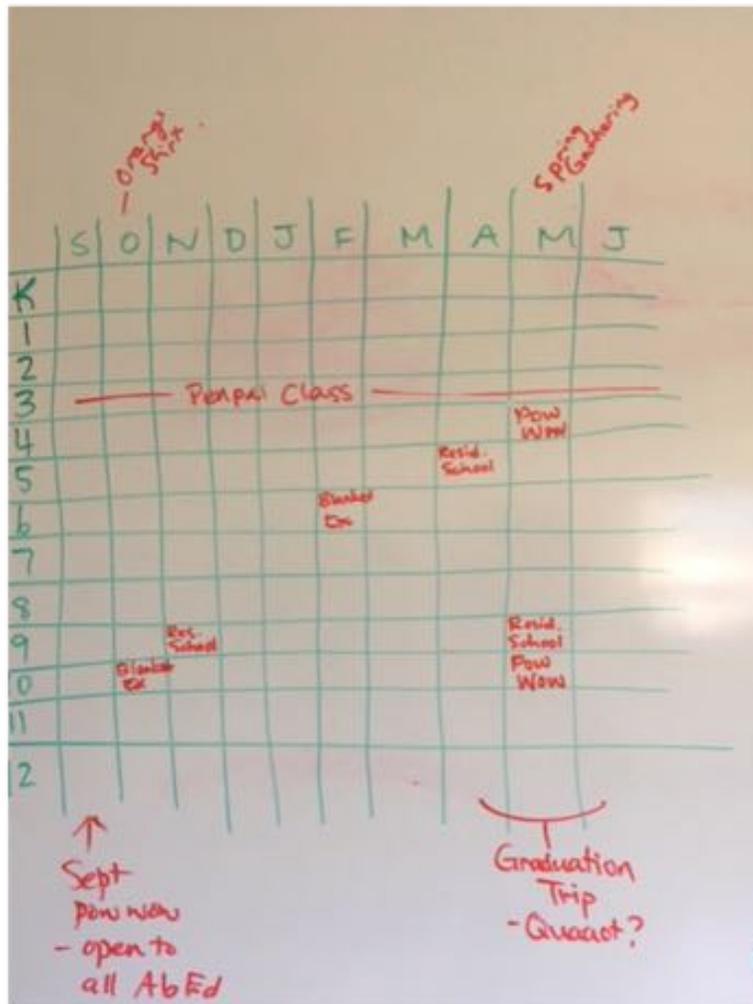
4. Thank you's from the 2017 Grade 12 Graduate recipients of the Aboriginal Education Bursaries.
 - Alesha Byers
 - Jade-Lyn Harder

5. Enhancement Agreement – The Committee spent time reviewing the Agreement to remind ourselves of the vision and goals for the year. First Peoples' Principles of Learning were distributed to go up in each classroom, in support of Goal 2.

6. Reports:
 - *Lisa Moore, Revelstoke Secondary School, Aboriginal Student Assistant (attached)*
 - In addition to Lisa's report, she presented a request from the Multicultural Society for a letter of support as they are writing a grant to continue the Carousel of Nations. This event happens in early February. The Committee agreed to write a letter of support, which Lisa drafted. It will be sent to the Chair to be signed.

 - *Jessica Stewardson, Elementary Aboriginal Student Assistant*
 - Enjoyed hosting the Aboriginal Education station at the Fish Festival on September 22nd. Shared stories of Salmon, and helped students make dip nets made from bent willow. All Grade 2s in the District.
 - On September 21st, 2017, we attended the 9th Annual Okanagan College Pow Wow, bringing 82 students from Revelstoke all the way to Kelowna. Students from around our Region attended the Pow Wow. This event is a great introduction to the tradition of the Pow Wow, since they knew that many of the students were attending for the first time. We did some teaching and learning about Pow Wow etiquette, and many students enjoyed participating in the dances.
 - I am visiting each of the Kindergarten classes to help Monica Penner, Speech-Language Pathologist, do a program that works on developing speech sounds in young children. The program is called Moe the Mouse, and draws on traditions, stories and names for animals in the local language.
 - I am joining the Parents as Wellness Supporters program in Sarah Newton's class to add some culturally relevant ways to manage stress and anxiety. For example, I will talk to students and parents about the Seven Teachings, and the importance of balance.
 - This was my first year having to track down all the permission slips for students to participate in Ab Ed, so that has been time consuming!

- I'm looking forward to doing a pot luck lunch in each of the schools, with students and their families in the next few weeks.
- *Lissa Cancilla-Sykes, Aboriginal Education Helping Teacher*
 - Lisa shared the results of her inquiry last year, in her role as Aboriginal Helping Teacher. From recurrent questions teachers had, she has created themed bins. Lissa will be visiting staff meetings and department head meetings to introduce the resources and plan how best to offer the pro-d. Some of the topic areas include:
 - Territory and the land – will be the first pro-d session
 - Science and outdoor learning
 - Storytelling and oral tradition
 - Ceremony and protocols, including drumming
 - Residential schools (junior and senior kits)
 - Ab Ed district-wide planning from last year – we plan to choose grade levels and special events so that students get opportunities at certain grades. Here is a draft of what we planned:



- Adjourned:

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

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

- November 2nd, 2017
- December 7th, 2017
- February 8th, 2018
- March 1st, 2018
- April 5th, 2018
- May 3rd, 2018
- June 7th, 2018

Steering Committee Report
Lisa Moore, RSS Support Worker
October 3, 2017

September has kept me busy meeting new students, reconnecting with returning students, touching base with parents, and tracking down the dreaded 1701 consent forms. We did have a field trip to the Okanagan College Youth Powwow in Kelowna, with over 80 students, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, attending. Some of the students even danced, which was wonderful to see.

This year I have over 50 students on my case load; this includes the “official” students who have returned the parent consent forms as well as a few who have left school but stay in contact or may be doing work experience after graduation, or who may not be comfortable identifying as Aboriginal this year but have done so in the past. I assist in the Aboriginal Connections class with Lissa Cancilla-Sykes, spend one-on-one time with a few students and provide academic support as needed. I was also able to attend a meeting with Work BC to help support the transition of one of our 2017 grads into the work force. Other duties have been to take students to doctor appointments, visiting guardians to get forms filled out, and helping with the breakfast program at RSS.

Orange Shirt Day was successful in that the students heard about the event on the morning announcements and many students and staff wore an orange shirt to school on Friday, September 29.

We received an invitation to visit the Ktunaxa Education and Outreach coordinator, Leanna Gravelle. Michelle and I are planning to go to Cranbrook October 20. Hopefully this will lead to closer ties with the Ktunaxa nation.