



Revelstoke Board of Education

Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Meeting November 2nd, 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: Michelle Cole, Lisa Moore, Lissa Cancilla-Sykes, Jessica Stewardson, Amanda Richardson, and Ariel McDowell

1. Agenda Additions

- Correspondence
 - Tammy Thomas, Director of Education for Neskonlith Band, and Irene Laboucane, Director of Aboriginal Education for School District No. 83 (Salmon Arm) have been in touch to see if they can visit. They would like to meet our Advisory Committee. Ariel McDowell will invite them to the December 7th, 2017 meeting.
 - Amanda Richardson has links to send out from the BC School Trustees' Association Thompson Okanagan Branch Meeting.

2. A review of the October 3rd, 2017 Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes:

- No errors or omissions
- Discussion arising from Minutes
 - Chair Michelle Cole thanked Jessica Stewardson for chairing the last meeting
 - A Letter of Support for the Carousel of Nations event was sent by the Committee to the Multicultural Society
 - Lisa Moore and Ariel McDowell travelled to the Grandparents' Tea at Okanagan College on October 25th, 2017. While there they met with many Elders and Knowledge Keepers from Neskonlith and Splatshin.

3. Enhancement Agreement

- Tutoring
 - There was a discussion about tutor services for students of Aboriginal Ancestry.
 - Ariel noted that some neighbouring districts provide tutoring support.

- The Committee recommended that the Stoke Youth Network be contacted to request if there is funding available for this purpose. Ariel McDowell will contact Leslie Hogg of the Stoke Youth Network.
 - Bursaries
 - The Committee will work to clarify some parameters around the bursary program. Currently, the budget does not include sufficient funds to provide a bursary to all graduating students.
 - Ariel will survey other districts including Tammy Thomas, Director of Education for Neskonlith Band, and Irene Laboucane, Director of Aboriginal Education for School District No. 83 (Salmon Arm) to provide information on what kinds of bursary programs are supported elsewhere.
 - Updated Data Collection on our Trailmarkers
 - Committee reviewed program data from each school, participation rates, and literacy achievement data district-wide. We will add to this at the next meeting, with attendance rates.
4. Reports:
- Fall Newsletter has been published. Susie Salon will send out the newsletter by email as soon as possible.
 - Jessica Stewardson
 - Working on making drums with 8-10 really keen students.
 - Jerry Thomas, Cultural Teacher with Neskonlith Band visited this week, and will be back to do some hands-on teaching with students.
 - Family luncheons start Nov. 9th. Jessica is making moose meat stew and bannock and inviting the families of Ab Ed students in to each of the schools.
 - Jessica has now worked in almost every Elementary class in the district (only 2 more to go!). Lunchtime programs are going strong at all the schools. AHE and BVE are now well-established and CPE is coming along.
 - Working with students in Mrs. Newton's class to do an enrichment project with Ab Ed students.
 - Presented as part of the Parents as Wellness Supporters program this week – helped students and parents learn about how a drum can be used as a method to focus and calm.
 - Lisa Moore
 - Continuing contact with Leanna from Ktunaxa Nation to arrange a visit, planning for ethnobotany, outdoor games, etc.
 - In classes a lot this semester; particularly enjoying the discussion in SS 9 with Mr. Stevens. For example, the debrief he did with his class after the performance on Residential schools (*Qualena*); he kept the focus on the resilience of the survivors, great discussions.

- Lisa has written a grant application to the First Nations Health Authority to teach about honouring tobacco, and help Ab Ed students who want to quit smoking to have the cultural tools to help them.
 - Partnerships have been formed with Revelstoke Friendship Society and the Local Food Initiative food recovery program.
 - A lunchtime beading group has started at RSS, from interest expressed by a non-aboriginal education student. Lisa is leading this group.
- Lissa Cancilla-Sykes
 - *Qualena* performance by Dallas Yellowfly was very impactful. Three classes attended, lots of good feedback and questions from students. About 80% of audience indicated that they knew about Residential schools before the performance, so that tells us Goal 2 is coming along.
 - Lissa has been working with Jeff Wilson and Kelly Mohn in the RSS Library, and the bins are catalogued and ready to be loaned out. Lissa will be presenting a pro-d series in after school sessions throughout the year for teachers to become more comfortable and knowledgeable about the content. The session will start Nov. 23rd, 2017 with 5 sessions in the series.
 - Amanda Richardson
 - Amanda shared that the BC School Trustees Association Thompson Okanagan Branch meeting of the Aboriginal Education Committee went well. She will send out some links that the Committee members shared with her.

5. Adjourned:

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.

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

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