



Revelstoke Board of Education

Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Meeting December 7th, 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, Chantal Wilson, Lisa Moore, Lissa Cancilla-Sykes, Laura Stovel, Jessica Stewardson, Amanda Richardson, Ariel McDowell, and Mike Hooker

Guests: Irene Laboucane, SD83 District Principal, Aboriginal Education and Tammy Thomas, Neskonlith Education Director

1. Agenda Additions
 - None
2. A review of the November 2nd, 2017 Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes:
 - No errors or omissions
 - A discussion on bursaries will need to be on the next agenda
3. Welcome to Guests, Irene Laboucane, SD83 District Principal, Aboriginal Education and Tammy Thomas, Neskonlith Education Director
4. Reports: (brief this month to give time for sharing and questions with Guests)
 - Lisa Moore – RSS
 - i. Soup making with students each week
 - ii. Supporting lots of students in classes with academics this year
 - iii. Aboriginal Connections class traveled to CPE today to share stories with Kindergarten students (using puppets!)
 - iv. Has shared beading knowledge with students at RSS and CPE
 - Lissa Cancilla-Sykes – RSS
 - i. Teacher prod sessions to support them to implement Indigenous content and ways of knowing with confidence
 - ii. Development of resource kits continues; available for sign out from the RSS library
 - iii. Using storytelling to connect older and younger students – fostering leadership potential of Aboriginal students

- Jessica Stewardson – Elementary
 - i. Family luncheons (moose stew) have been held at 2 of 3 schools so far; well-attended, so great to meet families
 - ii. Jerry Thomas came for a visit again (unplanned!), but will have him back for two days in January at CPE
 - iii. Special cultural projects are on the go with students who are keen (drum making, family history, local traditional housing, etc.)
5. Introductions, questions and sharing in a talking circle format. Some highlights included:
- Irene outlined programs in her District, for example:
 - i. Beginning to use the term 'Indigenous' rather than 'Aboriginal'
 - ii. She shared that SD83 and Bands maintain a Knowledge Keepers list which is vetted by each of the 4 Bands
 - iii. Youth Voice – students come together to implement leadership projects, choose projects based on medicine wheel teachings
 - iv. Healthy Living training and granting is available from FNHA
 - v. Board has adopted the findings of the TRCC, reports back to Chiefs about progress on teacher capacity, resources, student empathy, curriculum implementation
 - vi. Teacher allies in each school (short in-service at each staff meeting, inquiry supported with 4 TTOC days a year, trained to conduct the blanket exercise)
 - Tammy Thomas shared her role, including running the Band school, and supporting Neskonlith students who attend school in SD #83
 - i. Shared the rich family inheritance shared by the children and grandchildren of Mary Thomas, shared examples of pine needle and birch basketry and quill stitching from the Thomas Family
 - ii. Highlighted the value and meaning of sharing knowledge, including the members who have permission to share
 - iii. Tammy would like to encourage Elders and Knowledge Keepers from Neskonlith to come to Revelstoke, and she looks forward to invitations from Revelstoke (SD and Friendship Centre)
 - iv. Tammy presented tobacco pouches handmade by Millie, Mother of the Neskonlith Chief, Judy Wilson
6. Adjourned:
Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

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

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