



Revelstoke Board of Education

Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Meeting May 3rd, 2018

Minutes

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

Called to order at 4:05 pm.

In attendance: Michelle Cole, Chantal Wilson, Lisa Moore, Lissa Cancilla-Sykes, Jessica Stewardson, Amanda Richardson, Ariel McDowell, and Mike Hooker

Regrets: Jillian Wiesner, Laura Stovel

1. Agenda Additions - none
2. A review of the March 1st, 2018 Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes:
 - Small change in Lisa's report: the second student who traveled to the Blood Reserve is not an Ab Ed student
3. Welcome to Rachel Braund, Revelstoke Team Leader, Ministry of Children and Family Development
 - Members of the Aboriginal Education Advisory introduced themselves.
 - Rachel explained her role and described some of the changes in the mandate and processes where Indigenous children and families become involved with MCFD.
 - Rachel would like to be added to the Advisory Committee to receive agendas and minutes and attend meetings as she is available.
 - The Committee expressed gratitude to Rachel for a recent opportunity her office helped facilitate with a student visiting his Band.
4. Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Chairperson
 - Michelle Cole confirmed that she will be stepping down from the position of Chair. Today's meeting will be Michelle's last as chair, as she has work obligations for the June meeting. However, Michelle will be at the June 21st Aboriginal Day festivities, so the Committee will establish a time to properly honour her there. Much more remains to be said about the steady leadership Michelle has provided our Committee for many, many

years, but it is with sincere gratitude and appreciation that we bid Michelle farewell and happy travels!

- The role and responsibilities of the Chair position were described.
- Chantal Wilson's name was put forward to become Chairperson.
- Chantal accepted the nomination, and is the Aboriginal Advisory Committee's new Chairperson. Thank you, Chantal!

5. Enhancement Agreement

- Our two EA goals were posted and reference made to the work that all Aboriginal Education staff are doing to fully implement the goals and objectives therein. We are concluding the second of five years of the current Enhancement Agreement.

6. Reports:

- Jessica Stewardson highlighted some of the many activities she is facilitating in the Elementary schools, including:
 - Teaching and learning about the tradition of totem poles, including some of the local variations and interpretations of figures used, protocols around raising totem poles.
 - Working with Secwepemc Elder Doris and her son Duane and students and parents of BVE to sew jingle dresses and pow wow cowls, also learning two dances. Watch for students to share their beautiful costumes in June!
 - Running a station for the PAUSE for Mental Health parent participation sessions with Grade 5s at CPE.

- Lisa Moore shared some highlights from her work at RSS, noting:

Over the winter some of our students have worked on beadwork projects. I had mentioned to them that many people put one "wrong" bead, sometimes called a Spirit bead, somewhere in their project, to remind us that nobody is perfect. This seems to have really resonated with some of the students and they always include a randomly coloured bead somewhere. I think maybe it is comforting to know that they even though they sometimes get in trouble, they are not the only ones who aren't perfect.

One of our students is a member of the Blood Blackfoot nation, so when there was an opportunity to attend a conference on youth empowerment, with Dr. Gabor Maté as keynote speaker, we thought this would be a great way to start connecting this student with his nation. We took two students and attended the two-day conference which also featured the comedian Dallas Goldtooth – a favorite of the students. It was a very valuable experience.

At this time of year many students are planning for next fall – new classes, new schools, new jobs and I've been able to help some of them with their plans. We have six Aboriginal students graduating this year and we will

present them with a commemorative blanket. Also, I am trying to connect with grade 7 students who are moving to RSS in the fall so that their transition is easier. Spring is an exciting time of year, full of changes and plans and new beginnings.

- Lissa Cancilla-Sykes shared highlights from her work with educators in the District. Her written report is appended to these minutes.
- Ariel mentioned that a Spring Ab Ed newsletter will be out in a week's time, with highlights and information.

7. Adjourned:

Meeting adjourned at 5:08 pm.

Next meeting June 7th, 2018 at 4:00 pm at the School Board Office, Upper Meeting Room