



Revelstoke Board of Education

Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting February 4th, 2021

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: Lisa Moore, Marlene Krug, Stephanie Dodds, Erin England, Sarah Zimmer, Greg Kenyon, Todd Hicks, Marlene Brajak (Welcome new member), and Mike Hooker

Regrets: Chantal Wilson and Lissa Cancilla-Sykes

1. Agenda Additions
 - Equity Scan (Item #4) – Student Participation
 - Revelstoke Secondary School Indigenous Education Department
2. A review of the December 3rd, 2020 Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes:
 - No errors or omissions
3. Minutes of the Equity Scan Team meeting of November 26th, 2020
 - The minutes were reviewed.
 - Committee members provided positive feedback on the Equity Scan process.
4. Equity Scan
 - Principals will be working with their staffs in bite size chunks to scan school level information. Elementary schools looked at Question #14 *Does the learning environment readily reflect the First People's Principles of Learning?* Short slideshow prepared by Ariel McDowell, Principal of Begbie View Elementary School, was shared. The slideshow was of a recent staff inquiry project.
5. Equity Scan – Student Participation (agenda addition)
 - Students from the Revelstoke Secondary School Indigenous Connections course have set a goal to be involved in a collaborative

project that involves the community. RSS Teacher Erin England would like to have the students scan elementary school students on Question 14. Which is *Does the learning environment readily reflect the First People's Principles of Learning?* The Indigenous Connections Class will develop a rubric to assess the question: "*Do I see First People's Principles of Learning in the environment?*" Their work will include what they see, their findings and their recommendations.

- The Committee discussed having the RSS students in the elementary schools and there were some concerns raised regarding having the students visit the schools. It was noted that protocols are in place for such an occasion. The visit should not be intrusive and will include an awareness of potential anxiety/concern.
6. Honouring Truth and Reconciliation – UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People's Act – Bill C-15
- This item has been tabled to the next meeting in order to include the declaration.
7. Request for feedback on the Affirmation Statement from the district's draft Mission Vision Values statement "*Our school community affirms its commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples through understanding of Indigenous history, world views and knowing.*"
- Superintendent Hooker explained that the Education Committee is reviewing the district's mission vision and values statements and are seeking the feedback of the Indigenous Education Committee as to whether or not a statement on a commitment to reconciliation is appropriate, and if so, how it should read.
 - Discussion included:
 - Rephrasing of statement provided.
 - The statement should be affirming and not disrespectful or presumptuous.
 - The Truth and Reconciliation document references the importance of education and we need to ensure we are not 'just ticking boxes'.
 - Two questions raised were:
 - Should the statement be broader than Indigenous peoples (world view)?
 - Whose voice should the statement represent?
 - It is important to bring in student and family perspective.
8. Staffing Update
- Elementary Support Worker time has been increased from 25 hr/wk to 30 hr/wk. The District has looked into providing additional Indigenous Education teacher support time but have been unable to find suitable candidates for staffing the replacement time.

9. Mid-Year Newsletter

- It was agreed that a newsletter should be developed for distribution in late February or early March. Todd Hicks, District Principal Student Services, will gather information from the Indigenous Connections students along with updated from the Elementary and Secondary Indigenous Student Assistants.
- Todd Hicks, District Principal Student Services, will provide an update on the Equity Scan process.

10. Reports:

- Elementary Indigenous Student Assistant, Marlene Krug, highlighted her written report noting she has had to develop a tracking method to keep track of the classes she is working with and the activities she is supporting/doing as there is so much going on. Currently, connections to music and story-telling is happening; working through Laura Stovel's book Swift River - Stories of the First People and First Travelers on the Columbia River around Revelstoke for specific grades/groups and is increasing the use of Ktunaxa language in schools including during announcements.
- Secondary Indigenous Student Assistant, Lisa Moore, highlighted her written reporting noting that she has been supporting a number of individual students. The tipi cover is coming in this month and she is working with the Revelstoke Arts and Culture Committee on a community celebration of National Indigenous Peoples Day which is on June 21st, 2021.

11. Adjourned:

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.

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

- March 4th, 2021
- May 6th, 2021
- June 3rd, 2021