



School District No. 57 (Prince George)

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

#102 – 155 McDermid Drive, Prince George, B.C. V2M 4T8

Phone: 250-562-4843 • Fax: 250-561-2520



Aboriginal Education Committee Meeting Minutes

NOVEMBER 15, 2018

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE
BOARDROOM

MEETING CHAIR	Holly Pastoral
RECORDER	Pamela Holat
OPENING PRAYER	Victor Jim

OPENING:	<p>Meeting started at 10:30 am with an opening prayer.</p> <p>Chairperson acknowledged the traditional territories of Lheidli T'enneh Band and the McLeod Lake Indian Band on which SD57 resides and works on.</p> <p>Members take a moment to have a round of introductions.</p>
ITEM 1: ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS / APPROVAL OF AGENDA / APPROVAL OF JUNE & SEPT. MINUTES	<p>Chairperson asked the table for any additions for the agenda today.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aboriginal Ed. Worker reporting system is added to the agenda. <p>Chairperson asked for approval of the agenda and minutes from both June and September.</p> <p>The agenda and minutes presented were approved with no objections</p>



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<p>ITEM 2:</p> <p>AEC NEW MEMBERS INTRODUCTIONS</p>	<p>New members of the Aboriginal Education Committee introduced themselves.</p> <p>Jennifer Pighin, Teacher. Noelle Pepin, Teacher. Conrad Turner, Principal Sarah Petrisor, Principal Ronnie West, Elder in Residence.</p>
<p>ITEM 3:</p> <p>ADDITIONAL MEMBER UPDATE</p>	<p>The following updates were provided:</p> <p><u>Parent / Guardian Rep:</u> The Ab. Ed. Dept. sent out a publication that was placed in school newsletters, currently around 7 or 8 parents/guardians are interested. Nov 23rd is the deadline for interest.</p> <p><u>Metis representative:</u> The Ab. Ed. department has their community outreach worker connecting with the Metis community to find a representative for our committee.</p> <p>Our new Trustee representative will be Vice-Chair, Sharel Warrington.</p> <p><u>Student Representatives:</u> Two students from DSAC, will be available after they have their committee established.</p> <p>The recording secretary will provide an update on member recruitment for the next meeting.</p>
<p>ITEM 4:</p> <p>STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES</p>	<p>Feedback from both the Policy and Governance and the EPPC meetings was very positive. A brief overview of the thorough process for policies was provided. Many stakeholders get more than one opportunity to provide input in between the reviews, recommendations, and any changes that are presented regarding the policy before it is finalized. Some policies go for a 60-day consultation process. This committee can ask to have matters added to standing committee agendas. Members who attended these meetings learned about many positive things happening in the school district. Suggestions were made around distributing a newsletter twice a year to parents that would encourage parents to seek out the information they are curious about on the websites. The school district is considering doing a review of their communications systems.</p>



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	<p>Feedback from standing committees also brought out a conversation around the financial obstacles, the peer pressures, and the frustrations around graduation. Applying for post-secondary, scholarships and student loans presents another stress for students and their families. Extra support for students from grade 10 to 12 to help them on a solid path to graduation was discussed. This can be explored further with consultation with high school’s guidance offices as a starting point. This designated position could help connect with first nation’s education coordinators and with community agencies to help remove any obstacles or barriers that a student may have. Graduation is a school event and therefore hardships are covered; proms are not school events and are often run by parents. Graduating students might feel the peer pressure to attend prom and financial barriers may be a deterrent to graduating. One factor could be the lack of knowledge and motivation for students to access opportunities such as free prom outfit programs, scholarships and bursaries. Some students may be the first ones graduating from their families and need that extra hand.</p> <p>All members support the exploration of having designated staff to help navigate the grade 10 to 12 years to help parents/guardians and students cross the stage with dignity and options.</p>
<p>ITEM 5:</p> <p>STANDING COMMITTEES REPS.</p>	<p>The standing committees of the Board are one way for the Ab. Ed. Committee to bring their voice forward to other committees in the school district. It is entirely up to the committee to decide who they want to send to provide input and feedback. It is ideal to have a community member take part in the standing committee meetings, however it is not necessary. It is also up to the committee to decide on if the seats will be a shared responsibility or not. Members who attended the meetings expressed that being able to stay with one meeting did allow the benefit of building confidence, relationships, understanding of the processes and to be able to follow up on previous meeting questions or discussions.</p> <p>Another method of bringing forward concerns or recommendations is to provide a letter signed by the support of this committee. If anyone is interested in attending a standing committee meeting, please connect with the recording secretary.</p> <p>An Invitation to the 3rd Annual Community Voices Event on November 23 was extended to all members. If any members are interested in attending, please connect with the recording secretary. Members who cannot attend, there is usually a press release done afterwards, where you can receive any updates from the event.</p>



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	<p>The recording secretary will invite the members to the community voices event and for those who cannot attend, to provide them with the press release.</p>
<p>ITEM 6: SIGN TERMS OF REFERENCE</p>	<p>Terms of reference for the Ab. Ed. Committee have a few more recommended changes that the Board has suggested. Other than a few minor changes, the most significant change was to add another member to the committee membership. This member would fall under the school district staff membership and be a representative of a support staff within SD57 from the CUPE union. This idea was supported by all members. Committee members agreed that input from this member would be valuable to this group. Members discussed and decided that it would be best suited for the purpose of this committee, to have the union select their representative. Another important aspect in selection of this member would be to ensure the representative is a school-based Ab. Ed. Worker, preferably with Aboriginal ancestry.</p> <p>All members agree to these changes within the Terms of Reference and would like the recording secretary to make changes and to have the document ready for signing on December 17th.</p>
<p>ITEM 7: FUTURE MEETING DATES</p>	<p>Future meeting dates were reviewed as a group. The following meeting dates were agreed upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 17, 2018 January 14, 2019 February 11, 2019 March 11, 2019 April 8, 2019 May 13, 2019 June 10, 2019 <p>The recording secretary will send out the confirmed dates to all members.</p>



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<p>ITEM 8: 1701 COUNT UPDATE</p>	<p>The 1701 count for September is 3,635 students which is down from last year's count of 3,742 students. The decrease of students will affect our budget by over 100,000.00 dollars. A revised budget will be provided to the committee either in December or January.</p> <p>The recording secretary will check in with the Business Manager of the Ab. Ed. Dept. regarding the updated budget by either December or January.</p>
<p>ITEM 9: AB. STUDENT GRAD RATES – WHAT SCHOOL DISTRICTS HAVE PARITY?</p>	<p>Two BC school districts that have had or are close to having graduation parity between first nations or non-first nations students are the Sea to Sky school district and the Kamloops school district.</p>
<p>ITEM 10: EQUITY SCAN</p>	<p>The Equity Scan is a tool that will help our school district view more specific data around graduation rates. The Ministry has recently provided the equity scan data for our district further to the toolkit that was provided before. With the new data, a more informative presentation will be provided at the December meeting. This data will show us more school specific information and also the current trajectory for our district. If any members still require the Equity Scan toolkit information please connect with the recording secretary.</p>
<p>ITEM 11: BC TRIPARTITE EDUCATION</p>	<p>Members were provided a power point presentation with information regarding the new BC Tripartite Agreement (BCTEA). The BCTEA was presented at the recent Indigenous Education Provincial Gathering. Attendance was taken at this</p>



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AGREEMENT (BCTEA)

gathering. The purpose was to do an overview of the new agreement which has signed by the federal government, provincial government, and signed by FNESC (First Nations Education Steering Committee). The BCTEA will have an impact for both Lheidli T'enneh and McLeod Lake Indian Band, with respect to their LEAs. Meetings with the LEA management teams will be set up soon to make the necessary adjustments to both our LEAs. SD57 is very fortunate to have very thorough and robust LEAs. Our agreements are very detailed and will only need a few changes made. It is now a requirement for all school district to have an LEA done by June 2019. FNESC regional sessions will be held to provide the same overview for anyone who was not able to attend the provincial gathering. Session in Prince George will be held on December 13 & 14th.

The recording secretary will provide member with the power point and assist anyone from this committee to register for the fnesc regional sessions, if they wish to do so.

The BCTEA is intended to promote systematic shifts and collective efforts that will support improved educational outcomes of all First Nations students in BC, regardless of where they live or are enrolled in school. It is important to know that this agreement does cover both public and First Nations schools in BC and the agreement affects both differently. The BCTEA and the Equity Scan are not connected. The work and plans that will come out of both the equity scan and the tripartite agreement will overlap, however they are completely separate matters. It was clearly stated at the conference was that targeted funding would not be impacted by the BCTEA. Another important message from the conference was please do not let the strong focus of achievement come at the expense of culture and language. For our school district we do not want the strong focus to be at the expense of culture, language or the expense of our students feeling safe at school.

BCTEA Highlights:

- Additional federal investments in the First Nation school system in BC for language instructions, internet connectivity, computers and school buses.
- A special grant to school districts funded by Canada for the sole purpose of transporting students living on reserve to BC public schools.
- A template local education agreement to take effect in school districts, where the board and the First Nation were unable to negotiate a unique agreement, and where the First Nation requests it.
- A return to jointly signed off nominal roll consistent with 1701.
- A Ministry-FNESC data committee.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of the February enrollment count. • An exploration with the intent of empowering FNESC and/or First Nation governments to access more student data. • Education outcome improvement teams will support district to address First Nation student success. • At least one non-instructional day per school year focused on enhancing First Nation student learning outcomes. • An exploration with the intent of extending to First Nations schools access to BC's Adult Dogwood graduation certificate. • Collaboration on Indigenous language learning. • Federal funding above 1.0 FTE as appropriate (e.g. dual credit) • Continued commitments to consult FNESC on potential changes to legislation, policy, standards, or funding, and sharing bulk purchasing opportunities and expertise. <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVTwt9gVif4&feature=youtu.be</p> <p>The recording secretary will provide the members with a copy of the BCTEA and the Equity Scan materials.</p>
<p>ITEM 12:</p> <p>WHAT VOICE DOES THIS COMMITTEE WANT TO BRING FORWARD TO OTHER TABLES</p>	<p>Members who have attended meetings of the standing committees of the board would like to keep the floor open for other members to bring forward any matters, inquiries, concerns that they may want to have expressed. As these members learn and understand more about these committees, they want to make sure that those doors are open for all members to provide input.</p> <p>Employment equity was discussed and letters were signed in the spring to support a human rights exemption for staff. This is something the new Director of HR can look into further. Exploring how to retain good teachers in our school district and to encourage our Aboriginal students to become teachers is another matter discussed in previous meetings. Connecting our students with Aboriginal role models, successful professionals and a possible partnership with post-secondary institutions and having a bigger presence at career fairs were other ideas expressed.</p>



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<p>ITEM 13:</p> <p>AB. ED. WORKER REPORTING SYSTEM</p>	<p>Recently, Aboriginal Education workers have had a change in their reporting system. This new system is taking them away from being with students, as it is very time consuming. The reporting system is being reviewed and the school district is exploring how other districts complete their reporting. It is crucial that the requirements set by the Ministry are met, however to have a more efficient system would be ideal.</p>
<p>ITEM 14:</p> <p>NEW BUSINESS</p>	<p>An inquiry into an update around the Aboriginal Education Department was brought forward. The Ab. Ed. Dept. daily operations are currently under an interim reporting structure that has the Assistant Superintendents available for any questions regarding the department. The District Administrator of Ab. Ed. has resigned as of October 31st. No changes have been made to the programming that is available through the department, and any business question can be directed towards their business manager.</p>
<p>ITEM 15:</p> <p>AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING</p>	<p>Items that were requested to be placed on the next agenda are as follows:</p> <p>Signing the Terms of Reference Equity Scan Update BCTEA Update Updated Budget (either Dec or Jan)</p> <p>Members were asked to email either the chairperson or the recording secretary to add any more items to the agenda.</p> <p>Chairperson closed the meeting thanking everyone for their contributions today.</p>
<p>CLOSING:</p>	<p>Meeting ended at 12:34 pm.</p>



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IN ATTENDANCE:		
MARILYN MARQUI-FORSTER SUPERINTENDENT SD57	CINDY HEITMAN ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT SD57	VICTOR JIM ABORIGINAL DISTRICT PRINCIPAL SD57
CLAYTON POUNTNEY LHEIDLI T'ENNEH BAND COUNCILLOR	JODIE WARE EDUCATION SUPERVISOR MCLEOD LAKE INDIAN BAND	RONNIE WEST ELDER REPRESENTATIVE
KERRIE SECOR PARENT REPRESENTATIVE	HOLLY PASTORAL PARENT REPRESENTATIVE CHAIRPERSON	NOELLE PEPIN TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE
JENNIFER PIGHIN TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE	SARAH PETRISOR PRINCIPAL REPRESENTATIVE	CONRAD TURNER PRINCIPAL REPRESENTATIVE
PAMELA HOLAT RECORDING SECRETARY SD57		
ABSENCES:		
NEVIO ROSSI ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT SD57 (REGRETS)	SHANNON SKULSH PARENT REPRESENTATIVE (REGRETS)	VINCENT JOSEPH EDUCATION COORDINATOR LHEIDLI T'ENNEH BAND (REGRETS)
TRISH PERRIN SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE (REGRETS)	JAYDE DURANLEAU MCLEOD LAKE INDIAN BAND COUNCILLOR (REGRETS)	MÉTIS REPRESENTATIVE (VACANT)
ELDER REPRESENTATIVE (VACANT)	STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE (VACANT)	STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE (VACANT)

	<p>ADJOURNMENT: 12:34 PM</p> <p><u>NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>DATE: DECEMBER 17, 2018</p> <p>TIME: 10:30 AM</p> <p>PLACE: SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE – <u>BOARDROOM</u></p>
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