



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

JANUARY 14, 2019

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE
BOARDROOM

MEETING CHAIR	Holly Pastoral
RECORDER	Pamela Holat
OPENING PRAYER	Victor Jim

OPENING:	<p>Meeting started at 10:45 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>
ITEM 1: ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS, APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND DECEMBER MINUTES.	<p>Chairperson asked the committee for the approval for the agenda and the December minutes. No objections.</p> <p>Chairperson asked the committee for any additions for today's agenda. No additions.</p>



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OLD BUSINESS	
<p>ITEM 2:</p> <p>RESPONSE TO REQUEST OF ABED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES</p>	<p>SD57 provided the committee with a one paged overview of the services and programs offered through the Aboriginal Education Department. The document showed the difference between the school-based supports and the programs and services for students in SD57. Information around the programs and services on the document was provided, each contact person is happy to provide more detail.</p> <p>SD57 suggested in the future providing schools, Lheidli T’enneh Band and McLeod Lake Indian Band with a poster with Ab. Ed. Dept. information on it. Contact information is available for parents as well; they should not have to be directed to their schools. More information is available on the website at https://www.sd57.bc.ca/school/abed/Programs/pages/default.aspx .</p> <p>Members were encouraged to provide feedback anytime around Ab. Ed. Dept. programs and services.</p> <p>All members supported the idea of having an Ab. Ed. Dept. poster for schools and communities.</p>
<p>ITEM 3:</p> <p>DESIGNATED POSITION – STUDENT GRAD SUPPORT.</p>	<p>Chairperson asked to table this item for now.</p> <p>All members agreed.</p>
NEW BUSINESS	
<p>ITEM 4:</p> <p>PARENT HANDBOOK – FEEDBACK</p>	<p>Chairperson addressed the next item on the agenda. The sample parent handbook was emailed out to members to provide feedback around if this would be something to pursue for our district.</p> <p>Members strongly recommended the idea of having a parent / guardian handbook for our Indigenous students will provide valuable information</p>



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	<p>to parents that are unsure of where to find the information. Websites are not always updated and parents sometimes don't know what to ask for. Many families cannot afford the internet or a computer to access the online information. Members acknowledged this will be a bit of an undertaking for the district to put this material together; however this will help students and their families.</p> <p>It was agreed by members to support this idea for now, as there is a current change taking place in Aboriginal Education. Once the new leadership is in place, their input will be valuable as they will play an integral role in the decision and development of the handbook. In the meantime, the committee was encouraged to bring more input around what district specific or additional information that the handbook will need. Suggestions were made to include an early learning portion in the handbook, also to include the Ab. Ed. department information.</p>
<p>ITEM 5:</p> <p>HOW ARE WE DOING REPORT – REFERENCE POINT FOR PRIORITY BRAINSTORMING</p>	<p>SD57 led the committee through an overview of the recent How Are We Doing Report. This document was provided through email, with highlighted areas, showing sections with current data. Provincial exams are no longer written, which explain the missing examination results within this report. Provincial exams have been replaced with graduation assessments. It is important to understand this report is based off the six-year completion rates from 2017/2018. Six-year completion rates include students who needed an extra year to graduate and are included in the 17/18 cohort. Data within the report with a result marked “msk” means that the data set was too small to incorporate so it was not included. Student learning survey provides insight into student experiences within our district. Once the committee has had time to digest the information, this report can be useful in helping this committee move forward.</p> <p>Members were pleased to see the increase in graduation rates. Although the numbers are not where the district would like them to be, there is significant progress being made.</p> <p>A question was asked if there is any way to look further into the reasons for the increase.</p> <p>SD57 informed the committee, a reflection session will take place soon with our secondary administrators to discuss the data. The most</p>



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	<p>significant increase in our district is shown in the special needs graduation rates. 13% increase was linked to the tremendous amount of work done recently around the individual education plans for special needs students. Discussion with administrators will provide recommendations and insight around what is required to continue doing their work.</p> <p>Members expressed the desire to have any feedback around if the increase was influenced by Aboriginal Education or by this committee. The table would find this type of information useful.</p> <p>SD57 confirmed they would put out the questions at the reflection sessions and bring back feedback with regards to Aboriginal Education.</p>
(OLD BUSINESS)	
<p>ITEM 3:</p> <p>DESIGNATED POSITION – STUDENT GRADUATION SUPPORT.</p>	<p>SD57 thanked the committee for their support for the idea of having a dedicated staff member within a high school who will work with students and their families from grade 10 to grade 12. This employee will act as a liaison and help the student with the many stressful deadlines, paper work and to keep them on track for graduation. The liaison will work with students, families, post-secondary institutions and with First Nations Band education workers. Targeted dollars will be used to pilot this position at two high schools. It will be ideal to have one liaison at each high school; however having a pilot period will provide insight before moving forward.</p> <p>A question was asked if this would be a district or school-based role, and how the schools will take priority.</p> <p>SD57 confirmed that the roles will be school based. The district will use current data and incorporate the number of students in high schools, as well consider the current supports that are provided through Aboriginal Education already, before deciding which schools.</p> <p>A question was asked once the project was established, if targeted funds would be used, or core funding.</p> <p>SD57 explained they are hoping to fund this project within the current approved budget until the end of June. The district supports the use of targeted funding for this work as it shows services above and beyond</p>



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	<p>what other students receive. Other students have access to guidance departments; however, this liaison will provide specific assistance around a student’s post-secondary transition.</p> <p>Members suggested that with the use of targeted dollars for this project, to ensure that the liaison has good rapport with both Lheidli T’enneh Band and McLeod Lake Indian Band. Involvement with the process will help build better relationships to collaborate around and support our Indigenous students.</p>
<p>ITEM 6: AB. ED. COMMITTEE 2019-2020 PRIORITY BRAINSTORMING</p>	<p>Chairperson led the committee into a brainstorming exercise. Committee members worked together to write out priorities for the 2019 – 2020 year. Members have been provided significant amount of information, this exercise will provide the opportunity to list out what the committee feels strongly about. The information collected will be compiled and brought back to the table.</p> <p>Committee members were encouraged to provide any more priorities that they may have missed today via email to the recording secretary or chairperson.</p>
<p>CLOSING:</p>	<p>Chairperson thanked the committee for their hard work today and encouraged all members to provide any further feedback on the sample handbook, the how are we doing report, and any more priorities around culture, language and academic achievement within Aboriginal education. This information can be emailed to the recording secretary or provided at our February meeting.</p> <p>Chairperson explained the change in the agenda and how the items were now arranged into old and new business. Chairperson reminded the committee members to please send any agenda items they would like to see to the recording secretary or to them directly.</p> <p>Members thanked the chairperson for this wonderful meeting.</p> <p>Meeting comes to an end at 12:19 pm.</p>



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IN ATTENDANCE:		
MARILYN MARQUI-FORSTER SUPERINTENDENT SD57	CINDY HEITMAN ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT SD57	NEVIO ROSSI ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT SD57
CLAYTON POUNTNEY LHEIDLI T'ENNEH BAND COUNCILLOR	JAYDE DURANLEAU MCLEOD LAKE INDIAN BAND YOUTH COUNCILLOR	HOLLY PASTORAL PARENT REPRESENTATIVE CHAIRPERSON
SHAREL WARRINGTON SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE	VINCENT JOSEPH EDUCATION COORDINATOR LHEIDLI T'ENNEH BAND	JODIE WARE MCLEOD LAKE INDIAN BAND REPRESENTATIVE
CONRAD TURNER SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL	RONNIE WEST ELDER IN RESIDENCE	NOELLE PEPIN ELEMENTARY TEACHER & INDIGENOUS RESOURCE TEACHER
VICTOR JIM DISTRICT ELDER SD57	SHANNON SKULSH PARENT REPRESENTATIVE	CORRIE STOLTZ SR. SECRETARY ABED
PAMELA HOLAT RECORDING SECRETARY SD57		
ABSENCES:		
KERRIE SECOR PARENT REPRESENTATIVE (REGRETS)	JENNIFER PIGHIN SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER (REGRETS)	MÉTIS REPRESENTATIVE (VACANT)
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL (VACANT)	STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE (VACANT)	STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE (VACANT)
	ELDER REPRESENTATIVE (VACANT)	

	<p><u>NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>DATE: MARCH 11, 2019 TIME: 10:30 AM PLACE: CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE – BOARDROOM</p>
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