



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

MARCH 11, 2019

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE
BOARDROOM

MEETING CHAIR	Clayton Pountney
RECORDER	Pamela Holat
OPENING PRAYER	Victor Jim

OPENING:	<p>Meeting started at 10:40 am.</p> <p>Chairperson acknowledged the traditional territories of Lheidli T'enneh Band and the McLeod Lake Indian Band on which School District 57 resides and works on.</p> <p>A round of introductions was held, there were three new members at the table which included a parent representative, a student representative and a CUPE representative.</p>
ITEM 1: AGENDA ITEMS, APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES.	<p>Chairperson asked the members for any additions to the agenda. No additions.</p> <p>Chairperson asked the committee for any objections to approving today's agenda and approving minutes from the February meeting. No objections.</p>
ITEM 2: STANDING MTG. UPDATES	<p>This agenda item was tabled until the next meeting in April.</p>



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



OLD BUSINESS	
<p>ITEMS 3:</p> <p>MEETING TIMES / TOC COVERAGE</p>	<p>Chairperson addressed the third item on the agenda.</p> <p>Principal rep. explained a difficulty around Teacher On Call (TOC) coverage for the PGDTA representatives on the committee. The way these meetings are currently set up is presenting problems for teachers to be covered to attend the committee meetings. TOC coverage only has two options to choose, am or pm. Committee meetings run from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. It was suggested to either move the meeting up to either an earlier time or a later one. There is a current shortage of Teachers on Call in the school district and if the meeting times could change, the school would not have to provide a substitute for the whole day, alleviating the substitute to be booked somewhere else. Currently the school is booking a teacher on call for the full day to accommodate the teacher to attend a meeting in the middle of the day.</p> <p>Members had a discussion around this and the following suggestions were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning meetings would be better for those who have to pick up children from school; • 9 am start until 11:30 am; • To order lunch earlier if the meetings are bumped to an earlier time; • To start at an earlier time will affect those who travel from out of town to attend, perhaps paying for accommodation for these members the night before the meeting will help; • To check with all members as many people have things scheduled before and after the dates which were determined in October; • Take a survey on what time will work best for everyone; • Student representative class schedules will have to be taken into consideration, as missing more than one class a day will mean more work to catch up on for the students; • parent representatives also need to be available to drop off and pick up their students on meeting dates; • leave the meeting times for now and use the time from now until June to see what works for everyone;



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



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to revise the TOC booking system to allow more than the two options of morning and afternoon; and • to keep in mind that the community members on this committee make up the quorum for meetings. <p>All members agreed to have this matter on the June agenda. In the meantime, the meeting times and dates will remain the same. The committee will have between April and June to provide input in regards to ideal meeting times.</p>
<p>ITEM 4:</p> <p>PRIORITIES BRAINSTORMING STEP 3</p>	<p>Chairperson addressed the fourth item on the agenda. The District Principal of Ab. Ed. led the committee through the brainstormed priorities. The priorities were separated into three different topics, Culture, Language and Academic Achievement. The committee finalized up to four priorities for each heading, after lengthy discussions. Suggestions made at the table included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • utilize a non-instructional day (NID) each school year, as per the British Columbia Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA); • utilize an NID to help teachers become more prepared and informed, provide a way to support teachers in teaching language and culture; • help Ab. Ed. Workers (AEW) to better prepare them to teach language and culture in schools; • to seek out and use authentic resources, seek out cultural knowledge and language holders; • SD57 to build a language course / foundational program from K-9 and then to partner with CNC in a dual credit program for language credits that can be used for graduation; • Have a focus group to develop a language program, providing a scope and sequence from K-9. Dual credit with CNC will need to be approved by the Ministry of Education; • To review data regarding Aboriginal students and their success in French courses in grades 8 and 9, perhaps there would be better success in teaching an Indigenous language; • To have a language program developed would provide much needed support for the two current Lheidli Teachers in SD57; • To keep in mind the budget that will be required to have a team develop this language program, a serious look at budget will be required;



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



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The language development should happen quickly and within a timely manner, as there are very, very few language speakers left, perhaps a team would be best; • Have a leader to oversee the language development and to soundly cost out the budgetary needs for this goal; • To firm up the wording on the committee’s brainstormed priorities; • Have a leader to guide the academic achievement piece for Indigenous students; • Review and use the data provided in the equity scan tool, to support academic achievement for Indigenous students, what is being done with the data?; • Have a leader to oversee transitions between grade 7 and grade 8 and from grade 10 to post-secondary for all Indigenous students in SD57; • To have students come into high school at grade level, focusing on attendance is easier to do, as missing classes in high school become extremely overwhelming for students to catch up on their work; • Attendance is an important piece within academic achievement; • Individual Education Plans (IEPs) need to be consistently followed up with at schools, currently, this is not happening; • To follow up on the committee’s recommendations to hire a pilot position to help with transitions for Indigenous students and to allot a budget for this; • Transportation is another big obstacle for our students, having a system to address the many different types of needs would be ideal; • Ab. Ed. Committee can put forth a letter of recommendation to help Indigenous students get to school; • PGSS has an RCI pyramid that they use to deal with transportation issues for students, this can be used by other schools, every school is different; <p>Members agreed to the top priorities for the three different areas.</p> <p>SD57 explained that the priorities are now ready for representatives at this table to take back to their respective communities or organization for feedback until the next meeting.</p>
<p>ITEM 5:</p>	<p>Chairperson addressed item 5 on the agenda. District Principal of Ab. Ed. explained how the terms of reference needs to be approved before signing.</p>



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



<p>TERMS OF REFERENCE / REVISION APPROVAL / ADDITIONAL MEMBER</p>	<p>The changes to be approved are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To add another CUPE Aboriginal Education Worker (page 4); b) Paragraph 2.8 (page 3); and c) Paragraph 2.9 (page 3) <p>All members agreed to the additions to the terms of reference for this committee.</p>
<p>NEW BUSINESS</p>	
<p>ITEM 6: INCLUSIVE MEETINGS</p>	<p>Chairperson moved on to the sixth item on the agenda.</p> <p>Teacher representative referenced a handout that was provided in the meeting package regarding inclusivity within meetings. It was suggested to have this handout kept with committee documents as a handy reminder for members, or to develop a similar handout for this committee. Addressing members who do not speak as much as others and having smaller agendas may help to allow members having time to think about and provide input on matters. The handout provides tips on how to promote inclusivity and self-reflective questions that help individuals avoid dominating meetings. Explaining acronyms to those who do not work in the school system would be helpful for community members on the committee.</p> <p>There were no objections to have the inclusivity handout kept with the committee handbook.</p>
<p>ITEM 7: FIELD TRIP FORM, TRANSPORT FORM &</p>	<p>Chairperson directed the committee to item seven on the agenda. Teacher representative referred to the two policies provided to members. (Policy 6145: Student Transportation & Travel / Policy 6153.2: Field Trip Safety.) It was asked if the policies and forms around getting students out of the classroom could be made easier and simpler for teachers, students and parents.</p>



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



<p>APPLICATION PROCESS</p>	<p>Streamlining the process to help speed it up would be ideal, because staff often miss small details when filling out forms, making the process quite cumbersome. Learning on the land and being outdoors is important part of Aboriginal Education, these forms make getting students out in the environment more difficult.</p> <p>SD57 explained that each school has its own process for field trip forms and school staff should speak to the school administrators regarding their respective field trip processes. The school district is purchasing a new resource to help school staff with making this process easier. The resource is called Youth Safe Outdoors.</p> <p>PGDTA also suggested having a consistent process would help for Teacher On Call (TOCs) them as they move from school to school, however this new resource seems to be a great solution.</p> <p>Members agreed it would be beneficial if SD57 would bring further information on the new program to the next meeting.</p>
<p>ITEM 8:</p> <p>SD57 STUDENT REGISTRATION FORM</p>	<p>SD57 referenced the registration form that was provided in the meeting package. SD57 will be revising this form to allow more information to be provided in regards to Indigenous students.</p> <p>Parent representative reminded the school district that despite filling out those extra details around a students' Aboriginal ancestry year after year, information on those forms come back incorrect.</p> <p>SD57 moved on to the next agenda item.</p>
<p>ITEM 9:</p> <p>LETTER SENT OUT TO PARENTS</p>	<p>District Principal of Ab. Ed. explained to the committee that the Ab. Ed. Dept. sent out 2000 letters to parents / guardians of Aboriginal students. SD57 has 3,636 self-identified students and out of those students, only 723 of them have information of where they are from in the district's student info system. This leaves 2,913 Aboriginal students who are learning in our school district and no</p>



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



	<p>further information around where these students are from or what Band they identify with. In hopes of attaining additional information around our Aboriginal students, this letter was sent out. There was also an added incentive of being entered into a draw for 100 dollar gift card to those who returned the forms. The Ab. Ed. Dept. is finding that there are many incorrect or incomplete addresses in the student information system used in SD57. In the future, this information will be collected in September along with the yearly 1701 letter.</p> <p>Suggestions made at the table included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware that some students will never know where they are from; • Consider making a fillable form that parents could fill out digitally, phone friendly, this may eliminate losing the forms through students; • Asking parents the best method to reach them may help with ensuring more efficient correspondence with parents / guardians; and • To send this letter out to all parents, as it is apparent that wrong information is currently entered into the student system; <p>SD57 moved on to the next agenda item.</p>
<p>ITEM 10:</p> <p>MEETING WITH ELDERS ADVISORY COUNCIL</p>	<p>The District Principal of Ab. Ed. updated the committee in regards to the Aboriginal Education Elders Advisory Council. The first meeting of the 2018 – 2019 school year happened on March 4, 2019, there were three Elders who attended. In the past, due to the Ab. Ed. Dept. no having a clear objective, the meetings would go around and around without progress. The Ab. Ed. Dept. is trying to make this council more effective and bring it back to focus.</p> <p>Recording secretary reminded the members that in the Terms of Reference, it asks this committee to meet with the Elders Advisory Council once per school year.</p> <p>A question was asked as to if there are Elders from both Lheidli T’enneh and McLeod Lake on this advisory council, as it would be ideal.</p> <p>District Principal of Ab. Ed. explained that some things are not currently happening within Ab. Ed., and the District Principal is trying to get the committee back to functioning. The District Principal is now attending the</p>



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



	<p>Elders Advisory Council meetings to help move things forward.</p> <p>Members look forward to more updates around the Elders Advisory Council in the future.</p>
<p>ITEM 11: UPCOMING ABED EVENTS</p>	<p>Chairperson addressed the final item on the agenda.</p> <p>Important Upcoming Dates within Aboriginal Education in SD57 are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •April 26th, 2019 Youth Conference @ UNBC 9 am to 2 pm; •May 29th, 2019 Aboriginal Grad Dinner @ CLA 3 pm to 7 pm; •May 30th, 2019 Ts’udelhti (We Honour) Grad Ceremony •May 31st, 2019 Learning Grant Showcase @ Duchess Park 9 am to 4 pm; •June 12, 13 & 14, 2019 Little Mudder @ Caledonia Ski Club 8 am to 4 pm. <p>District Principal confirmed she will have the recording secretary send out further information on the Youth Conference as it is the first event coming up.</p>
<p>CLOSING:</p>	<p>Chairperson thanked the members for the meeting today.</p> <p>Meeting comes to an end at 12:16 pm.</p>



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



--	--

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

	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>DATE: APRIL 8, 2019 TIME: 10:30 AM PLACE: CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE – BOARDROOM</p>
--	---