



## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**12:00 pm, Wednesday, November 8, 2023**  
**School Board Office**

### **MEETING NOTES**

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Present: Dale Lawson, Maureen Mason, Jaclyn Miller, Kirsten Van't Schip  
Also in attendance: Jay Yule (Superintendent)  
Regrets: Rob Hill (Trustee), Steve Hopkins (Secretary-Treasurer)

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Lawson at 12:01 p.m.

#### **1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOVED:** K. Van't Schip

**SECONDED:** M. Mason

**THAT the Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda of November 8, 2023, be adopted as circulated.**

**STATUS:** CARRIED.

#### **2. STANDING COMMITTEES**

2.a) Education & Strategic Planning Committee

2.a.i) Operational Plan Presentations:

##### Indigenous Education

J. Johnson presented the operational plan, emphasizing support for the board's strategic plan in Indigenous Education. Key highlights include:

- Creating culturally safe learning spaces with Indigenous representation.
- Appreciation for the district name change.
- Increasing literacy and numeracy supports beyond district standards.
- Implementation of the čερθτḁn program, featuring Indigenous role models, regular check-ins, enrichment opportunities, annual family consultations, and successful events.
- Curating diverse experiences for all students in Indigenous learning, such as the Cross Culture program and activities like weaving.

- Introduction of the GIJE program for secondary school students.
- Launching an immersion program for the ʔayʔajuθəm language.
- Exposing educators to Indigenous methodologies and innovative pedagogies.
- Appointing an Elder in residence for the GIJE program and at James Thomson Elementary.
- Developing a culture and story-based application to promote mental health and wellness, with potential future opportunities.
- Establishing connections with students and families through events like the Indigenous Welcome Back dinner, parent info sessions, and satisfaction surveys.
- Ensuring students' well-being and safety in school.
- Building foundational understandings of place history and the impacts of colonial history on Indigenous peoples.
- Supporting classroom teachers in decolonizing practices and equity for Indigenous learners.
- Indigenous educational environments and opportunities.
- Aligning efforts with the Tla'amin Nation's Comprehensive Nation Plan.
- Incorporating an elder co-chair in ga t<sup>o</sup>əp meetings to guide decision-making, aligning with pending legislation for the Indigenous Education Council (IEC).
- Collaborating with students to discover their passions and expose diverse career opportunities.
- Implementing Equity in Action at the school level and incorporating feedback from the district Equity in Action committee.
- Supporting the development of school-based Equity Teams.
- Backing the creation and development of the ʔayʔajuθəm immersion program.
- Supporting staff in building knowledge and understanding, including engagement with Indigenous Education (INED) staff.

#### Early Learning & Childcare & Food Security

K. Brach reported on behalf of R. Rainbow, highlighting planned actions from the operational plan in the areas of Early Learning and School Nutrition:

- Establishing stronger connections with families, especially in rural areas.
- Offering a variety of early learning programs.
- Implementing ongoing feedback through events like the Kindergarten Health Fair and the Tla'amin Kindergarten Health Fair.
- Piloting an early learning assessment tool with a focus on continuous review and adjustment.
- Launching Strongstart Go to engage with families in parks and outdoor spaces.
- Collaborating with other districts and expanding Ready, Set, Learn events to provide more opportunities throughout the year (three per year).
- Forming an Early Learning Committee with community input.



- Managing the name change process, including before, during, and after, with a ceremony to be determined, artist engagement for a new logo, increased use of video, and a storytelling video project.
- Cleaning up the website and updating the app to broaden communication beyond social media. Pushing updates for the website.
- Ensuring brand consistency with a brand kit, letterheads, etc.
- Launching Board Days campaigns, profiling actions at schools, and inviting the board to share ideas for upcoming campaigns.
- Initiating a video series called "Education Station."
- Creating an internal newsletter to track metrics and adjust accordingly.
- Inviting the City, qRD, and Tla'amin Nation to an impact-focused event or presentation to highlight yearly results/impact.
- Developing a new logo for PIE. Edgehill Elementary has already chosen a new logo with input from school staff.
- Collaborating with unions to commemorate nationally recognized days.
- Collecting evidence and metrics through various methods to evaluate the team's performance.

#### Business Services

Due to absence, S. Hopkins will report on the Business Services plan at the Regular Board meeting.

#### 2.a.ii) Feeding Futures Program – Implementation Update (oral)

J. Yule provided an update on the Feeding Futures Program, outlining key points for the board's consideration:

- Ministry funding to support the program, including initial funds for capital expenditures.
- Implementation overseen by R. Rainbow.
- Separate from the operational plan as it's still in development; board feedback is needed.
- Currently feeding 257 students per day, with a concern that the program may not be reaching all students in need.
- Shared an outline of expenditures and funding distribution to schools.
- Includes an educational component focusing on nutrition.
- Emphasized a centralized vision for systemic and sustainable impact over time.
- Welcomed DPAC (District Parent Advisory Council) involvement in programs and nutritional strategy.
- Exploring meal preparation and delivery methods, researching practices in other school districts.
- Current state involves breakfast programs at all schools supported by PAC and community agencies, as well as lunch programs for students in need, each with different models and barrier-free delivery.

- Short-term goals include centralized preparation and delivery of food to reduce volunteer struggles, utilizing Education Assistants.
- Allocations based on historical data, considering the number of students being fed and additional funds from outside agencies.
- Long-term vision includes a universal food program, centralized food preparation, educational programs, and a potential horticulture program with a greenhouse for food growth.
- Rationale for centralized provider includes maximizing funding, implementing a monthly menu, and exploring payment options based on discussions with other districts to assess successful models.

Trustees expressed their support for a universal food program that adopts a "pay what you can" model for families. They envisioned an inclusive program with educational components aimed at not only providing nutritious meals but also enhancing food literacy, nutrition education, and student health. Emphasizing the importance of environmental considerations, trustees stressed the need for the universal program to be mindful of waste and climate factors. Additionally, they noted the benefit of continued parental involvement through school networks to build momentum for the food program.

J. Yule shared early considerations for student learning in horticulture and farming. The initiative may involve utilizing a central greenhouse and collaborating with local farmers to enhance the educational experience.

2.b) Finance & Facilities Committee

2.b.i) N/A

2.c) Policy Committee

2.c.i) Policy 8 – Board Committees

2.c.ii) Policy 9 – Board Representatives

The two policies were presented for review in line with the board's commitment to evaluating all policies within their term. Trustees engaged in a discussion regarding the appropriateness of their involvement and representation on district and program committees. The need for established criteria to guide committees and ensure alignment with board priorities or policies was recognized. J. Yule was tasked with reviewing the list of committees with board representation and considering the appropriateness of board representation to those committees.

2.c.iii) Draft Administrative Procedure – Breastfeeding in Schools

J. Yule presented a draft administrative procedure created to clarify district support for breastfeeding mothers on school premises. Trustees reviewed the document, expressing their appreciation for the administrative procedure. They also recommended incorporating a reference to the administrative procedure which outlines guidelines for visitors at schools.

### **3. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **3.a) Environmental and Sustainability Committee – Draft Terms of Reference**

J. Yule presented the committee with revised terms of reference, sparking further discussion among trustees regarding the appropriateness of board appointments to district committees. Trustees expressed reluctance to categorize the ESC as a committee of the board, emphasizing that while the revised terms aligned more closely with board goals, trustee appointments didn't necessarily feel imperative. The board underscored the importance of establishing a clear relationship between the board and district committees, emphasizing the need for committees to understand the process of presenting recommendations to the board. Ultimately, trustees decided to defer the conversation on the terms of reference for the ESC until after the December Committee of the Whole discussion on trustee appointments and board representation on committees. This delay was deemed necessary to ensure alignment with decisions made during that meeting and to address the absence of a clear model for board appointments to committees.

#### **3.b) Health Committee Meeting of October 5<sup>th</sup> – J. Miller (oral)**

J. Miller commented on reports made to the Health Committee Meeting on October 5th. Key points included the establishment of the Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) Local Team, with the district hiring a clinical counsellor and VCH leading the ICY team. Other highlights encompassed programs supporting mental health education in elementary schools, challenges in youth shelter and housing availability, the success of the Vape Free Curious program (considering a rerun at Brooks Secondary), tools for discussing smoking and vaping with youth, the initiation of a neurodiverse playgroup by Youth and Family Powell River, and the approval for developing a Foundry with plans to extend program funding through space renovation. Grade 6 & 9 immunizations are progressing through the local health unit, while the Youth Clinic faces a doctor shortage but maintains free contraception access. The Docs in Schools program ensures low-barrier healthcare for youth without a physician. Unfortunately, the release of the School Food Toolkit has been delayed, with reasons yet to be determined.

#### **3.c) School Trustee - Climate Caucus Online meeting of October 27<sup>th</sup> – M. Mason (oral)**

M. Mason provided an overview of the Climate Caucus Online meeting held on October 27, noting that the caucus primarily comprises individuals in elected positions or those with past election experience. The group aims to leverage their influence to promote climate change issues. During the meeting, the caucus shared a handbook addressing 12 different sustainability elements. M. Mason will electronically share this handbook with the trustees.

### **4. OTHER INFORMATION**

#### **4.a) Board Work Plan – For Information**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

SH/attachments