



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 47 (POWELL RIVER)
BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
12:00 PM., Wednesday, December 14, 2022
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE

MEETING NOTES

Present: Dale Lawson, Jaclyn Miller, Rob Hill, Kirsten Van't Schip, Maureen Mason

Also in attendance: Jay Yule (Superintendent), Kristen Brach, Allison Burt, Kristy Payne

Regrets: Steve Hopkins (Secretary-Treasurer)

Presentations

M. Riddle and group, re: MRNA Covid Vaccines

Ms. Riddle presented on the following points:

- M. Riddle provided materials and asked the Board to be aware of legal liabilities.
- Presently people are facing legal action.
- It is a crime to provide experimental vaccines.
- The School District should have an informed consent form signed otherwise legal action could be posed against the District.
- Asked the Board how they would feel if in years to come they find the vaccine unfortunately had adverse effects on students.
- People who have not had vaccines or boosters are not getting covid.
- Masking causes more harm than good.
- Asked the Board to please pass a motion to not allow masks for children and stop clinics at schools.
- Ms. Riddle made available a newspaper entitled 'Druthers'.

D. Lawson thanked M. Riddle and her group for their presentation.

Jessica Johnson, District Principal of Indigenous Education – Trustee Orientation

J. Johnson reviewed with Trustees the Indigenous Education Department's Goals and presented on the following:

- Transformation from Past, Present and Desired Future Approaches, Mindsets, Beliefs, Behaviours and Outcomes.
- Good vs negative health and wellness impacts.

- Indigenous Student Success – Policy and Governance, Learning Environment, Pedagogical Core, Learning Profile – First Peoples’ Principles of Learning.
- Three Pathways to Indigenous Education: Staff, Students, Community.
- The role of INED team with SD47 staff support and the role of SD47 staff with INED team support.
- Levels of Indigenization – how to indigenize school systems.
- Indigenous Student Success – Academic Success, Cultural Enrichment, Holistic Wellbeing. The various teams who help/work towards Indigenous Student Success: District Principal of Indigenous Education, Indigenous Success Teachers, Language Teachers, Cultural Support Worker, Culture and Student Support, Knowledge Keepers.

Joe Heslip – Indigenous Education, Ministry of Education and Child Care joined the meeting via Teams. Spoke to the Equity in Action Project and reviewed framework and communicated that many conversations that may be taking place in future may be difficult and offered support and help. He has visited all districts in the province so he could understand and become deeply involved.

Question asked as to how other districts are finding moving ahead. Response was that it may take up to five years for change to happen. First year or two will feel like they not enough is happening. As long as you are not stopped in your work, as long as you are working on work that can be done, then on the right track.

The Board thanked J. Heslip for taking the time to speak with the Board today.

J. Johnson reviewed what the District is currently working on stating that we have three Indigenous Success Teachers and that there is support at all schools including PIE. Trying to build level of exposure while giving students access to their history and culture. Hoping to get Knowledge Keepers in the future.

D. Lawson thanked J. Johnson for her presentation.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved: R. Hill
Seconded: J. Miller

THAT the Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda for December 14, 2022, be adopted as presented.

Status: Carried

2. STANDING COMMITTEES

2.a) Education Committee

i) SD47 to Hegus Hackett - Draft

J. Yule reviewed the draft letter to Hegus Hackett and a letter the Board received from Tla’amin Nation. It was suggested that a motion be brought forward to the next regular meeting, in order to recommend signing the TEA and to send this letter to Hegus Hackett.

J. Miller recommended that a motion be brought forward to the next regular meeting, in order to recommend signing the TEA.

J. Miller asked about Children in Care suggestion and whether the change suggested has been made. Response was that it was brought forward but there is no change.

R. Hill asked about the intent of the drafted letter.

It was felt by Trustees that meeting with the Nation is important and that the Superintendent follow the Nation's lead. We can't presuppose what that their lead is. Opportunity to indicate a TEA will hopefully be signed will be in Chair's remarks at next meeting. Information will flow and will most likely be in the paper.

D. Lawson suggested that when time comes, to look at what Trustee prod could look like, branch prod etc.

Discussion ensued with respect to trustee rep on board, the role of the board, role of government.

R. Hill spoke again to the wording in the letter and suggested that the word 'commend' is colonial and should be changed. Following the discussion, it was decided the word 'commend' would be changed to 'respect'. The letter is then ready for emailing to Hegus Hackett.

ii) Advocacy Letter – Calls to Action

Topic to be placed on next COTW agenda. J. Yule to work with J. Miller with respect to drafting a letter.

iii) Student and Family Affordability Fund – District Initiatives

J. Yule reported that this topic was brought up at the DPAC meeting and was pleased with their suggestion of providing instruments for students who are not able to participate otherwise.

Other districts are providing funds to food banks to disburse to those in need. J. Yule suggested waiting to see what funds are left and prior to the end of the year, if we have to return funds, then could possibly give to non-profit organization.

Summer camp being proposed. Prod days covered most likely with free swimming and skating at the complex. Spring break camp possibly but would be limited to 12 students – vulnerable students could be offered first.

Question asked if this process will be revisited with groups again? J. Yule indicated everyone is aware this money is available but would like it to be spent in a meaningful way.

DPAC and PACS are still wishing to fundraise. Perhaps hot lunch or movie night could be funded

How to help DPAC/PACs to be placed on next COTW agenda.

J. Miller suggested the following which came from her consultation with the Health Committee and co-workers.

- Perishable food in fridge that people could help themselves to
- Prod activities – with food provided
- Bins of clothes
- Brooks Wellness Lounge (starting in Feb) – money for hot drinks \$500 was requested
- Sending food home on weekends for students who need it
- Expand bussing
- Private counselling
- Dental fees

J. Yule stated that if Administrators are approached and informed of families needing food, they would provide food using this fund.

Building greenhouses not eligible to use this funding.

K. Van't Schip asked if we could we move away from hot lunches and perhaps provide community dinners instead? Hot lunches are expensive and not everyone can afford this cost. Could this be communicated to PACs? It was felt that there most likely will be push back from PACs as some have been there for a long time and fundraising is the general topic at every meeting.

It was asked that at the next COTW meeting, to place on the agenda: How do we manage those who can't afford to pay for hot lunch to be able to order? How can we be inclusive of everybody?

iv) School Logo Refresh – Draft Process

K. Payne reviewed the draft process for school logo refresh. This is the first outline, and after discussion with the Board, she would like to connect with Administrators. Would also provide an opportunity for us to discuss our name change.

Comments:

- J. Miller - good draft document and is good that it provides feedback from many people.
- R. Hill asked if this should this also include the District rebrand?
- J. Yule indicated this is a start to dialogue – opens the conversation. Example - when looking at logo, important to be inclusive – important things to say. Name change comes up at all levels – this is a start.
- K. Van't Schip was in support of process and suggested having Indigenous Elders involved in the process. Imagery of logos, District name etc. - important to have their input on.

K. Payne clarified that what can be relayed could be either:

The Board is moving forward with the name change and this is part of the process, or:

The Board is contemplating a name change and is asking that you follow this process.

J. Yule stated this is an educational process. We want a process that makes sense, talking to people, understand before we come to any conclusion. We need to take time so that we have a rationale as to what we are doing and why.

D. Lawson asked if we need to think about name change now? K. Payne indicated this is a leadership moment and would be good to have answers and plans in place. J. Yule suggested that the Board will be looking at a name change; reiterate so it is part of the process. M. Mason felt it is important to articulate the Board's vision. K. Van't Schip suggested speaking with the Nation about naming and then state that this is the name chosen and move forward.

J. Yule stated that if the Board is changing the name, then there would be certain messaging or could say that the existing name doesn't represent us and are embarking on name change. Board needs to decide 'we are changing our name and going through a process' or...'just get feedback'.

J. Miller made a recommendation to bring forward a motion at the next regular meeting for the Board to move forward with name change and that the process to be undertaken will be developed at a later date.

K. Payne to work with J. Johnson so the process includes collaboration with Elders and the Nation.

2.b) Operations Committee

i) Website Infrastructure Upgrade – Project Update

K. Payne reported on the status of our new website infrastructure. Outline and framework are complete. Currently cleaning up our current site. Migration will take 3-4 weeks to pull it over and then we will need a few weeks to review, and learn new system. Currently approximately 2 months away.

ii) 2022/2023 Amended Budget – Timing & Process

J. Yule spoke to the budget and that it will be amended including increases for all staff. We will be receiving funding for non-union increases, capped at 4%.

2.c) Policy Committee

2.c.i) Policy 7 - Board Operations 14.2 Trustee Remuneration

See above policy recommendation of 4%. Motion to be prepared and brought forward to next regular Board meeting.

2.c.ii) Policy Manual Refresh – Project Update

Live links coming once new infrastructure is in place.

3. **OTHER COMMITTEES**

3.a) Board Committees

- i) Minutes – JMC Meetings 20220926 and 20221128
For information.

- ii) Minutes – Local SOGI Leads Meeting 20220915
For information.

- iii) Minutes - DL SOGI Leads Meeting 20220915
For information.

- iv) Minutes – District Wellness Meeting 20221027
For information.

- v) Draft Minutes - OLC Meeting 20221207
For information.

- vi) Minutes - Health Committee Meeting 20221006
For information.

- vii) Health Committee (Oral - J. Miller)
For information.

Question arose with respect to how Board Committees are formed. J. Yule responded that on a District Committee we can have who we would like to be part of the committee. Board Committees however, have the representatives appointed by the Chair. If a Board Committee has a recommendation for the Board, then the Board Rep should bring that forward.

Terms of Reference for Board Committees to be placed on next COTW meeting.

K. Van't Schip asked D. Lawson why she appointed herself as the Indigenous Education rep as she felt this is her area and has the knowledge and expertise to be on this committee. She responded to a question that arose regarding her platform while running as a Trustee and confirmed Indigenous Education was her platform/part of her platform. D. Lawson responded with her rationale. There was a lot of interest in many of the Board Committees and while some may have personal interest in being part of a certain committee, it is important to remember that as a Trustee rep, you would be there to represent the views of the Board, not personal views. It is not the role of a Trustee to bring out their own interest to groups we attend and must remember that Trustees represent the Board.

R. Hill asked why the Indigenous Ed Committee has never met and why it was not dealt with. He felt there was a meeting that the Board was not invited to. J. Yule mentioned that the meeting that was held was not an Indigenous Education Committee meeting. D. Lawson stated that the meeting her and J. Miller attended via zoom during covid was a good meeting but with staff/structural changes, meetings have not been held since.

i) **OTHER INFORMATION**

4.a) BCSTA Academy – Reflections (Discussion)

i) Role of School Trustee Liaison

Clearly articulated in Policy 7 and 9 - our role when invited is to make observations, notes on what their insights are, what they value etc. and bring back to the board.

Remind staff to invite Trustees to events at the schools they represent.

M. Mason reported that she attended staff meetings at the schools she represents, introducing herself and asked a few questions which would provide insight into their school culture. If we have a healthy school culture, all falls into place. D. Lawson spoke to the Board's role with respect to embarking on projects at the school level and asked that Trustees work through the Board, then if the Board agrees, then staff carry work with schools.

ii) Board Business/Motions

D. Lawson spoke to the process for bringing Board business/motions and for placing items on an agenda.

4.b) South Coast Branch – Prospective Meeting

S. Hopkins to connect with SD46. Do we want to meet more often as a branch? There has been some suggestion that they may want to meet more often.

J. Miller stated she found the SCB meetings not purposeful.

R. Hill stated he found them to have floundering motions.

J. Miller happy to put her name forward to take notes but need to talk as a Branch to ensure group is more purposeful. Could Gordon Li discuss this with the group?

D. Lawson asked Trustees that before the April meeting to think about prod and what we should bring to Branch meeting. BCSTA weekly bulletin has reminders and tips for bringing motions forward etc.

J. Miller indicated that they may possibly wish to meet Jan/Feb to discuss supporting SD46.

D. Lawson will let them know we would be happy to meet if there are items to bring forward.

4.c) Board Work Plan – For Information

ADJOURNMENT

Moved: R. Hill

THAT the Committee of the Whole Board Meeting be adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

Status: Carried

SH/ac