

Education Committee Meeting—Minutes

Date: Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Location: School Board Office, Board Room

Address: 607 Cumberland Road, Courtenay, BC

7 pm

Members:

Committee Chair, Janice Caton, City of Courtenay	✓
Board Chair, Tom Weber, Lazo North	✓
Trustee, Paula Selby, Puntledge, Black Creek	✓
Trustee, Sheila McDonnell, Baynes Sound (Denman/Hornby Islands)	✓
Trustee, Donna Gambacorta, City of Courtenay	✓
Trustee, Rick Grinham, Village of Cumberland	✓
Trustee, Peter Coleman, Town of Comox	✓
Superintendent, Sherry Elwood	✓
Assistant Superintendent, Tom Demeo	✓
Director of Instruction (Elementary Curriculum) Allan Douglas	✓
Director of Instruction (Student Services) Esther Shatz	✓

AGENDA

Bruce Carlos, District Principal, Aboriginal Education and Lynn Joseph, retired District Principal, Aboriginal Education, presented an update of the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement (AEEA). Their presentation provided a review of the Enhancement Agreement process and the steps that will move our district towards our third agreement. An AEEA is a working agreement between a school district, all local Aboriginal communities and the Ministry of Education. The overarching goal of the AEEA is to improve Aboriginal education. The process involves all stakeholders including students, families, staff and the Ministry of Education, Aboriginal Education.

Online surveys from 1700 participants, approximately 500 face-to-face meetings, as well as surveys for teachers and ASWs the questions asked about success in schools provided feedback to the working group. The timeline of the process is as follows:

- January/February 2013—met with the Ministry and Aboriginal Education Council (AEC) to discuss plans;
- March 2013—created surveys and timelines, set meeting dates with staff and for community forums;
- April 2013—Elementary/Middle school gatherings—4 community forums;
- May 2013—individual consultations recorded;
- June/July and September—collation of data and survey results.... A focus group of the AEC met to go through the initial data. This was a representative working group who looked for themes and threads to connect the feedback.

This group landed on the following four goals:

- Goal 1:** to increase Aboriginal students' sense of belonging, cultural identity and self-esteem;
- Goal 2:** to increase the academic success of all Aboriginal students through personalized learning;
- Goal 3:** to increase the awareness and understanding of First Nations, Metis and Inuit history, traditions and culture for all students;
- Goal 4:** to increase opportunities for Aboriginal students to develop competencies in leadership.

- In November 2013 the AEC will give their final direction to the AEEA and it will be presented to the Board of Education for their information at the November Board meeting.
- In December 2013 the AEEA will be presented for official signing at a celebration which will involve invitation to all stakeholders.

Thanks to the leadership of Bruce Carlos and Lynn Joseph for all of their work in facilitating the AEEA process.

Next Education Committee Meeting:



DATE: Tuesday, November 12, 2013

TIME: 6:30 pm

LOCATION: Ecole Puntledge Park Elementary School
401 Willemar Avenue, Courtenay, BC