

## **ABORIGINAL EDUCATION COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES**

A TEAMS meeting of the Aboriginal Education Council was called to order at 11:30 am on Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

**Present:** Laurie Larsen (Board of Education Chairperson, SD #36), Jordan Tinney (Superintendent, SD #36), Lyn Daniels (Director of Instruction, Aboriginal Learning, SD #36 - Chair), Debra Merrier (CUPE), Heather Myhre (Métis Nation BC), Chief Harley Chappell (Semiahmoo First Nation) and Susan Beyer (SPVPA)

**Absent:** Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association designate, David Kenworthy (Katzie First Nation), Pam O’Neill (Kekinow Native Housing Society), Jacque King (STA) and parent designates

**Guests:** Neder Dhillon (Acting Assistant Superintendent, SD #36) and Juanita Coltman (Principal, Aboriginal Learning, SD #36) and Paula James (Senior Support Staff Coordinator, Aboriginal Learning, SD #36)

#### **1. Welcome and Acknowledgment**

#### **2. Approval of Agenda:**

**Moved:** Chairperson Laurie Larsen  
**Seconded:** Debra Merrier  
**Carried**

#### **3. Approval of Minutes from October 27, 2020 Meeting:**

**Moved:** Chairperson Laurie Larsen  
**Seconded:** Debra Merrier  
**Carried**

#### **4. Community Updates:**

##### **i. Semiahmoo First Nation**

Chief Harley reported that the City of Surrey will have two community carving centers and that the new Surrey Police Chief Norm Lipinski has expressed interest in connecting with the AEC.

**ii. Katzie First Nation**

Paula gave an update on the remote learning sites and language teaching through stories and hands on activities.

**iii. Métis Nation BC**

Heather Myhre introduced herself to the AEC.

**5. Ministry of Education Update**

Lyn reported that the BC Tripartite Education Agreement includes a commitment by BC, Canada and FNEESC to increase accountability and to promote and achieve effective working relationships between First Nations and local boards of education. Through the agreement, the AEC will have more involvement in strategic planning in the education system.

**6. Land Acknowledgment**

There was conversation regarding Surrey Council's rejection of the motion to acknowledge Aboriginal lands at the start of their meetings. Other items discussed were the meaning and importance of land acknowledgments, what action or response should the AEC take, what process the Board of Education went through regarding land acknowledgment and KPU's letter to the city requesting reconsideration.

Lyn stated that she would like to act on the idea of involving students and she will come up with a plan and provide an update.

**7. Equity Scan**

Lyn discussed some of the results from the equity campfire held on December 7 and 8, 2020 by referring to a wordle and four slides, Equity Lab Rubric: Policy and Governance, Learning Environment, Pedagogical Core and Learning Profile.

Chairperson Laurie Larsen suggested that the wording in the report be looked at so that it is more accessible for the public.

Lyn stated that another campfire gathering would be planned to look at the scan more in depth and address equity.

**8. Meeting Themes**

Lyn asked for suggestions for themes for next year's AEC meetings. Lyn stated that she liked Chief Harley's suggestion of the four seasons.

Chairperson Laurie Larsen stated that she would like to see some students' projects showcased at future meetings.

**9. Adjournment:**

**Moved:** Chairperson Laurie Larsen  
**Seconded:** Chief Harley Chappell  
**Carried**