

## **ABORIGINAL EDUCATION COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES**

A TEAMS meeting of the Aboriginal Education Council was called to order at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, May 18, 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), David Kenworthy (Katzie First Nation), Tammy Murphy (CUPE), Jacquie King (STA) and Susan Beyer (SPVPA)

**Absent:** Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association designate, Pam O’Neill (Kekino Native Housing Society), Heather Myhre (Métis Nation BC), Chief Harley Chappell (Semiahmoo First Nation) and parent designates

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

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

Lyn played a video of students from Peace Arch Elementary regarding land acknowledgment that she would like to have presented to the Surrey Mayor and City Council. She will keep working at trying to present the video.

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

**Moved:** Chairperson Laurie Larsen  
**Seconded:** Susan Beyer  
**Carried**

#### **3. Approval of Minutes from January 19, 2021 Meeting:**

**Moved:** Chairperson Laurie Larsen  
**Seconded:** David Kenworthy  
**Carried**

## Introductions

### 4. Community Updates:

#### i. **Katzie First Nation**

Going through pandemic, parents and community have wanted to see many changes. Surrey Schools and SD42 are working hard to meet the needs of students and parents.

With the support of the Board of Education, the Tetotun school will continue next school year with a full time teacher and education assistant.

Both Lyn and Neder expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the Board of Education for their support.

Chairperson Laurie Larsen expressed that the Board was not aware of the isolation that the students on Barnston Island were feeling. The presentation to the Board was a learning and information session and the Tetotun school has the Board's support.

Paula expressed the community's appreciation for the Tetotun school.

A team (including DCFs, Paula, Neder and Tetotun students) went cedar harvesting. The harvesting was videotaped so that there will be a resource to see how it is done.

Lyn advised that BC Métis Nation has a Wellness Program for families that have students with special needs that are not being supported by their school. She hopes that they will be able to share updates next time.

### 5. **School Naming**

There are four sites being developed for new schools. In order to get an early start on school names, Aboriginal Learning has contracted Chief Harley to visit the sites and take a look at the geographical features, talk to his relatives and elders to learn how the land was used, what animals and plants habited there. Once, Chief Harley shares his findings, there will be a meeting of a committee to identify a name that reflects the Coast Salish territory.

### 6. **Racing to Equity**

The District is using a consulting group, Racing to Equity, to help change our system to be more respectful and welcoming. Racing to Equity will use listening circles to gather feedback about experiences with Surrey Schools by meeting with 30 to 40 groups (including parents, teachers, senior management, etc.). Based on the information gathered, Racing to Equity will identify themes and then those themes will form a

framework or the basis for a curriculum that will be co-constructed with SD36 with the goal of being more equitable, welcoming environment for all Surrey residents.

## 7. **Equity Scan**

From campfire gathering, these particular themes emerged:

- Cultural safety
- Curriculum
- Bias and racism
- Continuity
- Communication

Next step is to have formal meetings with the local First Nations and community partners. Have already met with Katzie First Nation and provided a formal presentation and waiting for a formal response that will be included in the final report.

Using the social innovation process, need to look at “how do we address these themes and what are we going to do”.

Once formal meetings and the final report are complete, then can look at having a campfire to talk about how to create some prototypes, programs, interventions or strategies to address these themes.

## 8. **Name Change for the Department**

Proposing to change the name from Aboriginal Learning to Indigenous Peoples’ Learning. In beginning stages and gathering input from staff, local First Nations, Métis Nation, students and parents/guardians.

Hopefully in the Fall will bring a recommendation forward to Aboriginal Education Council to recommend the name change and then a motion to the Board of Education.

## 9. **Adjournment:**

**Moved:** Chairperson Laurie Larsen  
**Seconded:** Jacquie King  
**Carried**