



School District #28
Aboriginal Education Centre
241 Kinchant St
Quesnel, BC V2J 2R3
250-991-5550

Aboriginal Education Council Meeting

Date: December 13, 2023

Location: District Administration Office, 401 North Star Road

Time: 9:00 a.m.

In attendance:

(1) Lori Donald	Métis Association
(2) Terri Boyd	Lhtako Red Bluff Band
(3) Audrey Sinclair	?Esdilagh
(4) Dorine Greene	Quesnel Friendship Centre
(5) Kristina Moller	Kluskus (late)
Dan Lowndes	SD28 Superintendent
Doreen L'Hirondelle	SD28 Aboriginal Education Principal
Tony Goulet	SD28 Trustee
Julie-Anne Runge	SD28 Trustee
Dawn Rodger	QDTA President
Jeanette Beauvillier	CUPE President
Wanda Klics	Director of Instruction – HR
Christine Kopetski	Administrative Assistant – Aboriginal Ed

Regrets:	Lindy Alec	Nazko Band
	Thelma Stump	?Echen
	Melissa Huska	SD28 Trustee

Meeting started late at 9:10 a.m.

Acknowledgement of Lhtako Dene Territory: We acknowledge we are meeting on the traditional territory of the Lhtako Dene.

Prayer

Introduction

AGENDA

Review minutes of October 11, 2023 - handout

Dorine Greene approved minutes Terri Boyd seconded. All in favour.

Aboriginal Cultural Materials - handout

Tentatively looking at February 2nd as the replacement day of Nov 20th. Dan Lowndes decision to cancel made with heavy hearts. However, this is an important day in our

district and we want to honour this important work. Confirming speakers/presenters with intention of a very similar session to what was originally planned. See original brochure for layout of the day.

Draft flag protocol Update

Changes have been made. Next step to bring to chair/vice chair. Not a change to policy, will be an appendix. Thank you for suggestions.

Aboriginal Education - handout

- a) Non-instructional Day – Indigenous focus – November 27, 2023
Trying to move to February 2. More information to come.
- b) Smudging Handout – approval
Copy provided for information. Background – put together by McNaughton, collaboration with Aboriginal Education.
- c) Project Proposal - Review amount approved by Council and District Principal, Aboriginal Education – form for approval
- d) Food Security Initiatives for communities (\$5000.00 available)
*What to support (backpack program or other?)

Dan Lowndes: Feeding Futures Fund (FFF) available up to approx. \$5000.00. If council wants this funding to go towards Backpack program and Friendship Centre is interested we can discuss. This is a one-time funding. FFF can be used for expansion, or in order to sustain what's being done. Appreciate the Program for providing for families outside of school session dates.

Tony Goulet (Friendship Centre): Backpack Program feeds family of four. School role is minimal, they mostly just need to select the families. Can donate online through Friendship Centre. This FFF contribution can feed many families throughout the year. Looking for a way to get these backpacks out to families without making it a burden for schools.

- e) Update on Human Rights Exemption Renewal – *moved to end of meeting*

Budget Update - handout

76% left of Aboriginal Education

71% left of ESD/ELL

Suggested “more of a breakdown” for next meeting.

Other items

- a) Change date of Aboriginal Education Council meetings
Doreen requested moving all meetings to **third Wednesday of the month**

*Reminder that we are moving meetings into the community, with Aboriginal Education space as a backup when needed.

- Jan 17th – Lhtako
- Feb 21st – Friendship Centre
- Mar 13th – ?Esdilagh

- April 17th – Nazko (confirmation needed)
- May 15th – TBA
- June 19th – Helen Dixon

Dorine Greene (FC) motion to change all meetings to third Wednesday of the month, with flexibility to move to second Wednesday as needed. Lori Donald seconded. All in favour.

Community & District Updates

?Esdilagh:

Miranda has been hired as the new band manager. Not a change with students in last month or so. Having Christmas luncheon on Dec 19th with all community members in invited.

Métis:

Full house for Louis Riel dinner and dance. Everyone is invited to the Christmas pot luck dinner and dance, December 16th 5:00. Bring secret Santa gift.

Friendship Centre:

Annual Christmas lunch will be held Dec 20th at noon, this is organized and run by staff, with basket raffles, hampers and entertainment. This luncheon is open to all community members. Amy Robertson, the Culture Program Co-ordinator has been busy with workshops including, wreath making, ribbon skirt, cedar gnomes and many other cultural activities. There is a consistent group attending. Tammy Burrows continues with elder activities once a month.

Trustee:

Julie-Anne has been busy attending Christmas celebrations and activities at schools across the district. There public consultation for the new Carson Elementary last week, with many attending.

Superintendent

The BC government has proposed changes to improve education outcomes for First Nations and other indigenous students attending public schools. There are ministerial orders dictating “how we move forward “regarding voting and non-voting members of council. There will be some level of change for the council.

Lhtako/Red Bluff:

Terri – Have a safe holiday, they have lost many people in their community, so please check on each other! The band office will be closed from Dec 23rd and will reopen Jan 8th. The community has been doing baking with Irwin and Kimpton. The weeks before Christmas, are busy with a Christmas party at the family centre, community mtg & staff Christmas party. Student can partake in skiing, swimming etc., during the winter break. Please send prayers for Ron, as he collapsed in the airport returning from his holiday. Infrastructure update: Clinic should be finished in the spring time; the hall is now finished and the arbor needs to be sanded and painted. Pow Wow is changed to 1st weekend of August at the new site. Volunteers are still needed for the Lhtako Winter Games. The youth centre offers afterschool activities and snack for student. The youth counsellor is doing an amazing job connecting with our youth. “Staff is working together, not against each other” Open Minds

Kluskus:

Kristina – The office will be closed for 3 weeks, starting on Dec 15th and reopening on Jan 8th. There will be a community Christmas dinner from 2-9pm. The new Principal at Kluskus, Maddison Roll is doing an excellent job engaging with the students. She is teaching lots of outdoor activities with field trips. Dakelh Education is providing “Computer Training” Wednesdays in Jan/Feb &” Heavy Equipment Operator” (only 8 seats) starting near end of January (funding dependant). Kristina has been working with Keri O and the students at CSS.

Update on Human Rights Exemption Renewal - handout

Doreen reviewed Human Rights Special Program Renewal through a power point. Reviewed what the program is, the ongoing need, accountability, timeline, third party interests (ABED council, QDTA & CUPE). Included in the handout was Student data, demographics, graduation rates and Indigenous student success document and graphs

The district is seeking a 5-year extension of the program. This special program must be extended to Jan 7/2024, so that we may continue our program without interruption. All third parties will review and sign.

Adjournment: 11:02AM