



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

Aboriginal Education Council Meeting

Date: October 11, 2023

Location: HDC Centre - Aboriginal Education

Time: 9:00 a.m.

In attendance:

Terri Boyd	Lhtako Red Bluff Band
Audrey Sinclair	?Esdilagh
Kristina Moller	Kluskus
Lori Donald	Métis Association
Dorine Greene	Quesnel Friendship Centre
Dan Lowndes	SD28 Superintendent
Doreen L'Hirondelle	SD28 Aboriginal Education Principal
Julie-Anne Runge	SD28 Trustee
Lisa Boudreau	SD28 Trustee

Regrets:

Tony Goulet	SD28 Trustee
Dan Lowndes	Superintendent
Lindy Alec	Nazko Band
Melissa Huska	SD28 Trustee
Thelma Stump	?Echen

Review Minutes of June 17, 2023

Dorine Greene approved the minutes of June 17, 2023, seconded by Lori Donald. All in favour

- Policy 525 review

It is recommended not to add slashes to policy; Métis feels segregated. The suggested changes go against the Canada constitution. Changes on hold with ongoing discussion during the year.

- Aboriginal Education Policy 455

Dorine Greene and Kristina Moller to assist Doreen to review the Policy. Doreen will contact to set up a date.

- Draft Flag Protocol – Dan Lowndes (an addition to Policy 540)

Comments on draft content

Schools flew survivor flag on Orange Shirt Day.

Round table input from members:

Dorine – This is a good addition to Policy 540. Likes the idea that schools will know how and what the process is to get flags up

Kristina – I think this is good. Consulting with Lhtako is awesome

Audrey – I think this is good and to the point and considerate of consultation

Lori: Respectful and good

Julie Ann: Nothing to add

Lisa: This is great as it is coming before the QJS opening ceremony

Terri: Agree to it; it is good. Seen many changes; need representative and elder to do this. Prefer not to have last minute notice.

Doreen – Can we make a motion to accept this as presented.

Dorine made the motion to accept the Draft Flag protocol as presented with corrections suggested

Lori Seconded the motion. All in favor

Doreen to follow-up with invitation of Council and have the poster sent to AEC members.

Aboriginal Education

a) Budget Update:

The budget is just in and 92% of the budget is still available. Expenses were \$164,177.38. There is \$1,814,422.64 and \$123,700.00 for ESD teacher with \$12,862.05 spent and \$110,837.95 still available.

b) Student Enrollment

Doreen went over the chart and the enrolment of Indigenous students is steadily increasing. See chart attached to the agenda. Last year - 930 students and this year – 951 students.

c) Staffing – Targeted Funding

-Aboriginal Culture Teacher – Doreen updated the group that an Aboriginal Cultural teacher was hired and she can't start until next school year as she is currently on maternity leave. The position has not been filled this year. Doreen tried to convince Casey Campbell to stay, however she has moved on. This position is under the Human Rights Exemption and we must hire an Indigenous teacher.

-ESD Teacher – Doris Kemp resigned and her position has not been replaced.

d) *Aboriginal Education 2023-24 Goals*

Doreen provided power point presentation

d) *Project proposal review amount to be approval by Council and District Principal, Aboriginal Education*

The District Principal, Aboriginal Education can approve to the amount of \$2000.00. After that, she will seek approval from Council.

e) *Equity action Plan Report submitted in July, 2023 - Update*

This is a report for the Ministry of Education and Child care. This is the first year that the Council has had to sign it. Council was emailed a copy of the report. The Ministry thanked us for our great work and stated they highlighted some great points to share with others.

f) *Food Security for communities (\$5000.00 available)*

-what to support (Backpack program or other)

Dorine – Friendship Centre does 30 bags a week of non-perishable food items. This is a partnership with the Rotary. That is enough to for a family of 4 to have 3 meals a day for the

weekend. Schools love this and it is pretty empowering. Would love to see this program expand out to more schools. The program originally started out with 10 bags and then 20 and now the program has 30 bags. Staff at Friendship Centre are doing this at the side of their desks. These backpacks are assembled on Thursday and Tony delivers them to schools on Friday.

Green Hope Society is doing well. Quesnel Mental Health (Nourish) offers food per every day except for 1 day. They operate outside of Jean's Side Door Catering. They provide a service for 90 people a day.

Roundtable input from members:

Kristina: Backpack program is amazing. There is a lot of need.

Audrey: Heard about the back-pack program two years ago, and thinks it is incredible and the support that it provides to the community. Audrey asked how the bags are packed and how many people tackle this. Dorine stated that bags are packed every Thursday by 2-5 people. They work at it as long as it takes to do the back packs.

Lori: The backpack is a great idea and also assistance with snacks is really good.

Julie-Ann Love the program, and it supports well-being that extends beyond school hours. It does require money and people. They need a coordinator for this.

Lisa: It is so important for our students to have a full belly. Can the District join in on this somehow?

Dorine: Would have to ask Dan and Tony. We need to make sure it is sustainable. We don't want to have to introduce the program and then take it away.

Terri: Never heard of this before. Is it for food?

Dorine: Yes, it is a food contribution for the weekend. People bring empty bags to get a full bag. It has in things like pasta, sauces, soup, cereal, canned fruit, veggies and a bit of fresh fruit. This goes a long way. Tony does this off the side of his desk.

Doreen: Can we get a motion to use the \$5,000.00 for the back-pack program as it sounds like everyone is supportive of this.

Audrey makes the motion to use the \$5,000 to support the backpack program. Lori seconded the motion. All in favour.

6. Other items

a) Community hosting of meeting location:

November 8: Kluskus

December 6: (Changed from December 13) Métis Bingo Hall

January 10: Lhtako

February 14: Friendship Centre

March 13: ?Esdilagh

April 10: Nazko (to confirm with them)

May 8: To be announced

June 12: Helen Dixon

7. Community Updates:

?Esdilagh:

(Audrey) 6 or 7 students living on reserve coming into Quesnel for schooling. There are 10 postsecondary students. Talk of looking into some training. The meeting space has been renovated, so it will be available for use for small events and Band meetings. Audrey will book for the AEC March meeting.

Métis

(Lori) Quiet summer. Short on people due to surgeries, events, etc. Father recently diagnosed with brain tumor. Hard to plan things. Louis Riel is next month (November 16). Usually do a dinner and dance on Saturday. Celebration of Métis History and Culture to educate people about the Métis. Louis Riel was one of the founding leaders of Confederation. It is important to protect and keep identity of the Métis, and celebrate this day re: Métis rights and loss of culture. Weeklong events. There are two Louis Riel days, one in Manitoba in February and everywhere else in the West, it is celebrated in November. November 16 is a day for awareness.

Friendship Centre (Dorine) It was a busy summer. Delaine has been doing kids' group and with the Science Day in the Park had a successful community chemistry event. Has elder's groups. Having a mural painted at the front of the building by 4 artists, and a beautiful job being done. For Orange Shirt Day – Truth and Reconciliation, Amy Robertson, cultural coordinator had informational displays and spent the day supporting this day.

November 28 is a Walk for Sobriety – walk and dinner

June 21, Aboriginal Day. Dorine was head of the committee to plan this. There were over 900 students from School District, No. 28 in attendance throughout the day. The planning for this occurred within 6 weeks. Food was great, music was great and representation from every band. There was a beautiful display of drummers and dancers and an opportunity for Quesnel to get a full display of culture. There was also an elders' tent available. It was a huge success, and Dorine is proud of the Committee who came together to support this. For the future, Dorine would like to see more Band representation at the planning table. She would like see more cultural displays (i.e. tanning of hide) and more richer culture present. Dorine would like to see the event become bigger. Suggested possibility of LeBordais Park. It is no longer held there due to kids being too preoccupied with the water park/park. If we can get some orange mesh snow fencing -art work can be displayed on the fence also.

Trustee:

(Julie Ann) The Grand Opening of Quesnel Junior School is on October 26, 2023 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. QJS is the only school to have a smudging room in the District. Another exciting announcement is the news that Carson School is being built. The school will open September 2005 or 2006. This will be built fast and will be a neighborhood of learning. The new school will include a bigger gym.

The Northern Interior Branch is having a meeting in Prince George on October 13 and they want to highlight staff. Julie-Ann confirmed that Doreen was attending and asked which elder she was bringing. Doreen confirmed that she was bringing Ellie Peters and she would also be there. Trustee Lisa Boudreau mentioned that Julie-Ann has put her heart and soul into this. Julie-Ann stated she has set a goal for the next four years to have local meetings

Lhtako:

Terri has 43 students attending School District #28 in elementary and secondary and 10 postsecondary students, and one of her postsecondary students is studying to be a lawyer. Terri would like to start up her tutoring program in November. Terri has been meeting with school staff to introduce herself and to ensure they know who Terri is and has her contact information. Two elders are teaching the Carrier Language Class in Lhtako. The Youth Centre has been busy with activities such as beading, cooking and language. There is a hot lunch program offered for the community on Mondays and Tuesdays. Everyone is welcome to join – parents do have to be present with their

children if children are there. The construction of the Health Clinic looks good. Lhtako will eventually have their own doctor and nurses available once this is completed. Most band members are back on the reserve. There is another new subdivision going up. There may be a treatment aftercare and a women's shelter on the reserve in the future.