

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 28 (QUESNEL)

P R O C E D U R E S

NO.: 525 - ABORIGINAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

Education Committee

Ref:

PROCEDURES:

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide students of Aboriginal ancestry with the opportunity to gain an education that meets individual and community needs, and includes their culture, heritage, language, and self-government as Aboriginal People.

1. Purpose:

To ensure that students of Aboriginal ancestry receive full benefit of the funding received by the School District for culture, language, and support programs (i.e., monies allocated to the district for Aboriginal Education in addition to the block funding). This purpose would be achieved through providing an opportunity for dialogue around information, proposals, evaluations, and recommendations by/for the Education Council and through obtaining informed consent from the members of the Education Council for decisions pertaining to spending of the additional funds for language, culture, and support programs.

2. Guiding Principles

2.1. That the partnership between the Board and the Aboriginal communities, through the Council, ensures that informed consent is obtained by the Board of Education, on critical issues.

3. Procedures:

3.1. That the Council will make decisions in a manner suitable to the members.

3.2. That the school district representatives will work with the Council through the District Principal for Aboriginal Education or Director of Instruction-Curriculum.

3.3. That written Band/group resolution to support the Aboriginal Education Council in the Quesnel School District is required to be received by the Superintendent of Schools through the Aboriginal Education Council.

3.4. Regular meetings between the Education Council, the Superintendent of Schools, and the Board of Education will develop and review working relationships.

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4. Membership:

- 4.1. Any Aboriginal community or organization may apply to appoint a representative and alternate through resolution by its organization and written notice to the Superintendent of Schools through the Aboriginal Education Council. This representative or their alternate will serve as the voting member.
- 4.2. Voting members may not be employed by the Quesnel School District.
- 4.3. One (1) representative or one (1) alternate from each of the Band Councils/Aboriginal Organizations (confirmed by Band Council/ Aboriginal Organization Resolutions).

Voting Members:

- i. **Lhtakot'en** (Red Bluff Band)
- ii. **Lhoosk'uz Dené** (Kluskus Band)
- iii. **Ndazkhot'en** (Nazko Band)
- iv. **?Esdilagh** (Alexandria)
- v. North Cariboo Metis Association
- vi. Friendship Centre

Non-Voting Members:

- i. Director of Instruction-Curriculum
- ii. District Principal for Aboriginal Education
- iii. Other Aboriginal Education District Staff Representatives
- iv. Student Representatives
- v. Board of Education member(s)
- vi. The Superintendent of Schools maintains ex-officio status with the Aboriginal Education Council and undiminished responsibilities as defined by the School Act and Regulations

5. Decision Making:

- 5.1. It is the council's belief that the "Consensus Model" is the most effective model to use in decision-making matters. Based on this model, decisions made at time of meeting will stand.
- 5.2. A quorum consists of three voting members
- 5.3. For all matters requiring informed consent of targeted funding, whereby a decision cannot be reached by consensus, voting will be restricted to one representative of the above listed voting members.

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- 5.4. District Principal for Aboriginal Education or Director of Instruction-Curriculum or Board of Education representative remain during entire meeting.
- 5.5. Aboriginal Education District Staff Representatives, and other reporting individuals, will report at the beginning of meeting for approximately 15 to 20 minutes, and before taking their leave, partake in a question/answer period should the need arise.
- 5.6. Minutes of each Council meeting will be forwarded to Council Voting Members, both Directors of Instruction, Superintendent of Schools, District Principal for Aboriginal Education, Aboriginal Education District Staff Representatives and Board of Education representatives.

6. Specific Responsibilities:

- 6.1. To make educational decisions in the best interests of our Aboriginal students.
- 6.2. To establish criteria for Aboriginal funding and program proposals.
- 6.3. To set funding and program priorities within the Aboriginal target funding.
- 6.4. To discuss general personnel and hiring processes that affect Aboriginal students.
- 6.5. To participate in the hiring of Aboriginal Education personnel.

Interviews would include:

- a. Two or three voting council members
- b. Director of Instruction and/or designate(s)
- c. District Principal for Aboriginal Education

Council members are selected to make decisions on behalf of their respective band/organization. Decisions would be made by the representative at the time of hiring.

Note: The individual on the hiring committee must strive to be objective and declare any potential conflict of interest.

- 6.6. Receive and review new proposals for new initiatives and make recommendations based on criteria.
- 6.7. To review other areas of interest to the Council as they affect the education of Aboriginal students.
- 6.8. To communicate recommendations to Aboriginal communities, other Aboriginal organizations, parents, students, and other groups the Council may include from time to time.

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- 6.9. To make recommendations to the Board of Education through the Boards non-voting representative on the Council, by forwarding written recommendations and the minutes of each Council meeting to the Board, and by meeting with the Board at least once a year.
- 6.10. Report and highlight accomplishments.
- 6.11. To review annually the Council membership.