



**School District No. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen)
Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Meeting
February 17, 2015 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Tuc-el-Nuit Elementary School library**

Present:

AEAC Members:

Bev Young, Superintendent, Chair
Helen Gallagher, District Aboriginal Teacher
Frieda Prince, LSIB Education Coordinator
David Foster, Principal OSE
Mary Haugen, Alternate – Charlotte Mitchell
Kali Gabriel-Baptiste, SOSS Sr. Rep

Shy-Anne Piche, OSS Jr. Rep
Myrna Coates, Similkameen Trustee
Mike Safek, Principal OSS
Tyla Harker, Similkameen Parent Rep.
Colleen Baptiste, OIB Parent Rep

Guests:

Michael Reid, Support Worker SESS
Sonya Jensen, Support Worker SOSS
Les Louis, Support Worker SESS
Lynn Couch-Alaric, Support Worker TEN
Shendah Benoit, Principal TEN

Marty Marchand-Ring, Support Worker CPS
Samantha Marsel, Support Worker OKF & OES
Karlie McCarthy, Support Worker OSS & OSES
Alanna Waunch, Support Worker SOSS
Naomi Ety, Support Worker OKF

Regrets: Theresa Gabriel – OIB Education Coordinator, Tyrell Allison – SESS Jr. Rep, Kelaya Squakin – SESS Sr. Rep, Lindsay Anderson – OIB Parent Rep.

- 1) Opening Prayer and Welcome** – Helen Gallagher **Lunch - JANT**
- 2) Introductions**
- 3) Presentation – Marcy Trotter Aboriginal EA Course** – This course has been a long time coming. Jim had started asking for a course like this about 10 years ago. They are still fine tuning it and hope to have it ready to go in the fall of 2015.
- 4) Aboriginal Report** – Broke up into 4 groups, read over report and then had to write down what they wanted to “Keep or Discontinue”. See notes on next page.
- 5) Native Dance 10 curriculum** – Council decided to table it until next meeting. They want to wait until they hear from our elder and his family in the Similkameen. Helen will get a hold of Glen and let him know.
- 6) District Aboriginal Report** – Report has passed with only one change. Put our logo on the title of the report.
- 7) Support Workers Action Goals Progress:**
 - Lynn** – **1)** Lunch time arts and crafts – open to all students **2)** Aboriginal Cultural Board
 - Marty** – **1)** Fish tank **2)** Language/crafts
 - Alanna** – **1)** Positive connections with students
 - Sonya** – **1)** R Native Voice **2)** Career Fair **3)** 9 students going to Scotland
 - Sam** – **1)** Strong Start **2)** Okanagan Language 2 nights a week **3)** Better connection with teachers.
 - Naomi** – **1)** Strong Start **2)** Cultural board
 - Mike** – **1)** Farm Bag fundraising **2)** After school homework club
 - Les** - **1)** Singing and Drumming **2)** Language with projects
 - Karlie** – **OSES** - **1)** After school program **2)** Drumming **OSS 1)** – Drum making **2)** Okanagan Song
- 8) Next meeting: May 12, 2015 at USIB Band Office Lunch @ 12:15 Meeting 1:00- 3:00**

Group Break out Session

Keep :

- 1) Cultural Camps
- 2) Okanagan Days rotating
- 3) All student inclusion
- 4) Strong Start
- 5) Cultural activities in schools
- 6) Crafts, drumming and singing
- 7) Salmon Fry release and other field trips
- 8) Aboriginal Graduation
- 9) Feasts
- 10) Four Food Chiefs – every year or 2nd year – have a feast each year
- 11) Promotion of Career Fairs
- 12) Pow Wow
- 13) Parent Information night
- 14) Professional development for teachers and staff
- 15) Support workers as resource people at district functions for students
- 16) Things requiring further effort
- 17) Focussing on a few key ideas
- 18) Continue to grow – success for all students
- 19) Grade 5 and 10 Residential School curriculum
- 20) Share ASWs as resource people, share resources ie: singing, dance, drumming, etc.
- 21) Work with bands with programs, : ie: R Native Voice, Trekking Our Land, etc.

Improvements:

- 1) Partnership groups =Leadership
- 2) 1st paragraph – under “Highlights for 2013/14” could be shortened, less wordy
- 3) Resource people (more available)
- 4) Pow wow-0 having more resources,planning time, promoting host involvement
- 5) Parent night- promote more more family involvement
- 6) Parent involvement in schools
- 7) Aboriginal Health and Wellness, nutrition

- 8) FNEESC – Parenting workshops
- 9) Schools and Families come together
- 10) Implement Drumming and singing in school music classes
- 11) Agree with further effort
- 12) New EA in 2016

Change:

- 1) Develop strategies for things requiring effort
- 2) Develop more concrete plan with detailed actions
- 3) Develop plan to phase in big ideas that is realistic
- 4) Language in all schools
- 5) Have schools pay for students to go to Cultural Center after studying the gr. 4 Unit.
- 6) Raise community and parent awareness of the work experience, apprenticeship programs, Ace It programs.
- 7) Use band newsletters to get the word out.