



Wisdom and Guidance Committee

Agenda/Minutes

Monday, April 8, 2019

BRICK Learning Centre

Wolf Creek Public Schools Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 territory and we recognize all the many First Nations, Métis Inuit, and non First Nations whose footsteps have marked these lands.



Elder Teachings

- **Bert Bull & Veronica Cutknife**
 - Humour should be a big part of life (with the seriousness of the world it is important to mix it with humour)
 - The month of April is the frog moon (ayîkipîsim) - The tadpoles announces the welcome of spring



Business

- **Updates from Wolf Creek Public School Division**
 - **Superintendent update**
 - Budget Information- delay due to election
 - Election Day is April 16 (due to the provincial elections, the release of the budget is delayed)t
 - In the meantime, we will use this year's budget figures to plan for 2019-2020 school year. Adjustments can be made once the budget is announced.
 - School Council Liaison with WCPS Board of Trustees - **April 9 at 6:30 p.m. Terrace Ridge, Lacombe**
 - The Board hosted the liaison meetings twice per year (typically fall and spring)
 - Items for discussion:
 - Two board advocacy items were shared in a tri-fold brochure
 - District results from the Thoughtexchange
 - Jordan's Principle - letter to support parents in Ponoka sector
 - Jordan's principle (mechanism for gov't FNMI students who can't access resources)
 - Superintendent will draft a letter to advocate and build awareness for families in need
 - Follow-up re: FNMI Communication in WCPS - Vince Burke (Communications Coordinator) strategic plan of communication
 - The strategic plan has a number of timely topics to use that raise awareness

- There will be brief well developed videos (build over summer and ready to go for the fall)
- Wolf Creek Board of Trustees Friends of Education Award- announcement
 - Wisdom & Guidance Committee was nominated by Ian Tisdale/Erin Freadrich for their dedicated parents and students committed to Committee to do great things. The Committee has come a long way.
 - The Board has invited members of the Wisdom & Guidance Committee to attend the June ? meeting for a presentation and lunch

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Success Coordinator

- Wisdom and Guidance picture
 - Gather by next meeting to get picture (daylight)
- Grad certificate for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (Dawn) - Final draft
 - Working on adjusting image for a final draft
 - Presently there are:
 - PSC = 18 graduates
 - BLC = 32 graduates
- CASS FNMI Spring Gathering- presentation on 4 Seasons of Reconciliation
 - April 10 - 12, 2019 (Jayson, Lorrie, Shelagh, Josephine attending)
 - Shelagh presenting on 4 Seasons of Reconciliation
 - Board working on modules at the 1st meeting of the every month
 - Discuss what is in the modules
 - Learning and awe of recent changes - history
 - Review and debrief (process used for district pd)
- Alberta Education - Trish Randolph-Beaver - Senior Education Manager at Government of Alberta - suspended until after election
 - Due to the elections her attendance is suspended to attend meetings
 - Will attend future meeting
- Shining Student Award- Zone 4 - 175 nominations. 12 successful candidates will be announced on April 10th.
 - PSC had a couple nominations
- April 17 - FNMI Lead Teacher/Meskanahk Ka-Nipa-Wit School visit PSC & BRICK
 - Talk about intervention pieces, burning issues, etc.
- April 26 - Goota Desmarais - Inuk presenter for FNMI Cohort
 - Goota will spend Friday with FNMI Cohort to discuss culture
- Indigenous Celebration Day - Friday, June 21st in partnership with Parent Link & Town

- Parent Link & the Town of Ponoka would once again like to partner with WCPS
- Leanne will arrange dancers
- No exams will be scheduled for that day
- ASCA Conference - Saturday, April 27th - an invitation to W&G committee to present (Alberta School Board) Delta Edmonton South

Date set to complete the presentation

Josephine's Role - update for the committee

- Classroom Connect - data and feedback from staff members across the Division
 - Handout: stats/data teacher feedback form
 - Josephine is being utilized well
 - Mainly primary grades and junior high
 - No requests have come from high school or upper elementary grades yet
 - 100% student engagement
 - Josephine is doing a wonderful job
 - Great impact and building relationships with students
 - Empowering and building capacity with teachers

Principal Rep/FNMI Lead Teacher/School

- PES and W&G Follow up plans - next year? - Tim and Nathan
 - Combined event (school and parent council) well received - led into great conversations
 - Good learning opportunities - strong appetite to build connections/bridges between the two
 - Continue building and thought process going forward
 - Layna reached out to Shelagh that School Council is interested
 - Form a sub-committee (3 reps from each council) date in May to meet and dates for next year
 - Nathan/Shelagh will coordinate
 - April 26 is next PES Parent Council Meeting
 - Set date for May 21 @ 6:00 pm at PES (Nathan/Lana)
 - Tim announced that he is stepping down as principal of PES.
 - He gives kudos to WCPS, W&G, Shelagh/Josephine for leading the province in the outstanding work in cultural awareness. This is the right place for all kids.
- BRICK
 - Grad Feast- date? - Ian, Erin and Lori
 - Still having trouble coming up with date for year-end/grad feast

- Initial thought to have everyone come and send them off have a great summer
- With Diploma exams and graduation ceremony coming up, the reality is individual programming for students start to see numbers dwindle at the end of the school year.
- So the question is, 'How do we make it meaningful and engaging?'
- Decision is to look ahead to September instead and do a 'Welcome Back' and to include a presentation.
- Marketplace - admin meeting
- We have gifted art students (i.e. photography, painting, beading...they have the gift/ability to capture something special)
- This is an opportunity for students to showcase their wares - cultural artifacts are already showcased in their buildings/hallways.
- This allows entrepreneurial skills
- Shows pride in their work
- Lori at the BLC did grad photos for their 52 students. They are fortunate to have her. Cost affordable: \$30 sitting fee, allows them jump drive with digital images, 10 edited
- Culture Camp - Thursday May 9th - Kathy and Adrian
- Planning a mini Pow Wow and Feast
- PSC Grad - June 1st @ 11:00 - Randall Moonias
- Chief Leonard will present

- **Update from Wisdom and Guidance Committee Members**

Celebrations/Feedback/Concerns

- Lloyd - UAVS
 - Regrets
- Lori - BBQ and Golf
 - Jayson will check with Ryan Vold for 9-holes and BBQ at Wolf Creek Golf Course
 - 4:00 - 6:00 golf
 - 6:30 BBQ



Review Norms and Protocols

- **Norms and Protocols**

The Chair (Note: Chair refers to the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Success Coordinator, Elder)

- Active listening is expected and distractors is discouraged to ensure full engagement in the meeting.
- In the event that confidential information is shared in the meeting, the Wisdom and Guidance committee resolves to protect it.

- Respecting all team members by committing to the Talking Circle Protocols.



Items for Discussion

Barb Reaney, Director of Safe and Caring Schools, is currently working to develop a crisis response manual for WCPS. In doing so, she would appreciate feedback regarding a memorial table.

Question: Is it culturally appropriate to set up a memorial table when there is a death of a First Nations student?

■ **Tania:**

- Setting up a table is nice, but remember to take the student's picture down when appropriate. Other idea: make a cherish book to remember student and offer it to the family.

■ **Leonard:**

- Should get consent from the family out of respect. Grief is different for every person. In the old days it was a slow pace and everyone could grieve together. Now it is fast paced, it is hard to talk and see how people are feeling.

■ **Veronica:**

- This should also include non natives, ceremony in death is a good thing and allows closure for students. We make things tougher than it really is necessary. Perhaps consent in a form. Students tend to take on this role because they want to do something to start the grieving process...staff need to be cognizant of this to guide them.

■ **Bert:**

- It is appropriate to consent family about what type of ceremony. Remembering to balance out with today's world. Culturally, the picture is put away for a year. They honour the student by holding a celebration of life as it should be about healing not grieving. Carry on from that - that spirit is alive.

■ **Gabrielle:**

- Supports honouring the student.

■ **Erin:**

- Supports learning and honouring the cultural ways.

■ **Leanne:**

- In agreement of setting up a table for any student. Like to see the healing part (smudges). Students spend more time with their peers than with their own family. Strong connections with students/staff. Ceremony/rituals: teaching about grieving as well. Cognizant of tears/tissue/display of picture, following process and protocol. We should have support for all students.

■ **Josephine:**

- In agreement with Veronica. Let the students decide what they want to do.

■ **Lori:**

- In agreement with Veronica. Amazing to see staff are there for students. There are ways to do things culturally so consult the family...but it is important to honour and celebrate the student. Doesn't hurt to ask the family...so students can grieve too.

■ **Ian:**

- What's common and normal for one is different for others. Need steps to do when you are incapacitated in a time of crisis.

CONSENSUS: Leave it generic and leave it up to the school and students. Compassion intervention.



Next Date(s) for Wisdom and Guidance Committee Meeting?

May 6 @ PES, 5:00 pm

June 3