Wisdom and Guidance Committee
Agenda
Tuesday, October 10th

Wolf Creek Public Schools Land Acknowledgement
We acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 territory and we recognize all the many First Nations, Metis, Inuit, and non First Nations whose footsteps have marked these lands

- **Introductions/guests/ New committee members - Jayson Lovell, Courtney Skjonsberg, Leanne Louis, Tim Bowman, Rolanda Eadie, Tanya Bull Strongman, Gabrielle Blackbird, Lloyd Desjarlais, Garry Louis, Joseph Deschamps, Lorrie Jess, Leonard Standing on the Road, Shelagh Hagemann, Christine Saddleback, Lori Buffalo, Irene Donaldson, Carolyn Mackinaw**

***Tim has volunteered to be the Principal Rep on the Committee**

***Land acknowledgement by Irene Donaldson - explanation to new committee members about the land acknowledgement**

- **Congratulations to Chief of Montana First Nations- Chief Leonard Standing On The Road.**
- **Elder Teachings Elder Joseph Deschamps - noticed the backyards. Noticed there are a lot of moose. We are studying the sloughs right now. We are going to have the same winter as previous because of the signs in nature**
- **Business**
  - **Updates from Wolf Creek Public School Division**
    - **Superintendent Rep update**
      - **Budget allotment**- Resources, FNMI Lead Teachers, Attendance Liaison & cohort - last year at last meeting there was an update of the number of changes that were going to be made this year - Shelagh is a strong advocate and came to the budget meetings and suggested ideas to move forward in the Ponoka Schools - she brought ideas forward that would help our students in Ponoka - Jayson brings the ideas to the Board - the Board deliberates and they tell us how to spend the allocation - that meeting we are excited on the changes - Shelagh is in Jayson's ear a lot about the need for technology and the children's need to access technology consistently - Shelagh asked to purchase additional technology - we were able to purchase chromebooks - $10,000 was put towards the chromebooks from Jayson's budget - was able to purchase additional culturally appropriate resources - the other item we talked about is what else can we provide in our schools to provide more supports - one is a lead teacher role - attendance is also a challenge as well - when we lose contact the student becomes disconnected from the school - the idea to put a person in all 3 schools to keep on attendance was looked at - a student success person was also looked at for career and academic planning with students - we were able to have an additional $1000,000 to create these new positions within these 3 schools. We have had many meetings to see how

these will all fit together. Looking at providing opportunities for staff and students. Schools have been amazing and have been able to find the right people in those roles. This committee has been instrumental. Your voice and your comments have guided and strengthened the sight to move forward. Shelagh cut in to explain the First Nation Metis Inuit Lead teacher role (Courtney in attendance who is the Elementary School FNMI Lead Teacher). With new curriculum and what is happening within all schools and teaching standards, Courtney will be a key contact to assist with resources, etc. Courtney explained what her 1st month has been with PES. Courtney shared a success story with a grade 4 student. Courtney looking forward to her role and looking forward to connecting with parents and working with families. Shelagh explained attendance and the data tracking Wolf Creek is using this year. As a team, will put together strategies to assist the student to succeed. Joey commented on the role of Courtney and the need that is being met. Tanya asked if all schools have one. Yes they do. Adrian Palonelli is the Secondary team lead. Cohort team explained by Shelagh - division wide cohort of 36 plus teachers meet every 2 months. They are advocates and will help with resources and supports.

- **3 Year Plan- update and strategies -** plan for the year update by Jayson - asking for feedback and input on what we are looking to do in Wolf Creek - specifically Outcome #2 - the government has 5 goals for every district - goal 2 what are we doing? Sometimes we need different ways to do things provide different opportunities - getting feedback from trustees - asking tonight for parents to give feedback - what are we missing - are we on the mark - is there anything we need to consider.

  Jayson reviewed the 3 year plan 2017-2020 on the Alberta Education Performance Measures. Jayson received the information from last year today. Based on the information presented, it gives a percentage, and Wolf Creek needs to come up with strategies to improve where needed. We are in mid cycle of reviewing and Jayson will take to the Board to review plan. The Province gives out 5 goal areas and we have to come up with how we are going to address those areas. The Province takes our records and anything with self identified FNMI students they create another report. This report shows areas we need to work on. We have been made aware of the gaps we need to address. Shelagh and a number of staff created their own data. Data has been collected and will be reported in the Plan. Shelagh is working with Christina on specific data collection. There will be surveys going around about Elder services. What are we doing well, where can we improve for example. In every goal area, we have strategies. One is the cohort that Shelagh already addressed. Expansion of the Elder program to create a acceptance plan. Another is setting plans to help students with literacy, etc. another is student voice Nitohtawin Gathering. Joey suggested bringing back FNMI heros and bringing them to students. Jayson is asking all schools with FNMI students to create plans on what they are doing to assist students to be successful. Providing professional development on meeting teacher standards. We need to understand treaties, TandR, being culturally sensitive, residential schools, etc. Shelagh is leading the post secondary area. Wisdom and Guidance will continue to provide support and ideas to help all students. Partnership with

Montana First Nation is mentioned. Foundation Knowledge and additional training supports. The cohorts were learning so much but the Administrators were getting left behind. Collaborative Services Plans are already in place (social workers and resources in Maskwacis). Wolf Creek has made successes from information gathered so far, and we are headed in the right direction.

- **4 Corner Direction Ceremony -**
    - **Principal Rep update- Mr. Tim Bowman**
    - **First Nations, Metis and Inuit Student Success Coordinator**
        - **Shelagh's Role -**
        - **Blanket Activities & Upcoming PD-** Nov. 24
        - **ATA Walking Together**- Crystal Clark
        - **Cohort & New Cohort Update**
        - **Maskwacis Intake Process**
        - **INAC- Severe Exceptionality Funding**
    - **Updates from Wisdom and Guidance Committee Members**
        - **Celebrations/feedback**
            - **Leanne-** Blanket Activity- FNMI Cohorts
            - **Elder Joseph-** Medicine Walk PES & Nitohtahwin Gathering at POS
            - **Leonard-** BCCE Grant Montana First Nations

Review Norms and Protocols

Norms and Protocols

The chair (Note: chair refers to the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Success Coordinator, Elder, Joseph Deschamps, and Elder Esther Mackinaw)

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

- **Talking Circle**

Talking Circle Protocols (taken from Our Words, Our Ways- Alberta Education 2005)

- Participants sit in a circle, which symbolizes completeness.
- Everyone's contributions are equally important.
- People should say what they feel or believe, beginning with "I- statements (for example, "I feel that…")
- All comments should directly address the question or the issue, not comments another person has made. Both negative and positive comments about what others say should be avoided.
- A feather, rock or talking stick will be used as a talking object.
- When the talking object is placed in someone's hands, it is that person's turn to share his or her thoughts, without interruption. The object is then passed to the next person in a clockwise direction.
- Whoever is holding the object has the right to speak, and others have the responsibility to listen.
- Everyone listens in a nonjudgmental way.
- Silence is an acceptable response. There must be no negative reaction to the phrase, "I pass."
- Speakers should feel free to express themselves in any way that is comfortable to them (for example, sharing a story or personal experience, using examples of metaphors).

The committees roles include:

- Provide guidance on strategies to improve programming for First Nations, Metis, and Inuit students within Wolf Creek School Division.
- Provide guidance on strategies to infuse culture into the schools such as Elder programs and cultural days.
- Identify issues, gaps, and barriers to Aboriginal students receiving equitable access to services across the school district and identify strategies to address these issues.
- Provide Cultural Teachings and Awareness to Educators and students to deepen the understanding of First Nations people.

- **Items for Discussion- Overview of Three Year Plan**
  - **Desired Outcome Two: First Nations, Métis and Inuit students are successful**

    Specific Outcome: The achievement gap between First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) students and all other students is eliminated.

    - **Strategies from WCPS**

Wisdom and Guidance Committee Suggestions: What do you see as an area that WCPS needs to attend to in order to support student achievement and eliminate the the gap between First Nations, Metis and Inuit students and all other students?

Tim - looking for ways to influence and help put some action in place. Very pleased to see where Wolf Creek is going and helped make his decision to come here. Looks

around the school to see where people belong. People feel they belong here and sees they feel they have a place they belong.

Rolanda - looking at ways to empower the students. Theme this year for her is to empower. It would be nice to have more of the food and have imersion.

Tanya - enjoys listening to what is presented. Happy to see the teachers that are committed to learn about FMNI. This learning process will come full circle

Christine - new to committee so does not know. Question about what is being done for students who need help in other ways such as mental health

Gabrielle - it's her responsibility to push her children to do well in school. More parent involvement

Lori - amazed with what this group has done in a short amount of time. She comes from a background of sports. Would like to see what sports has done for FNMI students. Went to NAIG this year and everyone wore Team 88. That is the Truth and Reconciliation sports. Would like to see all students involved in more sports.

LLoyd - likes the idea of working with the Montana First Nation. Is there anyway we can help work with the Federal Government. More advocacy in holding the Federal Government accountable to hold their responsibility to Nations.

Garry - 36 members in the Cohort in Wolf Creek - relates to his work and working with clients - clients are 18-20-21 - there are just kids, they know they are First Nations but they have no clue on their identity, their language. How are you teaching your people when a young person who moves from foster home to foster home, how are you training your people to help these students. WE need more of that. We need to build their identity. We need to build their self esteem.

Joey - more words on social work and students who are lost in spirit - those who are in care. Joey is an advocate for those children. Those children don't even know little things such as the name change. Make the social workers a priority.

Lorrie - we have come a long way. Shelagh has worked very hard. We are holding Jayson accountable to this plan. Edmonton Catholic is doing amazing work.

Carolyn Mackinaw - it is the culture. What is inside is lost. The biggest thing she found where she is working know is the understanding, bring more cultural things and cultural activities. That will help and will help with acceptance.

Leonard - happy with what the 4 years as member has done. It has been a learning process for us. Leanne and I will get Montana to fully participate.

Shelagh - the depressive disorders and anxiety is a focus with the social workers and they do work with the Elders. There does seem to be an epidemic and we are aware and we are working on it. Advocacy - provincial does fund students for summer school but not if you live on reserve. We see the inequality that exists and Board does advocate provincially. Agrees with more parent involvement and is happy with this turn out.

Lorie's comment with sports involvement and will look at the population of FNMI students and what are the barriers. Cultural advisors such as Leanne and Tanya do come in and Wisdom and Guidance committee members are the key contacts. Focus on students in care is priority.

Tanya - has not seen so much things "broughten" into the school. Has learned so much in short few years. Continue what we are doing and get as much resources as we can. Incorporate the sixties scoop, the IRS as the students get older. We also do not want to traumatize the kids when we tell them what has happened to their kokoms and mosoms.

Rolanda - it would be nice to get parents to come in and volunteer teaching Cree. Give more opportunities.

Courtney - incorporation of Orange Shirt day. There were stories and activities that occurred 2 weeks prior to orange shirt day. There was so much happening in this school and kids are identifying to the FNMI. This September has been the best so far. Parent involvement is important. Went with Shelagh and Tim to the Braided Journeys on friday. So much ideas she can do. Tanya asked for Courtney to share with the committee and maybe we can help.

Shelagh - Braided Journeys program all admin and lead teachers went. Great ideas came from this. There is a number of connect. That transition piece of high school to post secondary is important and we are taking pieces to try to incorporate. The cultural events we have done some.

Courtney - very proud of the number of teachers who are accessing mosom and we have booked mosom for classroom.

Leanne - for 4 years have been asking for the credit Cree Language course at the high school. Also spoke briefly on MESC.

Rolanda and Time - Smudging room has been approved and working on the ventilation.

Gabrielle - went to school off reserve and looking foward to where we are going

Lori - glad the teachers at Outreach have asked her to be involved. Will be advocating for more sports. Youth empower youth. Goal is to empower youth and hopes to incorporate this in the schools and their community.

Lloyd - has learned quite a bit and glad to be a part of this. The transition peice from high school to post secondary is difficult. Works at RDC and even adult students struggle. Sat with an adult student at work today and the culture and enviroment to the city is different. That transition piece from high school to college is important.

Garry - applied to post secondary back in the day. Back then there was no funding at the Band and met with a guy from Indian Affairs. Went for 3 days and there was no one there going to bat for me. We have all these opportunities now for our students. Encourage our students to grab those opportunities. We need more people like Lloyd to listen to the students.

Lorrie - it will be her honor as Board Trustee and will continue to advocate for all FNMI students

Carolyn - you need to bring in the Cree language. Everything about FN is in the language

Jayson - the ideas brought forward may not necessarily not been thought of and that we have thought of it but not in ways that you may have mentioned.

Shelagh - PD Day for All teachers November 24 will focus on FNMI. Has key note speakers coming in. Crystal from Walking Together will be attending one of the cohort meetings and the PD day this week. INAC for severe exceptionality funding - so much had to be done and INAC determined who would be funded. It was difficult to obtain. Now INAC has done what province is doing. Gave a chunk of funding and now we have application processes to obtain more funding.

Tim - medicine walk - joseph welcomed the group and the staff really connected with the land and appreciate Elder Joseph taking his time

Shelagh - 4 corner ceremony - the Superintendent team and Shelagh offers protocols in all four areas every year to protect all students in district. We have a smudging policy and procedure. The 3 ponoka sites are looking at having a smudging room.

Joseph talked about the Nitohtawin Gathering at the Outreach and the oskapewsak were very proud.

Christine talked about the feast as well. And also briefly mentioned the Cree outdoor ed class she had taken years ago.

Leonard - would like to see the document and the processes that have occurred. Feels Wisdom and Guidance can assist

Shelagh - next meeting dates November 18th is a Saturday so the following Tuesday is the 21st - some cannot make it. Full moon is November 4 or December 3rd. November 28th will be the next meeting. Next meeting will be the Christmas gathering. It will be potluck and a gift exchange.

Rolanda - has opened the PES for any group activities

Closing prayer by Garry.

- **Meeting Dates: New Moon 2017/18**
  Nov. 18 Dec. 17 Jan.16 Feb. 15 Mar. 17
  April 15 May 15 June 13

- **Next Date for Wisdom and Guidance Committee Meeting**

- **Closing Prayer**