



Wisdom and Guidance Committee

Agenda/Minutes

Thursday, March 7, 2019

Division Office

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

- **Veronica Cutknife**
 - The month of March is called 'Goose Month' which signifies that it is now spring. Legend tells us that if we see the geese we know spring is upon us; if they do not show up we need to beware and prepare.



Business

- **Updates from Wolf Creek Public School Division**
 - Superintendent update**
 - CASS Spring Gathering
 - A joint partnership between the College of Alberta School Superintendents and Alberta Education.
 - The 2019 First Nations, Métis & Inuit Education Gathering is being held April 10-12, at the Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton. Over the span of four years and three gatherings, the movement has gained strength, depth, momentum as the relationships and commitments grow.
 - This year builds upon the learning and experiences and promises to be an excellent opportunity for leaders/trustees to learn from and with FNMI peoples from across Alberta and beyond.
 - A strong lineup of keynote speakers: the Honourable Senator Murray Sinclair, Dr. Cindy Blackstock, Aaron Paquette, Jenna Joyce Broomfield, Jesse Went, and Richard Van Camp who will serve as a witness at the gathering.
 - LQS- training in WCPS
 - The Leadership Quality Standard (LQS) is newly developed and aligns with the Teaching Quality Standard and the Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard. On September 1, 2019, the standard will come into effect and will apply to all principals, assistant principals and school jurisdiction leaders (defined as a central office staff member, other than the Superintendent) required by their leadership position to hold an Alberta teaching certificate.
 - March 14 and 15, WCPS will be one of the host sites to receive training. Mr. Ian Tisdale, principal of the Brick Learning Centre has been trained and will facilitate this professional development.
 - Budget Planning 2019/2020

- The Board started talks of priority areas in await of the release of the provincial budget. Shelagh and Jayson have met for preliminary talks of FNMI and have identified some of the areas to bring forward to the Board for consideration and to assess the work we are doing.
- We are in the first year of the IFNE grant which is \$130,000/year for three years. We look forward to the talks in the coming months.
- ASCA Annual Conference - opportunity to attend
 - The Board annually sponsors two wolf creek parent council members to attend the Alberta School Council Conference in Edmonton. The conference runs April 26-28 at the Delta Hotel Edmonton South.
 - Interested school council parents are invited to submit their name to Jackie Haines for consideration. All expenses are paid. Great topics and keynote speakers relevant to school councils.

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Success Coordinator

- Grad certificate for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (Dawn)
 - The past five years, we have presented our FNMI graduates with an Eagle Feather. But obtaining Eagle feathers is a big process and we can not be guaranteed that we will be able to get them for all of our FNMI students across the Division. With our first graduating ceremony to commence May 24, we have not heard if/when the feathers are available.
 - Artist Simone McLeod created artwork explicitly for WCPS, the image depicts FNMI graduates.
 - A certificate would be an alternative, we could present a certificate using Simone's artwork as we are still waiting to hear about the feathers.
 - Samples were shared for consideration and looking for feedback. The certificate will be presented to each of our FNMI graduating students. This is not in place of their High School Diploma but is an added memento that depicts the success of the many Indigenous students we educate throughout WCPS.
 - WCPS branding is significant, student image larger with feathers bordered in the top left corner, revamp all three with some changes and send those
 - ***ACTION:** Make changes based on suggestions and then present them to graduate via the FNMI Cohort members to get student feedback before we move forward with an official certificate.*
- Alberta Education - Trish Randolph-Beaver - Senior Education Manager at Government of Alberta - wanting to attend W&G meeting.
 - Trish Randolph-Beaver would like to attend an upcoming W&G meeting and has also guaranteed to come and spend a day to shadow Shelagh and Josephine sometime before the end of March or early part of April.
- [Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada](#)
 - This set of four Atlases were gifted to all junior and senior high schools across the Division.
 - MLA Ron Orr is personally delivering them directly to our schools, including Colony schools.
 - The online version is very appealing with beautiful pictures and great history.

- Shining Student Award- Zone 4 - 175 nominations. 12 successful candidates will be announced on April 10th.
 - Not discussed
- Careers Next Generation - Careers Expo
 - They want the FNMI perspective represented in the Careers Expo
 - They need FNMI student input
 - What should happen to engage our FNMI students?
 - They would like to see a presence at booths
- ASCA Conference - Saturday, April 27th - an invitation to W&G committee to present (Alberta School Board)
 - 90 minute presenter time is confirmed
 - **ACTION:** Bio needed from each of the presenters, please forward to Shelagh

Josephine's Role - update for the committee

- Classroom Connect
 - Josephine has connected with most of our school
 - The last school to attend is Alix still need to attend
 - Josephine is receiving many requests to attend schools, they love the great job she is doing
 - Students are engaged and having fun
- Cree Language
 - Incorporate Cree...year of the Cree indigenous language
 - Josephine starts off in Cree and incorporates it into the lesson and supplies all Cree words and translations.
 - Idea is to build capacity and the feedback is incredible

Principal Rep - Tim

- Email to WCPS Principals
 - Tim is the Principal representative of the W&G Committee
 - An email went out to all principals on March 7; any questions, concerns or thoughts can be directed to him for discussion at the monthly W&G meetings.
 - October activity instead of the end of the year
- PES and W&G Follow up plans
 - Wait till next meeting when Tim is in attendance
- Educating Parents at PES
 - Still some concerns from parents mainly due to their lack of understanding
- Concerns about Head lice and supports for parents

- Finding a number of cases of head lice and looking for suggestions on how to assist and provide resources for parents in Maskwacis community

FNMI Lead Teacher Rep - Erin

■ Role of FNMI Lead Teacher

- Held a Day of Learning - Métis Day and perspective. Thank you to Shelagh for helping with the day.
- Building a transition piece (PSC to BLC back into PSC setting)
- Continue to build community/team and sharing what the school is doing
- Ponoka Cohort focuses on strong team building around their roles and supports
- 'Parent Information Night' has been very successful (18 parents attend the March 6 event)
 - Shift from School Council to Parent Information Night (simple goal to get parents in the building)
 - They love coming and have questions

● **Updates from Wisdom and Guidance Committee Members**

Celebrations/Feedback/Concerns

■ Grad Feast Update - Lori B

- Traditional feast to honour graduates
- With graduation around the corner, it may not be feasible to have the feast, especially if combining the two schools. Too many variables to think about with grad ceremonies in June.
- Areas of concern:
 - the cost for the feast,
 - the amount of food,
 - bad weather, etc.
 - Diploma exams (June 12)
 - Who will fund it? (Parents of graduates should contribute to the feast)
- Perhaps a trial run first with just the BLC (50ish grads) to see how it plays out (a lot of people to accommodate, and a lot of work if both schools are involved).
 - **ACTION:** Find a date and commit...Lori will connect with a date
- FYI: There is a Memorial Feast and Tea Dance to honour Lori's sister on March 29 at the Howard Buffalo Memorial Center

■ Lloyd - UAVS

- Regrets



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

The Three Year Education Plan for WCPS identifies five focus areas that align with the requirements of Alberta Education. Goal number two focuses on First Nations, Métis and Inuit student success. We feel this goal has been communicated clearly with staff members across the Division; however, we have not communicated this clearly to Indigenous parents and non-Indigenous parents in WCPS.

Q 1. What strategies do you feel we should implement to clearly communicate **with First Nations, Métis and Inuit parents** about goal #2 and our success?

- Produce high-quality videos (brief 1-2 min) very powerful, key messages...series on different topics
- Publish newspaper format to explain the work we have done, and distribute out to communities
- Website
- Radio advertisement to direct them to our website
- Social media campaign and/or Facebook group
- Back to school campaign that includes this component
- Flyer/Insert blitz
- Bring awareness to the Atlas series
- PD with staff (Why?) focuses on conversations that led to a solid understanding
- A strong strategic plan: over a course of time
- Focus on the students and work with teachers, as the information is shared with kids it goes home for discussions (relationships)

Q 2. What strategies do you feel we should implement to clearly communicate **with non-Indigenous parents** about goal #2 and our success?

- Educate to stop the racist comments from coming back to school
- Information Evenings
- Speaking tour (Blast home to advise)

- School Handbook (include a page in handbooks)
- Newsletter (monthly message)
 - consistent messaging for all schools to include in their monthly newsletters
- PowerSchool (SwiftReach)
- Did You Know: Fact Sheet (Parent-friendly language) not heavy/long
- Connections: tell the story (stories we want to tell)
- Snippets: Folder that will contain all the ready-made information to drop and drag into whatever format
- Dark Spark clips



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

April 8 @ BLC

May 4

June 3