



Wisdom and Guidance Committee Agenda/Minutes

Wednesday, November 7, 2018

Ponoka Elementary School

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.



Welcome to Guests

- **Erin Freadrich acknowledged Treaty 6**



Elder Teachings

- **Garry Louis**
 - **Teachings of the Buganochi** (entity within all of us, that grounds us)
- **Veronica Cutknife**
 - **Blessings to everyone for attending**



Business

Updates from Wolf Creek Public School Division

- **Superintendent Rep update**
 - WCPS is an anomaly with the good things happening in FNMI. We are fortunate to have Shelagh in this portfolio, she is a strong advocate and is passionate about the work in this area.
 - Attributes to Shelagh's work.
- **Self-Identified FNMI students across the Division**
 - Self-identified students has increased by approximately 140 students from last year.
Reasons for the change:
 - Every school across the division has self-identified students.
 - There is a question on our electronic registration form. This online process now forces the question to be answered.
 - We are communicating our work in FNMI and believe there is a shift and people are now coming forward to identify.
 - Of the 25 schools, and 5 colony schools, Ponoka represents 415 of the 737 self-identified students.
- **CIAS Audit**
 - Alberta Education sent out a survey to school jurisdictions to answer how we support our FNMI students in our system.
 - There has been no reporting or requirements to date.

- This survey gathers how school divisions provide and implement; what are the performance measures and outcomes.
- Wolf Creek has found the survey quite easy to complete as our school division is already working on these areas. The ranking system: (score 1 to 5) one being low and five being high, and we scored 4 or 5 on most questions.
- The data for Wolf Creek is hopeful and would be purposeful for a formal audit that could be beneficial to us in the way of funding.
- Assessments: for needs is done by the Inclusive Learning Services (ILS) department (Psychologists) via the school to have assessments done. They provide a report and strategies of how to help the student.
- ILS staff work within schools to set up plans and help students.
- The Board has funded \$5 million/year which matches government funding.
- Shelagh is involved and aware of what is happening in the assessment area with FNMI students.
- **ACE Plans Ponoka Sector and Division**
 - Plans in the Ponoka sector are different than the rest of the Division.
 - They have separate goals on FNMI and target how to provide professional development around FNMI education (mandatory) and planning activities on Friday collaboration days.
- **Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) - October 22 - Board response**
 - This Board sponsored event was held in Lacombe at the Terrace Ridge School
 - This is the first time all schools have had representation with School Administrators and School Council representatives, and a first with a focus on FNMI.
 - WCPS in partnership with ASCA presented to the group on ways to help understand the work being done in Wolf Creek.
 - School Councils are asking how to communicate/spread the word to our communities/parents the work that is being done.
 - Feedback/response about the event was positive.
- **4 Seasons of Reconciliation - PD Board of Trustees commitment**
 - All schools will be trained in the foundational knowledge
 - We are the only school division who has been granted permission to use it.
 - The feedback has been very positive.
 - It has proven to be a great resource with the 10-module online course.
 - The Board has identified building their foundational growth as well and has made a commitment to embed the 4 seasons of reconciliation into their board meetings for ongoing professional development as an important step.
- **First Nations, Metis and Inuit Student Success Coordinator**
 - **DarkSpark - Four Directions - October 15-19 @ PSC**
 - Celebration held on Sunday, October 21st at PSC
 - [Vimeo](#) and on [Facebook](#)
 - Josephine was involved with the group through the whole project
 - Amazing to see the progress from first day to Saturday
 - Sharphead was incorporated into the learning, students were engaged and excited to learn of the local history

- Music universal language and students really got into it
- Nice for local history to be incorporated, which made it very emotional
- Four groups of kids (grade 7) each creating their own songs
- Students are walking with a whole new purpose and pride
- DarkSpark crew were amazing with students
- Sunday gathering was packed and well received
- The hope is to continue this work

➤ **Boys with Braids**



- Possible Wisdom and Guidance activity (Tara Cutarm)
- This is to bring awareness of hair, culture

➤ **Red Deer Catholic FNMI Support Team - Celeste**

- RD Catholic has been doing this for years and were interested in what WC is doing
 - We are building capacity
 - They are interested in Wisdom and Guidance
- **Ponoka Housing and Homelessness - update and focus**
- Shelagh is on this community committee b/c -trying to bring poverty simulation to Ponoka community
- The community is concerned with the number of people in community that are homeless
- These families can't rent, can't afford housing
- Thought is to do it during the day to attract the people who can provide the money and make the change happen
- It would be good to have Mat program take place in church overnight
- It is needed in our community but people don't realize this
- What do we know and what are our needs
- Pete Hall with Rimoka put together proposal to repurpose a house with multiple levels that would facilitate more than one demographic
 - Typically men without shelter (couch surfers)
 - Women's shelter (Red Deer and Maskwacis)
- There are way too many families in need
- Shelagh will continue to attend and update the group

➤ **Poverty Simulation**

- Anyone interested in attending please let Shelagh know
- You can help as well through volunteering on outside interagency
 - Lacombe Sector (Upper Elem, Junior & Wolf Creek Academy) Friday, Nov. 30
 - Ponoka Sector (Elem, Brick, Crestomere, Mecca) Friday, Dec. 21

➤ **December 4th- Christmas Celebration - Shelagh's**

- Turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy (supplied)
- Potluck- salad, bannock, dessert - google sheet
- Gift exchange - \$25 value

➤ **Blanket Activity for DO staff - Friday, November 16th - Leanne and Lori**

- Central office staff will be going through the Blanket Exercise.
- Approximately 50 staff members.

- 1/3 of the staff have already participated
- The remaining staff are scheduled to take part on one of two dates; November 16 and January 25)

➤ **Josephine's Role - update for the committee**

- Wednesday afternoons and Mondays Josephine is has prep time
- Ecole Lacombe Upper Elementary has committed to have Josephine observe
 - ELUE is committing to this to meeting the needs of students on the indigenous aspect and math.
- Ponoka Elementary Josephine goes into classrooms and helps out wherever and whatever the teacher is teaching she is adding fnmi interpretation
- Requests are also coming from across the Division
- Children asking her to smudge and approaching her calling her kokom
- Blanket activity with grade 8s: their knowledge is incredible
- BLC working to indigenize CALM

● **Principal Rep- Tim**

- PES Parent Council- Smudging
- Last meeting shelagh and josephine joined and help out sc understand and change perceptions
- S.C. chair wanted to get the momentum going and the last meeting was a good start
- Students are utilizing the room for smudging and grounding
- Understand why the room is there...don't want to lose it
- Echo the work josephine is doing
- Students have adopted her...very caring and charismatic person
- Eager to continue the work

● **FNMI Lead Teacher Rep - Erin F**

- Smudging:
 - Doing more in the our sites
 - Elders offering the right to smudge
 - Start process by talking with staff at Friday PD and the process of moving this forward
 - Then offering protocol to get students leading smudging (this is an important piece)
- The partnership between PES & Brick is very successful
 - Close in proximity, transportation is not a concern
 - Lots of opportunities with the partnership
 - They have a few boys with braids and would be willing to come over to PES to chat
- Josephine and Elder are doing great work
- Lots of things happening between sites involving FNMI students in all aspects (mentoring programs) helps students being engaged...win (get high school credits)
- Speech language (need help/practice) match them up with a high school student allows them to get the service they need.

- Ponoka Youth Centre - team mentoring program. Several FNMI students connected there
- Acknowledge Lori Buffalo as she was the first mentor
- Kudos to Christine and Robin for recognizing a need for ribbon skirts and their efforts and work to make them. BLC supplied materials and they will continue to make them. They are in need of a functional sewing machine and looking for a loaner machine.

Updates from Wisdom and Guidance Committee Members

- **Celebrations/feedback/Concerns**
 - **Ribbon Skirts - Christine and Robin**
 - 15 skirts altogether all different sizes, half sewn and delivered, ran out of ribbon
 - Averaging 1 ½ skirts a day
 - They have lots of material and thread
 - Are in need of ribbon and the witchery tape
 - Looking for access to sewing machine and could double the turn out
 - Shelagh will put a call out to schools to obtain machines that are in storage
 - They have the time and resources
 - Suggestion: Bring ladies in to meet with little ones on how to make mini skirts for their dolls (Thursdays at the elementary school, Wednesday at the high schools)
 - Want to learn the Cree way why women wear the ribbon skirts
 - Would like to sit down with others and learn the teachings of the ribbon skirt
 - Suggestion: Ribbon shirts for the boys
 - Media, Communications & Information Technology Career Fair - Leanne
 - UAVS update -Lloyd



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



Items for Discussion

- **Media, Communications & Information Technology Career Fair**
 - November 22, 2018, Samson High School
 - Leanne Louis - Registrar
 - [Click here to register](#)

- 11 am - 2:30 pm
- Hosted by 4 Nations Communications Team & Maskwacis Employment Center
- Special Guests:
 - Daintre Christensen, Global News Edmonton;
 - Bert Crowfoot, CEO Aboriginal Multimedia Society of Alberta
 - Jeff Hayden-Kaye, Ponoka News
 - Chief Vernon Saddleback, Samson
- Open to the Public

QUESTION:

What activity or opportunity could bring Ponoka Elementary School parents, students and staff together to learn and celebrate First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture and history?

- Leanne:** Toy Bingo Night, Play (acting). Cree (Oh' Canada)
- Christine:** Small kids dance, tea dance, music brings people together, brings parents together
- Erin:** Nitohtahwin Gathering, 4 different sessions, 4 different teachings (medicine wheel, not long)
- Garry:** Tea dance: suggest...make it real, have a purpose right from the beginning when hand out protocol and to keep people being there. Everyone that watches its good energy, purpose in the planning stages until end.
- Leonard:** Tea dance: brings people together, just had 3 in Montana. Samson: Eagle Boys always at tea dance. Songs: difference from elders singing to young folks singing. Teachings and significance of a feast. Bring in food, the importance of passing it around, bring in somebody that is knowledgeable...spiritual.
- Jayson:** Two of our schools, Clive/Crestomere have annual evening celebration of learning. Time throughout the year to work on project. Like a science fair. Create display and invite parents in so students can speak to and share. Every parent comes out from the community. Project that could be showcased in the evening, do a variety of things that evening, could be culture, history, variety of topics. Have guidelines. Parents walk around the gym. Parents come in and participate and have the students teaching them. Get students/parents involved.
- Josephine:** Amazing race. Do different things wherever they are in that country...different foods, learn the dance learn the song. Make it fun. Mix the teams together. Arranged with PES to play the recorded Oh' Canada in Cree once a week.
- Veronica:** Like the science fair idea. Too much of anything and you forget the spiritual value. Annual thing: feast, invite the non-natives to come and participate. Night out with history. Projects: what is the significance of moccasins. Sharing of cultures ending the evening with a powwow.
- Shelagh:** Cultural evening...tasting of the foods. Different stations based on nationality...go one more step and add a piece of education. Bring all together but focus on FNMI.
- Leeane:** Leaning on interactive activity. Like parents/students that ties in to what is already going on. Christmas: classes do play/skit/activity that involves FNMI teaching, narrative, connecting with the audience. Ceremonies: Winter ceremonies teaching of legend as a play...Christmas concert.
- Lori:** Like science project evening. Why we eat what we eat, why do we do the things we do. Like the way we did Nitohtahwin. Teaching of the dance should be kept sacred...keep to themselves: old

ceremony customs personal to FNMI. Don't take pictures at feast, last thing you want to see is someone taking pictures and posting on social media. Incorporate science project and intermingle all together.

Robin: Nanaon teaching in amazing race way, where students are teaching parents what they need to learn and who comes out with the most knowledge in all components...then have a feast afterwards.

Erin: Partnerships with all schools to bring all students together.

Gabrielle: Spiritual thing: families come in and go through activities of circle of life of being born and different stages of life. What would it be like to be a child in that culture.

Garry: Story telling, bring people together and give teachings.

Possible Engagement Activities

- Movie night with popcorn- National Film Board, Indian Horse, Older Than America etc.
- Orange Shirt Day- September 30th
- Wisdom and Guidance parents attend Open Houses at PES, PSC and POS highlighting what we are doing
- Continue to assist with Professional Development activities across the division to bring understanding
- Connect with students in the classrooms to support the teaching of cultural ways
- W&G parents attend PTI to meet, support and maybe recruit members. A small booth set up to welcome parents.
- Invite parents from across the division to attend meetings and hold meetings in different locations around the division
- Wisdom and Guidance members attend school council meetings to share what is happening in WCPS
- Plan a Feast for the three Ponoka Schools at the beginning of the year- September- Invite families to attend
- Feast across division- small feast and blessing
- Pow Wow coordinated with Aboriginal Day-Pow Wow princess
- Outdoor feast in the spring- transition to summer grads etc.
- Round dance Tea Dance
- Ensure meeting minutes are posted and updated on the website



Next Date for Wisdom and Guidance Committee Meeting?

- **December Celebration: December 4 @ Hagemann's (Gift Exchange)**
- **Veronica ended the evening with a universal prayer.**