



SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 73 (KAMLOOPS/THOMPSON)

1383-9th Avenue, Kamloops, B.C. V2C 3X7 • Telephone: (250) 374-0679 • Fax: (250) 372-1183

DATE: June 21, 2017
TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Alison Sidow, Superintendent
RE: **RESPONSE TO KTTA PRESENTATION – MAY 30, 2017**

(PUBLIC – SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT)

Attached is a memo from Director Smillie, which provides the response to the KTTA Presentation of May 30, 2017 regarding support for Secwepemc Language Teachers and a request for the development of an Aboriginal Education Policy, specifically related to smudging and Aboriginal World View.

A formal working committee will be convened to move forward on the recommendations from the Aboriginal Education Council (AEC) and the Aboriginal Advisory Committee (AAC) and consult to determine if a revision to Policy 709.2 *Education: Aboriginal*, is required.

Provided for the Board's information.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Sidow".

Alison Sidow
Superintendent of Schools

AS:dh
Attach.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION



MEMORANDUM

TO: Alison Sidow – Superintendent of Schools
FROM: Trish Smillie - Director of Student Support Services
DATE: June 19, 2017
RE: **Response to the KTTA Presentation on May 30, 2017**

The Kamloops Thompson Teachers Association (KTTA) presented during the Public Inquiries, Petition and Written Presentations May 30, 2017 at the public Board Meeting. The Board heard a presentation on support for Secwepemc Language Teachers and to request the development of an Aboriginal Education policy, specifically related to smudging and Aboriginal World View.

Secwepemc Language Teachers are provided access to district-wide professional development opportunities and resources. The KTTA has requested that additional technology and resources be provided to the teachers to expand Secwepemc Language programming.

The Secwepemc Language Program is an ongoing discussion item at the Aboriginal Advisory Committee (AAC) meetings. The AAC made the following recommendation to the Aboriginal Education Council (AEC):

- That a comprehensive working committee be formed to review Secwepemc Language Program with the goals to develop a strategic plan and strengthen the presence, level of instruction and implementation of Secwepemc in SD 73.

At an informal meeting of the AEC, the following recommendations were made following the AAC's recommendation:

- Develop a Strategic Plan
- Align the Secwepemc Language curriculum with the newly revised 2nd Language Curriculum
- Form a Secwepemc Language Committee that includes Language Authority Representatives (East and West), Language Teachers, District Language Coordinator, Elementary and Secondary Principals, District Principal, Aboriginal Education Committee Administrator
- Work with First Nations Education Steering Committee on the First Nations Language Curriculum Project, if possible.

A formal working committee has not yet convened to move forward on the recommendations. Once the committee has convened, Secwepemc Language Teachers will be included.

The request to enhance professional development, technology and materials for Secwepemc Language Teachers will be made by the Director of Student Support Services at the next AAC meeting. This request will be referred to the AEC for consideration.

As outlined by the KTTA, *Policy 709.2 Education: Aboriginal* does not outline smudging or Aboriginal World View. Advice from AEC will be sought to determine if a policy revision is required. If a policy is recommended, further consultation on the development of the policy with AEC and AAC will ensure that Aboriginal education priorities are reflected within a policy and that the First People's Principles of Learning and Aboriginal Worldviews and Perspectives are considered.

KAMLOOPS THOMPSON TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

A LOCAL OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA TEACHERS' FEDERATION

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May 11, 2017

Kelvin Stretch
Secretary-Treasurer
School District No. 73
1383 Ninth Avenue
Kamloops, BC
V2C 3X7

Dear Kelvin:

Re: Intent to Raise Item at Public Board of Education Meeting

Please accept this letter as formal notice of our request to present an item at the first Board of Education meeting in January, 2017. Our intent is to raise the item under the agenda item "Public Inquiries, Petition, and Written Presentations" in Policy No. 102. The presentation will be made by the KTTA Aboriginal Education Chair, Brenda Celesta.

The specific matter we wish to discuss relates to 1) support for Secwepemc Language Teachers and 2) request for the development of an Aboriginal Education policy for School District 73 specific to smudging and Aboriginal World View.

I am attaching documents to support our presentation. This includes an overview of what the specific needs are for Secwepemc Language teachers and a Proposal for an Aboriginal Education Policy for the School District.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact me if you have further questions or comments.

Sincerely,



David Komljenovic
President

cc: Meghan Wade, Board Chair
Alison Sidow, Superintendent



Secwepemc Language Program
Brenda Celesta, KTTA Aboriginal Education Chair

As the KTTA Aboriginal Education Chair, I met with three of the four language teachers, and had conversations with a former language teachers with the hope of being able to assist their program further by developing an Local Specialists' Association. The conversations were an important part of finding out how the KTTA could assist language teachers from a teaching perspective. As specialist teachers they face several challenges within their schools, and within the larger teaching body. The program itself has undergone little change (number of blocks and schools offering the program) however, the toughest challenge is keeping positions filled and ensuring resource materials are available to each teacher. From the discussion it became apparent that key areas are necessary to expand upon for the program to have success.

The following describe the specifics needs:

1. **Technology:** The Secwepemc Language teachers are often restricted to using a shared space within their schools and are limited to creating material by the programs provided within their schools. The space issue is a concern when they have Part Time status and sometimes travel between schools. There is a program designed for Secwepemc Language revitalization that can be accessed using Apple products (I-pads, I-pods, Macs) created by First Voices but can only be accessed through an Apple product. Teachers and students could benefit from this program, because it is interactive, and material can be developed easier than on Linux because the phonetic alphabet keyboard can be accessed. This makes classroom materials easier to create for individual teachers. Secwepemc Language teachers have asked if there is a grant that they can access or if schools can purchase Apple products so they can design lesson plans and worksheets within their schools.
2. **Classroom Resource Material:** The Secwepemc Language teachers also had concerns about available resources and access to a central location of ready-made resources. Several came into positions with very little material they can access to get their classrooms started. The necessary materials can be purchased from the Secwepemc Cultural Education Society and possibly two local First Nations Schools; Chief Atahm and Skelep School (if there are resources available to purchase). The current teachers are interested in creating a booklet that can be printed and distributed to the schools that have the Secwepemc Language Program. However, they are looking for sponsorship of the project, and funds to cover the costs of printing the material.
3. **Pro-D: Secwepemc Language:** Teachers are interested in furthering their own practice and indicated several areas of Professional Development. Some of these are linked to technology such as: My Education BC and Google Classroom. Practical classroom tools such as Behaviour Management workshops and lesson and/or unit planning are also needed.
4. **Secwepemc Language Program Discussions:** Secwepemc Language teachers are aware of the challenges in relation to their role in the schools, and the district. They would like to be included in discussions about the overall program, and offerings of Secwepemc Language (including the use of it via signage and documents throughout the district).

Proposal for Aboriginal Education Policy Development in School District 73
Brenda Celesta, KTTA Aboriginal Education Chair

Proposal: In relation to the current changes in new curriculum being implemented throughout the Province, that a policy be developed that includes the use of smudging, and Aboriginal World View for staff.

Purpose: A clear understanding of expectations for all staff of School District 73 in relation to the Aboriginal content being implemented in classrooms throughout the district and how the new curriculum material applies to individual classroom instruction, course offerings, events, assemblies, and school-wide projects.

To ensure that Aboriginal perspectives and world-view is implemented in a way that respects all staff and students, and is approached in a way that honours Aboriginal people.

To be included in the policy:

1. Professional Development: that Aboriginal perspectives and ideology be made available to staff for professional development.
2. Resources: that Aboriginal history, perspectives and beliefs be present in the material being implemented for the new curriculum.
3. Smudging: that practices used by Aboriginal people be inclusive within schools, and awareness and resource material be made available to all staff of such practices.
4. Aboriginal World-View: that ideology and historical perspectives be included in courses having Aboriginal content, and staff to be made aware of materials, resources and understanding of content, events, guest speakers etc.
5. Consult with local Aboriginal groups - Aboriginal Education Council be a part of the process to implementing a policy. This ensures an on-going discussion of Aboriginal content and awareness of diversity and cultural richness within School District 73.

Another district with a similar policy is School District 58 – Nicola/Similkameen.