



**Wisdom and Guidance Committee
Minutes
Tuesday, January 16, 2017
Ponoka Outreach School**

Wolf Creek Public Schools

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.

- **Tatawaw asay minah-Welcome Again**
 - **Introductions/guests - Jayson Lovell, Brent Buchanen (trustee), Amber, Gabrielle, Ian, Faith, Jessica, Christine, Erin, Ia, Lorie, Leanne, Courtney, Tim, Shelagh**
 - **Regrets - Chief Leonard, Tanya Sm, Tracey, Lloyd, Elder Joseph, Carolyn M**
 - **Thank you to Ian and staff at POS**

- **Elder Teachings**
 - **Elder Joseph Deschamps - away**
 - **Joseph sends his regrets. Joseph left message that he is very troubled by the news about Suicides and he, students and others have all been impacted. He feels Cultural identity and Elder work must continue**

- **Business**
 - **Updates from Wolf Creek Public School Division**
 - **Superintendent Rep update**
 - **Approval of the Three Year Plan - Annual plan put together. Went through in Sept to review what is submitted on behalf of FNMI students. AB Education comes down and goes through the plan in details and they ensure the plan is meeting the standards of AB Education. Very happy with the Plan. Feedback from this committee is well appreciated**
 - **Upcoming Budget Information - memo sent to all staff last week with an overview of the Wolf Creek budget this year. Well in advance we have lots of discussions. Our focus is how do we support the school initiatives. The Board will receive info from Jayson. 70% of budget is staffing. Wolf Creek budget is 90 million dollars. We find ways to**

enhance areas that are needs. The meetings we continue to have help us come up with the needs.

What is working well and what is not working well - we need to be aware of - so we can understand the needs. The Board has been supportive of our work. We have seen successes. The work of this committee has been a key.

- FNMI Lead Teacher/Grad Coach/Attendance Liaison Update - we have a meeting on Jan 23. We are trying to do this year is bring principals together quarterly. We are trying to understand how things are going. There will be an opportunity to discuss the roles and how they are working. Continue talking about professional development. Tremendous work is still going into students for success. Each school is invited to share what they feel Senior leadership needs to know and what they think is important
 - Amber appreciates what the lead teachers are doing. The principals have always been great at communicating. Amber really appreciates the meetings with the staff. Acknowledgement goes out to the lead teachers.
-
- First Nations, Metis and Inuit Student Success Coordinator
 - BCCE Grant- Expansion- submission for new grant Innovation in First Nations Education-MESC - we heard there is going to be an extension. We thought 1 more year. The grant changed. The grant will be brand new and have to apply. Currently working with MESC on this. We had great working relationship with Montana First Nation
 - FNMI Lead Teacher- Suggested names for role - this is new this year - brainstormed ideas to come up with ideas for a name. Their role is to support students at the ground level. Elder Joseph suggests something with 'bridge". We want it to be creative.
 - Culture Camp- May 11th - Wolf Creek is hosting. Shelagh did an overview
 - Nitohtahwin Gathering PSC- March 23 - they are looking for support. They will do a focus in the morning for grade 7-12. The actual gathering in afternoon will focus on junior high grade 7-9. They would like hoop dancers. Leanne and Christine will volunteer.
 - Hoop Dancer- demo and instruction
 - Session leaders
 - Upcoming PD in WCPS
 - Blanket Activity- Across division - booked rest of the year.
 - Poverty Simulation- April 13 Rimbey - Rimbey is hosting. Shelagh explained the process. This type of simulation was held in Ponoka last year. Shelagh invited committee

and email will come out soon. Amber mentioned this was a very interesting session and was well received by the participants. This simulation does get very emotional and really powerful and everyone came away with a deeper understanding of poverty. Amber encourages all to participate. It is powerful and all are engaged.

- Culture Camp-planning sessions for W&G
 - FNMI Cohort upcoming meetings - 2 upcoming in February. We had one in Lacombe with Charlene Bearhead and Elder Mary. Tim was very moved by Charlene and Mary's willingness to share. Tim is very pleased to send his support staff to the upcoming training that Charlene will be the speaker at. Very powerful to hear Elder Mary speak of changing her anger into motivation. Was very pleased to hear Mary speak and to education
 - Have a Heart Day- Have a Heart for First Nations Children - we will be sending out to Admin and cohort members and will be focused on reconciliation
- Updates from Wisdom and Guidance Committee Members
 - Celebrations/feedback
 - MESC- Leanne -
 - Aboriginal Celebration Day- Leanne -June 21st - Ponoka Parent Link Andrea Ramage Shelagh and Leanne planned it last year. Wolf Creek will continue to assist Ponoka Parent Link
 - UAVS- Lloyd - in Red Deer. Also service Blackfalds and other areas. They have elders in local areas. O'Chiese Sunchild and Maskwacis Elders will be invited to discuss ways to assist students in urban settings

- **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 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).
- **Items for Discussion**

WCPS is hosting a Culture Camp on May 11th. The purpose of the camp is designed to provide Leaders in Education with a rich cultural experience that will assist in building Foundational Knowledge and understanding of First Nations, Metis and Inuit.

Do you have any further suggestions to ensure leaders attending the Culture Camp acquire foundational knowledge? Would you like to be involved in planning this event?

We are looking at Central Alberta zone 4 - CARC is going to help pay for the Culture Camp. We are looking at having 4 tipis that will have a different focus. 1st tipi will have Treaty 6 males to teach indigenous culture and protocol. The 2nd tipi will have Treaty 6 women another will host Treaty 7 Elders and another will have Metis. We wanted to have Inuit but time constraints.

Opening ceremony - Land Acknowledgement

Protocol will be presented To Elder Mary Moonias

Local Students and local drummers to sing at the very end

Shelagh was asked to connect with local people. They want local caterers form local area. Names given out

How many people in a tipi - 15 comfortably

Garry is asked to line up tipis from Pesakastew

We need foundational knowledge in land based

We need male and female, including Treaty 7 and Metis people recommendation

It will be outside, 4 tipis set up and a Metis tent. Staff will move along tipis and tent. lunch. Artisans will be invited.

Do we have any further suggestions?

Brent - language

Jayson - some of the legislation requirements -

Christine - thorough understanding of the effects of the Residential Schools. It is inherited

Ian - hearing the stories -

Leanne - Treaties

Amber - hoping that CARC has the background information and believe they know what teachers should have for basic understanding. Interested to hear what the W&G members would like to suggest based on the suggestions CARC is giving

Courtney - Treaties on her list. Happy to hear protocol is on there. Staff can be shy and intimidated.

Good to see that staff are interested.

Tim - Treaties as well. Asking his staff about knowledge about treaty and knowledge is not there.

Protocols. Now that he is gaining understanding he is running into ignorance - how does he move that along and would like guidance with that

Shelagh - would W&C members be interested? There will be Elders there. Would you willing to help?

Christine - should not be an issue to help.

Gabrielle - would like to help

Leanne - Jerry Saddleback Sr is amazing presenter ie Creation Story, Wahkotowin, roles and responsibilities, ceremonies, protocols and purposes

Shelagh - would like students to help out.

1st girl - would like to help

Christine - get a lot more students involved

Amber - always happy to see the students and youth involved

Courtney - good to see students involved

Tim - anything to help create opportunities for the students

Shelagh will take this to next planning meeting in February

February 15th is new moon... no one is around... only day bosses are going to be in area is Monday

February 12 and also March 20th.

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.

Communication- How do we communicate the role of the Wisdom and Guidance Committee to parents in the division? Suggestions?

- Recommendations going forward
- Next Date for Wisdom and Guidance Committee Meeting

Meeting Dates: New Moon 2017/18

Feb. 15	Mar. 17	
April 15	May 15	June 13

- Closing Prayer