

**FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION COUNCIL MEETING (VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE)
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020**

Attendees:

Chris Van der Mark, Superintendent, SD27
Jerome Beauchamp, Director of Instruction, Education Services, SD27
Tracy Hubner, Recording Secretary
Calvin Dubray, Principals/Vice Principals Association
Lacey-Dawn Testawich, Cariboo Chilcotin Teachers Association
Kailee Billy, Canoe Creek/Dog Creek Band (Stswecem'c/Xgat'tem)
Sue Sim, IUOE
Angie Delainey, Trustee
Linda Martens, Trustee
Kayla Lulua, Soda Creek Band (Xats'ull)
Michelle Archie, Canim Lake Band (Tsq'escen')
Melanie Johnny, Anaham Band (Tl'etinqox Govt.)
Brian Johnson, Ulkatcho First Nation (Ulkatchot'en)
Mabelene Leon, Ulkatcho First Nation (Ulkatchot'en)
Shirley Diablo, Toosey Band (Tl'esqox)
Rosalie Montgomery, Yunešit'in Govt.
Lenore Case, Tšideldel First Nation
Agnes William, Xení Gwet'in First Nation
Jenessa Loewen, Esk'etemc First Nation

Absent:

Norma Sure, Williams Lake Indian Band
Marlene Swears, Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Association

Meeting started: 10:13 am

Jerome Beauchamp acknowledged the meeting held on the traditional territory of the Williams Lake Indian Band.

Discussion:

1. Food Funding donation from FNEC:

Jerome explained how the food for families of students in SD27 is being distributed. Calvin Dubray provided an update. He said that this is in its 4th week. We provide a total of 230 food packages. At PSO 95 packages are prepared for the south end. Bus drivers using District vehicles are delivering food. Calvin has received another grant for \$20,000 from Vancouver Sun "Adopt a School". Calvin added that the list for families needing food continues to grow.

This will last till end of June as long as we do not get a huge increase or spike.

FNEC members agreed to provide \$10,000.00 to the SD27 Food Program and another \$5,000.00 towards crafts for families.

Calvin Dubray added that the Cariboo Chilcotin Partners in Literacy have provided books to go into the food boxes. In addition, the Boys and Girls Club are providing some care kits for hygiene.

2. Student Scholarships for First Nations graduates:

Jerome shared that we have approximately 42 First Nations graduates planning to go onto Post-Secondary Education or enter a Trades course. He suggested offering up to \$5,000.00 for each of these students.

There was discussion on this topic.

CONSENSUS FROM FNEC FOR \$2,500.00 SCHOLARSHIPS

***Students need to show receipt of tuition paid.**

3. Community Support:

Jerome shared that it is the Ministry mandate to use target funds to support families with food and crafts. We also recognize that technology was an issue - we have delivered over 200 computers to families.

4. Poetry Contest:

Tracy shared that we have 358 poems. The judges just returned the poems and she is preparing a list of winners for the website and will also get out to FNEC members. All students receive a thank you letter for their participation. The winning students receive their cheque and a letter. The Honorable Mention students receive a letter and a book. The classroom teachers who have winning students receive Aboriginal themed books for their classes.

5. First Nations Role Model Program:

Tracy Hubner said that FNEC members would have voted for role models at the April 6th FNEC meeting which was cancelled. We need to vote on the role models possibly by sending a link to members along with a marking sheet. Once we have our winners determined, she can order the jackets which need a full month to be ordered and prepared. Tracy added that there is a lot to do to prepare: making posters, bookmarks etc. She suggested that we wait and have a crowning ceremony in September (depending on size of groups allowed by then).

CONSENSUS: Agreed to wait until September to plan something. Tracy will get the voting process organized with Ken Matieshen for FNEC.

6. Orange Shirt Day:

Jerome is not sure how this will look for this fall. I know that FNEC wanted us to order orange shirts for all the students and have in place for this September. It is hard to do when students are not in class. He is also not sure what gatherings will look like or be allowed by the province at that time.

7. School Plan:

Chris Van der Mark has been meeting with Ministry of Education every day. Students will go back to school in an organized manner. Children of Essential Service Workers will be first and also the most vulnerable students. Back to school won't be as per usual. It could be a shift in hours due to Covid-19. We are waiting for further direction from the Ministry of Education. There is nothing official yet. Preliminary looks like the Kindergarten to grade 5's will go back first as these kids are not allowed to be home alone. We do not know when that would begin. It could be the end of May. Jerome said that we will keep FNEC updated.

Chris Van der Mark added that we follow the direction of the Ministry and the Public Health Officer.

8. Graduation 2020:

School District 27 has held off on this; pending easing of restrictions and what that might be or look like. Soon as we know what easing of restrictions are in this first phase, we will let you know.

Some families will continue to choose to stay home and work on-line. It is not a forced return back to school.

Jerome Beauchamp added that a number of our communities are under lock down at the moment. How do teachers handle teaching kids at home and in class? Many different situations to consider in our planning.

Meeting ended at 11:50 a.m.