



PAC General Meeting Minutes

Date: October 27, 2021

Location: Google Meet

Present: Yolanda Davidowich, Natalia Subrt, Maite Barrios, Ryan Colbert, Tina Lakey, Lacey Evans, Tina Poudrier-Beck, Jen Graham, Jessica Dowdall, Alicia Campbell

Next PAC General Meeting: November 23, 2021 at 7:00pm via Google Meet. Details will be posted.

Agenda:

1. Approval of the agenda and September meeting minutes
2. Principal's Report
3. Elder Tina's Presentation
4. Financial Report
5. Fundraising update
6. DPAC representation
7. Committee Updates
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. Q&A
11. Adjournment


Discussion:

1. Meeting started at 7:11pm
2. Approval of the agenda and September General PAC meeting minutes.
 - a. Approval by Natalia 1st, Lacey 2nd. All in favour, none opposed.
 - b. AGM Meeting Minutes were circulated on the website and the newsletter. The September 2021 minutes are approved. Lacey 1st, Natalia 2nd. All in favour, none opposed.
3. **Principal's Report (Mr. Colbert)**

Land Acknowledgement

Éy swáyel.

We acknowledge the Abbotsford School District is located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Stó:lō people, the Semá:th First Nation and Mathxwí First Nation. With this, we respect the longstanding relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land, as they are the original caretakers.




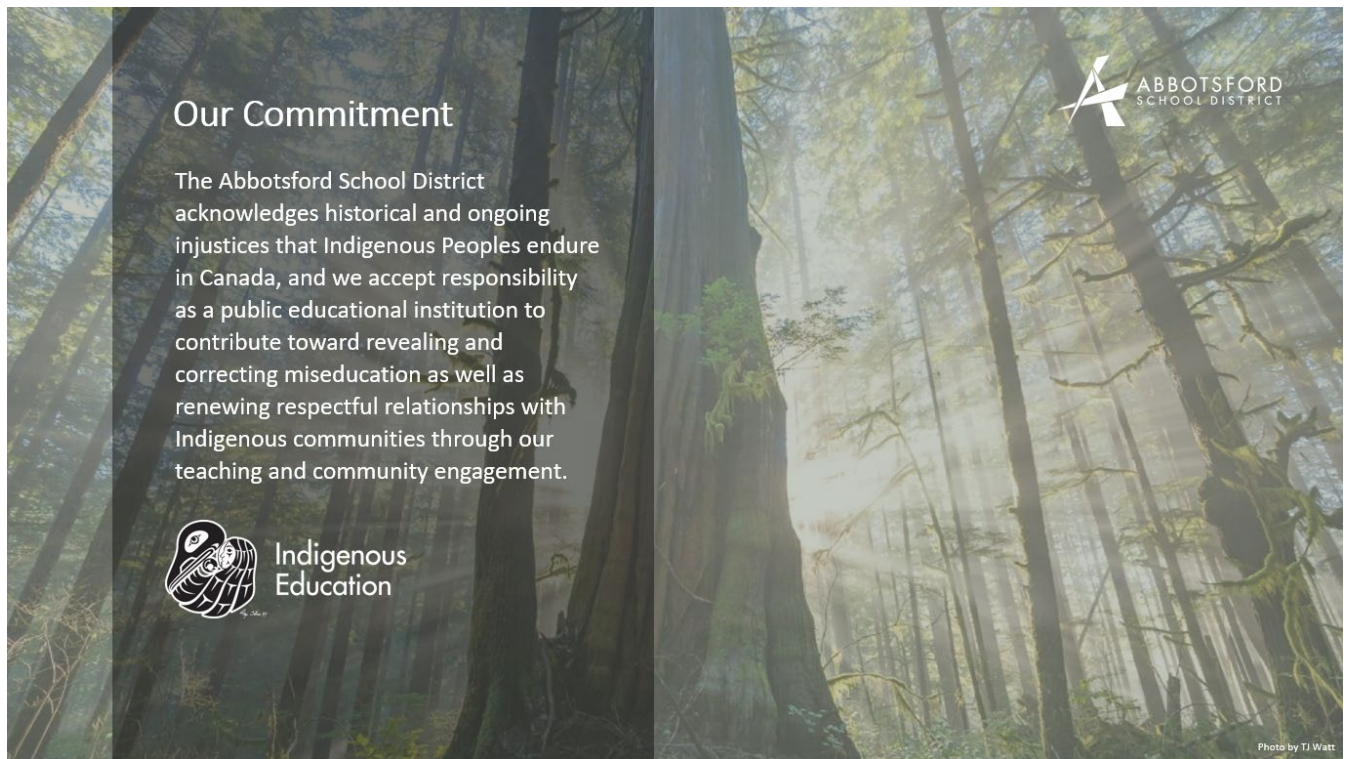


Photo by Jolitey Marston Photography



Our Commitment

The Abbotsford School District acknowledges historical and ongoing injustices that Indigenous Peoples endure in Canada, and we accept responsibility as a public educational institution to contribute toward revealing and correcting misinformation as well as renewing respectful relationships with Indigenous communities through our teaching and community engagement.



Indigenous
Education

Photo by TJ Watt

- a. School Update
 - Gr. 4 FSA's in October: Almost complete
 - Field Trips: a few have been scheduled and more divisions talking about them
 - Cross Country/Soccer: great events!
 - Assemblies/PAC activities: Can have full student assemblies/with parents ½ capacity of gym
 - Remembrance Day : Will be virtual
 - Christmas Concert: it is unknown at this time whether it will proceed. The gym must still be at half capacity, the masks mandate is still on
- b. Financials
 - District Budget: \$5000 extra given to us because we spent the money that we had. Teachers got the money necessary for their classrooms; some upgrades were done in the school foyer.
 - Wish List
 - 44% of people said outdoors for big ticket items
 - 45% of people said books for classrooms for individual classroom items. The classroom library books are teacher-purchased for the most part, and could use new books, specifically diverse books.
- c. Quick thoughts:
 - Face to Face PAC Meetings can take place in person in November
 - PAC space: working on de-cluttering; have made some process
 - Traditional School Tenets. Update will be provided during the November meeting



4. Elder Tina's Presentation

- a. Elder Tina greeted meeting attendees in Haida language, which, when translated into English, means "I'm happy because I see you". Elder Tina is an Indigenous support worker. She works in ATES on Thursdays and Fridays, and at Upper Sumas on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. She started at Auguston last year.
- b. Elder Tina is a survivor of the Sixties Scoop. The "Sixties Scoop" refers to the large-scale removal or "scooping" of Indigenous children from their homes, communities and families of birth through the 1960s, and their subsequent adoption into predominantly non-Indigenous, middle-class families across the United States and Canada. Elder Tina was removed at 18 months of age when she was taken away from her birth parents. She lost her connection to the culture. She is grateful that she was finally able to reconnect with her culture and 10 siblings later on. ATES has a great community of staff and students. All teachers are onboard with building the program for ReconciliACTION. Elder Tina provides a welcoming environment for students and staff to explore the Indigenous culture and traditions. Downie Wenjack Fund focuses on reconciliation. To read more about the foundation and the story behind its founding please follow this link <https://downiewenjack.ca/>.
- c. As a legacy school, ATES staff are seeking ways in which our community can achieve ReconciliACTION. Last year a book study began with teachers learning about the history of colonization of Canada from an Indigenous perspective. Speaking Our Truth: A Journey of Reconciliation is an easy to read book. 12 teachers attended tea time with Elder Tina to discuss issues and came up with ideas for their classes to raise awareness, do something that improves the lives of Indigenous people, and improve the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.
- d. One of the things Elder Tina has done since she started working at ATES is to go through the library's collection of books written about Indigenous culture and traditions, or by Indigenous authors. There was one book about traditional stories catalogued in the Fairy Tales section of the library. The librarian worked with Elder Tina to re-catalog the books and put them into the Easy Readers section of the library, so that these books are easily available for ATES students to pick up on a weekly basis. The new room has been set up to make space for Indigenous study.
- e. In our school district, 5 support workers ordered post cards with beautiful graphics that bring awareness about the 60s communities. The postcards are addressed to the Prime Minister's office. The postcards bring awareness about lack of access to drinking water. Students will learn about and discuss the issue, write their thoughts on these postcards, which will then be mailed to the Prime Minister's office.
- f. Elder Tina has a massive impact on all students, staff and visitors. Her door is always open for students and staff to stop by and speak. There are teachers who are doing extra coursework though UofA "Indigenous cultural history in Canada" through the University of Alberta Faculty of Native Studies. The course is available for free through Coursera. The staff visited Barrowtown Pump station and learned about the draining of Sumas Lake. They also visited the location of the Lynching of Louie Sam - the only lynching event in Canadian history.



5. Financial Report- Tina

- a. No Updates to the Financial Report, since there are no transactions. Some cheques were written and a report will be provided at the next general meeting.

6. Fundraising- Jen G.

- a. Neufeld farms fundraiser has closed. We raised a little over \$4,000 (our revenue was \$740).
- b. Virtual Scholastic book fair has been confirmed for Nov 15-29.

7. DPAC

- a. The position is still vacant. The role is to attend a monthly meeting and present an update to the ATES PAC on a monthly basis. If you're interested in this role, please email the Auguston PAC: augustonpac@gmail.com or send a message on Facebook.

8. Committee Updates/Needs

- a. Traffic and Safety Report- Jessica
 - There are some dangerous driving behaviours, and it's rather disheartening to see what people are doing.
 - We have reached out to AbbyPD to enforce the by-laws.
 - District crossing guard situation doesn't work given our parking lot and intra-community location of our school.
 - Other schools are also in a similar situation.
- b. Hot Lunch - Lacey
 - October 28 hot lunch is tomorrow. Some criminal record checks didn't come through in time, therefore we are 4 volunteers short, but lunch monitors will help and some parents will do 2 classrooms.
- c. Yearbook
 - The interested person emailed Ryan. Louise will be in touch and get the yearbook rolling.

9. Old Business

- a. Playground Equipment
 - Mrs. Hildebrand is speaking with a SD person who can help with ATES getting a non-speaking communication board. There is a concern about vandalism, but the cameras are going to be installed. We'll monitor for vandalism for the time-being.
- b. School Access is limited at this time and must be approved by Ryan C.
 - Approved volunteers can now come into the classroom and help.
- c. Orange Shirts Day.
 - The kids were wearing the shirts. It was well-received.
- d. Pumpkin Event
 - It was on October 27. The kids came home with pumpkins and the pictures were really good. We are happy we could make the pumpkin patch happen for them.
- e. In person meetings are limited to 25 people.



10. New Business

a. VIP Parking Auction

- We are using 32 auctions for the online auction. It's a free platform and the money can be collected in person in full from Nov 3 – Nov 8. The opening bid is \$180. The bids will go up by \$10.

b. Wishlist from teachers

- Will be finalized by Mr. Colbert and emailed to Auguston PAC.
- It could be better if a \$\$ amount is provided to each teacher, and the teachers can then buy what they need.

11. Question & Answer

- None

12. **Adjournment.** 7:55pm Lacey 1st, Jen 2nd. All in favour, none opposed.