

**EA Steering Committee**  
**Friday, October 29, 2010 @ Totem Hall**  
**MINUTES**

**EA Members present:** Gwen Harry, Shirley Toman, Joy McCullough, Dale Harry, Jackie Williams, Linda Williams, Paul Wick, Christine Baker, Veronica Bikadi, Georgina Nelson, Martina Pierre, Verna Stager, Julie Thevarge, Ben Haines, John Purcell, Christine Perkins, Rose MacKenzie, Margaret Paxton, Seb Amenta, Angela Uren, Louise Wick, Nolan Cox, Lisa Barlett, Cindy Street, Magy Odorfer, Rick Erickson, Rebecca Barley, Alex Marshall, Juanita Coltman

**EA Members absent:** Priscilla Ritchie, Ramona Linger, Paul Lorette, Beth Miller, Dave Walden, Gina Corpuz

**Guests present:** John Hall (SSTA rep), Laura Godfrey, Charlene Williams, Vera Douglas

**1) Opening Remarks—*Juanita Coltman***

- introduced guests to the EA Steering Committee meeting (listed above)
- shared the “EA Steering Committee Notes” graphic organizer – What I Learned Today, What I Will Bring Back and What Needs to be Shared and with Whom
- reviewed the Ab.Ed. Advisory members and meeting dates
- reviewed the EA Steering Committee members and meeting dates—EA Committee approved the members and meeting dates—agreed that guests could attend but needs to be done prior to the meeting so all the members can be informed

**2) Current Issues and Future Success of the EA—*Alex Marshall***

- Alex shared a copy of his notes from June 8, 2010 after the last EA meeting
- EA the driver of many initiatives in the school and community
- Annual report a summation of the work we are doing
- the report should be the bases for developing the next EA
- we may need to look at our goal—may need to reduce the number of goals
- the develop the original EA Alex and Gina gather information from many public forums, interviews, surveys and looks at best practices (10 Case Studies)
- focus our efforts on the development process for 2012
- if the Board is considering an external evaluator—consider Eric McMahon
- we need to understand to make changes if necessary
- time of diminishing resources it is difficult to implement new initiatives—keep that in mind
- Aboriginal representation during the budget process
- question how decisions are made and have discussion about that
- communication breakdowns create hard feelings
- look at these perceived problems under the guiding principles of the EA
- willing to work positively on solutions
- we have an opportunity to develop a new EA

**3) Discussion—Share issues/successes about the EA—*EA Committee members***

Dale Harry

- spirit of the EA—pulling together
- want to fix the problem instead of laying the blame
- it’s all about communication and moving things forward
- issues can be opportunities
- what is important to us and why is it important

- thank and acknowledge the work teachers and administrators do
- help prepare for our future
- the Squamish Nation is not going anywhere—born here, live here and die here
- are we getting all the data?—that's important to us
- need the dollars for First Nation Studies classes
- trade school and programs is an area of importance
- resource room in the schools is important for our students and support workers
- take aways at the end of the meeting, follow ups, communication and time frames
- the budget should not drive education
- reference to the EA page 25—each community is to develop a protocol agreement with SD48
- Squamish Nation has approved the government to government protocol agreement with School District 48—Josh Joseph is working on the document—completing the first draft
- Dale Harry has invited the Board of Education SD48 to Squamish Nation Chief and Council to discuss the protocol agreement

Joshua Joseph

- focus on our students getting the best programs for their education
- acknowledge the tough societies that our people live in
- culture and self-belonging are key components that need to be included in the schools
- need to make the relationships come back—we are here for the betterment of our youth

Paul Wick

- the relationship is at low point
- we are at polar opposites
- DRSS FN class—only 9 students not enough to fund the class—view of the school
- view from the Squamish Nation—that's 9 students that are engaged and going to school
- if we are going to make the EA work—there needs to be an understanding of difference
- the timelines need to be considered—in order to provide a thought-out collaborative decision
- the Board has asked for an external review—Why are we doing this? What are the issues? Why are we looking outside our district?

Joy Joseph-McCullough

- the EA has brought Aboriginal communities together
- Shared Learnings committee—great initiative—thank you to the teachers
- Aboriginal Success Advisor—helping some of our students graduate
- Challenges:
- EA to be used as a structure to resolve problems
- Budget concerns
- classes being cut without bringing them the EA Steering Committee
- Joy has worked with a variety of people—first time in education we have had a problem
- we need to have a good and trusting relationship with the Board and Superintendent
- there are new leaders in place—feels like we are starting over again
- we have to work hard together—use the structures we have in place
- Aboriginal workers need to be valued—unique program in the province

Julie Thevarge

- communication is the current issue
- language worker at SHE was cut—how was that decision come about? Who supported or didn't support the language? Reasons?
- language being offered in the school would be a dream

- language use to be in the school at PSS
- suggestion for the targeted funding budget—include a copy of June’s and last year’s budget
- in June we let go of some workers—letter received in the mail was three lines—it shouldn’t have been done that way
- whoever made the decision and N’Quatqua FN make sure that doesn’t happen again

Alex Marshall

- thanks to other for having faith in the process
- this is not a token body—it’s a working group
- Annual Report—translate that information to real life
- ex. Pg. 16 look at the information and understand what it means and how they are affecting progress

John Purcell

- unique situation for Samahquam
- we didn’t have a bus—DIA not helping
- we don’t fall within any district bus route
- on the border of SD48 and SD78
- we are under the SD78 (Fraser Cascade)
- trying to find answers
- frustrating trying to get our kids to school
- need to understand the EA
- contacted Ted Cadwallder—told to contact School Districts
- we are in a grey area where we live
- renting a bus for \$3200/month
- would like to get his issue resolved

Jackie Williams

- page 3 “In times of budget constraints the Board has the difficult task of balancing the budget”
- Jackie and Paul are on the District budget partners group—we were not invited to any meetings this school year
- FN Social Studies program—where are those 9 students going?
- mentioned Nexws T’elt (Alternative program)—what has happened to those students—they have dropped out
- Fine Arts program—students are looking forward to the program
- most Aboriginal students don’t feel part of the school
- our students need culture, language and traditions--they need this first
- Aboriginal people are always cut first
- Mamaquam and Squamish proposed changes—we haven’t been consulted
- the public school system is failing our students—we can help
- the education of the Aboriginal children needs to come first during budget cuts
- we need that protocol agreement because you don’t come to us
- Cultural component is in the EA—but we are cutting it
- page 12 of the Annual Report—those graduation figures are too low
- be educated in the data so we understand the results
- nobody is visiting these programs
- page 13 of the Annual Report—this is something we kept bring up—only 3 modified
- Dibels and Dart—no results—want to know why?
- reading abilities are not there and they need these skills in Science and Social Studies
- I hope we continue to work in partnership to achieve Aboriginal success

Charlene Williams

- she works in our schools working with students providing a Cultural and Language program
- we need to invest in the leaders of tomorrow
- in the past the Aboriginal students were pulled out of the classroom and provided a program
- some students were embarrassed and didn't want to be involved
- very proud with the inclusive program today—offering a cultural program to all students—this is empowering our Aboriginal students
- our goal to build healthier community for tomorrow—we need our culture and it needs to be taught in school
- very disheartened to see the Aboriginal classes be cut in our schools
- Fine Arts class—many students have said this was their favourite class
- we have great value for our programs in our elementary schools—we don't get the same leadership from the high school
- our students are asking us why these programs are getting cut
- these programs make a difference for our students—need to build leaders and healthier community

Linda Williams

- issues are bother her because of the history of residential school—goes back seven generations—her generation was the first group in the public schools—it wasn't a good experience—always had to go to schools because of concerns about her children not about other students
- needed to learn to speak up for our children—strong passion for advocating for our youth
- community has been asking what is going on in our schools
- page 3 of the EA—signed by the chair of the school district and Ministry of Education—this agreement is not being honoured, our concerns not taken seriously
- page 6 of the EA—commitment to improve relationship between schools and district—not taken seriously—no longer trust and respect
- page 8 of the EA—guiding principles—SD48 has mutual respect of the First Nations—has not been shown—recent activity involving of the SSTA not taking into consideration of our needs
- taking part in our community events is important and the District needs to start doing
- the school district and the Squamish Nation need to come together—upset about the situation at DRSS—no concrete planning behind this decision
- we can get the relationship back that we had i.e. during the development of the EA—need to do it together and build the trust again
- Aboriginal success advisor—true champion for our Aboriginal students

Rose MacKenzie

- keen to get the relationship back and move forward

Angela Uren

- frustrated with frustrations
- mistrust and misunderstanding is affecting working relationship
- thankful for this process
- the purpose of the EA is about giving opportunities to our Aboriginal students
- need to pay attention and work together—everyone needs to do the work together
- everyone has a job, how can we help each other do that job—we can work together to figure this out

--remember that you are learning something—patience and good things will come from that—  
it's important to stay the course—the kids are important

### **5) Budget – Targeted Funding Budgets—*Juanita Coltman***

--Assessment for Learning—recommendation to take it out  
--Vote of EA members 11-out/5-in  
--Cindy--\$3000 could be spent in other ways—support the relationships  
--Seb—makes sense for our kids  
--Linda—Magy did the presentation—will there opportunities for parents to hear that  
presentation  
--parent partnership with Squamish Nation  
--Paul Wick—how much is targeted paying for?  
--Rebecca—involved in the budget before – look at the composition of the committee  
--Jackie—how do you work with other communities in the district—East Indian, Chinese, non-  
Aboriginal, etc.  
--Rick Erickson—wanted to bring same presenters in the District  
--Jackie—community as a whole-involve the Aboriginal Communities  
Rick Erickson—made EA presentations in the Aboriginal communities in the past—we can do it  
ourselves instead of bring in outside presenters  
Julie—suggestion to keep assessment for learning workshops in if funding was matched from  
core  
--Veronica—same funding as Dr. Brokenleg—answer no—that was a partnership between  
District PAC, Lilwat Nation SD48  
--Targeted funding committee will reallocate the Assessment for Learning funds

### **5) Budget – SD48 Budget -- *John Hetherington***

--refer to: hand-out “Operating Budget July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011  
--Paul Wick—how will the District core funding affect Aboriginal education  
--Rick E—undetermined at this time  
--John Hall—will the Funding Protection Grant come back next year if our FTE decreases?  
--John Hetherington—if it is still available if we will qualify  
--Dale Harry—revenue from other businesses—partnerships is an area to explored?  
--John Hetherington—currently no direct funding from businesses or partnerships  
--Jackie—funding protection grant clarification—reduction in FTE for Alternative programs  
--John Hetherington—protection grant was to maintain the same funding as the pervious year if  
our FTE enrolment is down  
--Veronica—question about transportation funding for Samahquam students  
--John H.—those students are part of SD78—John has been in contact with SD78  
--Verna—they need a quality bus to travel the logging road—on going issue  
--Jackie—how does SD48 provide an education program if the students can't come to school  
--John H—refer to SD policy about bussing—does not allow for service for students outside the  
district—also insurance concerns  
--Jackie—Unique geographic factors funding—could that be used  
--John H.—funding used for heating, distance from city centre, etc.

### **2) Con't Discussion—Share issues/successes about the EA – *EA Committee members***

Veronica Bikadi

--when we began this process and worked through this EA—it was amazing watching us become  
a family  
--happy to see so many representatives from all the Nations

- Aboriginal language—sad that it is not being taught anymore
- Ab. Support workers now receiving benefits
- page 21 of Annual Report—recommendations—more presentations for parents

Georgina Nelson

- wonder why the public school in Pemberton do not offer a language program
- the EA annual report is a working document—need to work together
- SD48 needs to work with the Xit'olacw School
- parents need to get copies of the EA annual report—need to see it—more direction

Martina Pierre

- we have lots of gift as First Nations people—we have lots to offer/share
- students need a desire to learn their language
- long road of recovery for our people
- it is our challenge to overcome—need to determine what we want
- patience – we can make a difference

Laura Godfrey

- my role is to listen—thank you

Rick Erickson

- this forum is a result of the Enhancement Agreement
- timeline and schedules—extra year developing the EA
- the important part is the process—each person point is view is so different
- commitment to improve communication—more frequently
- developing a protocol—last beyond staff changes
- our EA success is based on our level of participation and trust—need to improve the communication over time

Verna Stager

- proud of the young people today present to speak about Aboriginal Education
- acknowledge and recognize the presence of three Lil'wat elders in attendance—they have lived through this
- “thank god for the mess we are in (quote from Martina Pierre)” –we need to take the learnings and move on

Magy Odorfer

- “works for Aboriginal children will work for all students (quote from Joy McCullough)”
- “our job is to help Aboriginal students walk in both worlds (Squamish Nation chief)”
- goal for all our children to be successful

Lisa Barlett

- principal at Signal Hill Elementary
- I work with three passionate Aboriginal support workers at SHE
- I am committed to working with the Aboriginal communities and students

Nolan Cox

- need to dance as a group

Christine Baker

- grade 12 is not enough any more
- some of our students don't know they are not getting a dogwood when they cross the stage
- seeing more of our children with learning challenges
- tie the services in the schools with the Squamish Nation employment and training services

Shirley Toman

- born and lived here on the Squamish territory
- want all our children learn to read and be something
- teaching the culture to all the children
- welcome you (non-Aboriginal) to our country
- we can teach you a lot—please respect us—we are doing the best we can

Gwen Harry

- I am the past—an elder in our community
- Aboriginal presence in schools makes a difference
- we are still interested in the EA
- everything changes and everything stays the same—it's a uphill battle
- we have taken a step back
- we concentrate on the community

Vera Douglas

- I am a parent for 26 year and learning to be a parent
- concern because her child is not proud to be First Nation—part of the current education system
- very discouraging to tell the FN students at DRSS that their program is cancelled

4) EA Annual Report 2009-10

- due to time restraints, this item was not reviewed/discussed
- homework assignment: please read over the EA Annual Report, record ahas, wows, and ohohs, then pass along comments and suggestions to:  
Squamish Nation members—send info to Paul Wick at [paul\\_wick@squamish.net](mailto:paul_wick@squamish.net)  
Other EA members—send info to Juanita Coltman at [jcoltman@sd48.bc.ca](mailto:jcoltman@sd48.bc.ca)

#### **6) Aboriginal classes at DRSS and HSS**

- Christine Perkins began this discussion by summarizing what has and will be happening at DRSS
- wonderful, good intentions to create program at DRSS—but just a patch
- if the course is taught by a teacher no problem
- Vera Douglas has been teaching the course as an Aboriginal Support Worker
- initially SSTA was going to Grandfather Vera then post the position afterwards
- the position should have been posted along
- 5 people made the decision to collapse the course under pressure
- we should have got extra advice from Dr. E and Squamish Nation
- at DRSS we have a bigger and greater vision—school wide Ab. Ed. for all students
- ideally a 5 year plan in place
- Honouring our Wisdom teaching—Okanogan District
- working with teachers on the new path
- working on building better relationships in the long run

Dale Harry

- Squamish Nation 101—not happening
- what are important to us are the FN classes

--this was a management decision not union decision to cut the classes

--what we have at the top needs to be reflected at the bottom

Rick Erickson

--required to have teachers with teacher certification

--can get a letter of permission for people that are not qualified

--SD48 can apply to the BC College of Teachers to legitimize the appointment

Dale Harry

--suggestion to check with SD44

Joy McCullough

--Aboriginal staff members are taking the instructor program

--she is working with her staff to get the credentials

Alex Marshall

--the programs at DRSS were set up wrong at the get go

--should be a teacher

--a principal overseeing the program does not legitimize the course

Gwen Harry

--it's important for Native teacher to teach Native child

Linda Williams

--asked John Hall if the SSTA is going after our support workers

John Hall

--not a concern from the SSTA

Angela Uren

--SD44 background information:

--they have board approved courses—taught by an instructor

--some courses are taught by a person with a letter of permission

Paul Wick

--Squamish Nation wants the classes back

--both classes are Board approved

--the position at DRSS was posted with no secure funding

Jackie Williams

--is the budget leading this—budget constraints?

--not valuable enough because only 9 students

--need to bring this to the EA Steering Committee

John Hall

--the program at DRSS came into question because Rose MacKenzie wanted to put a similar program in place at HSS

Joy McCullough

--did a grievance push this issue?

Rick Erickson

--the classes were not legitimate

--the union was aware that there were unqualified teachers in these positions

John Hall

--SSTA did agree to let Vera continue until November (until she retired)

Joy McCullough

--we need to put the kids first

--have to find a place and program in the school—kids need the foundation in the school

Christine Perkins

--we are not devaluating the program

--the program was illegal

--DRSS would like to include a FN course

Rick Erickson/Dale Harry

--Propose a sub-committee made up of: John Hall (SSTA rep), Joy McCullough, Paul Wick, Christine Perkins, Rose MacKenzie and Juanita Coltman to discuss and develop a plan to reestablish the Aboriginal courses at DRSS and HSS

--Juanita will organize a meeting date and time

Agenda item 7 will be carried forth to the next EA meeting

**Meeting adjourned**