

BEAUFORT DELTA DIVISIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL



Aklavik, Ft. McPherson, Inuvik, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour, Tsiigehtchic, Tuktoyaktuk, Ulukhaktok

Special Meeting of District Education Council

October 14, 2022

5:15 pm

Hosted via Zoom

DEC Trustees

Present

Jennifer Costa – Inuvik DEA Chair

Rebecca Blake – Fort McPherson DEA Chair

Janeta Pascal – Aklavik DEA Acting Chair

Archie Inglangasuk Jr – Tsiigehtchic DEA Chair

Gilbert Thrasher Sr. – Paulatuk DEA Chair and Member at Large

Derek Squirrel – Ulukhaktok DEA Chair – Regrets

Bobbie Jo Greenland – Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) Representative - Regrets

Darlene Gruben – Tuktoyaktuk/BDDEC Chair – Regrets

Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) Rep – Vacant

Sachs Harbour DEA Chair – Vacant

BDDEC Staff

Comptroller Gary McBride – present

Superintendent Devin Roberts – present

Motion #2022-10-14-01

Call to Order

Acting Chair Gilbert Thrasher Sr. called the meeting to order at 5:26 pm

Motion #2022-10-14-02

Review/Approval of Agenda

Motioned – Archie Inglangasuk Jr. – Tsiigehtchic DEA

Seconded – Jennifer Costa – Inuvik DEA

Presentation of the audited statements

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Comptroller Gary McBride presented the audited financial statements for 2021-22. The deficiency report for 2021-22 was shared with the District Education Council. Comptroller Gary McBride noted that the council is in sound financial standing with accumulated surplus for 2021-22 of 8.3%. The budget for 2022-23 went over our territorial school allocation for funded teachers to ensure schools had extra support.

Comptroller Gary McBride spoke to issues with resignation forms being processed between the council office and GNWT HR. If former employees owe money to the Beaufort District Education Council they are sent notification of the over payment. Former employees can arrange payment with the council office to return funds.

Eventually, if a former employee chooses not to return funds, the debt will eventually be collected through Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). This can take quite some time. Comptroller Gary McBride noted that is an ongoing issue faced by all GNWT departments and education bodies.

BDDEC is reviewing their own tracking methods to try to improve the amount of resignation forms that are processed late or missed. Superintendent Devin Roberts noted a Google tracking sheet is now tracking resignation in live time to help with the process. The BDDEC senior management team reviews resignation forms and assists GNWT Department of Human Resources with processing.

One issue noted is the payroll for teachers begins mid-July prior to the beginning of the acadmieyc year. Some resignations can occur in late August prior to teachers reporting for duty. These employees sometimes resign via email and do not fill out the correct paper work causing resignation delays and overpayment issues. In these cases, BDDEC senior management can intervene and complete resignation forms to try to ensure a stop payment occurs.

Comptroller Gary McBride noted he has seen a significant improvement over the past few years in regards to BDDEC's ability to catch unprocessed resignation forms.

The BDDEC deficiency report noted that the BDDEC financial team has done an outstanding job of tracking expenses and were fully compliant with the auditor's request. The BDDEC finance team should be commended for their efforts. Finance & Admin Officers Ken Croker and Kurt Scheiwiller have done an exceptional job of ensuring all purchases complies with NWT BIP process. Comptroller Gary McBride worked closely with Avery Cooper Co. Ltd to ensure the third party audit was complete for the Beaufort Delta Divisional Education Council for 2021-22. Audited statements and recommendations from the deficiency report will be included with the 2021-22 annual report.

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Superintendent Devin Roberts – Gary is the new e-transfer method payment now up and running so employees owing money can pay with online banking?

Comptroller Gary McBride – Yes. The new online payment is up now. People can pay BDDEC using their online banking via secure e-transfer of funds.

Jennifer Costa – Inuvik DEA Chair – Question. Once the report is complete, where does it go? How to make it open to the public?

Superintendent Devin Roberts – We provide a copy of the annual report and audited statements to the Department of Education Culture and Employment (GNWT). Chair Darlene Gruben emails the annual report and audited statements to the Minister of Education. Eventually the annual report and audited statements go to the NWT Legislative Assembly. Later the reports will be shared online for the public to see. BDDEC also posts our annual reports on the new BDDEC webpage at beaufortdeltadec.ca

Comptroller Gary McBride - The financial statements will also go to CRA Charity Return, CIBC for banking relationship, and to ECE Finance Group.

Superintendent Devin Roberts – Any other questions about the audited statements for Gary or myself?

Jennifer Costa – Inuvik DEA Chair – No further questions.

Rebecca Blake – Fort McPherson DEA Chair – No questions, thank you.

Janeta Pascal – Aklavik DEA Acting Chair – No questions.

Archie Inglangasuk Jr – Tsiigehtchic DEA Chair - No questions.

Acting Chair Gilbert Thrasher Sr. called for a motion to accept the audited financial statements for 2021-22.

Motion #2022-10-14

Motioned – Rebecca Blake – Fort McPherson DEA

Seconded – Jennifer Costa – Inuvik DEA

Motion carried by all

Superintendent Devin Roberts – Gary, would you like the council to make a motion for the council to name Avery Cooper the auditors again for 2022-23 prior to my overview of the 2021-22 annual report?

Comptroller Gary McBride – Yes.

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Acting Chair Gilbert Thrasher Sr. called for a motion to name Avery Cooper Co. Ltd the auditors for the 2022-23 audit of the Beaufort Delta Divisional Education Council.

Motion #2022-10-14-04

Motioned – Archie Inglangasuk Jr. – Tsiigehtchic DEA

Seconded – Janeta Pascal – Aklavik DEA

Motion carried by all

Presentation of the Annual Report 2021-22.

Superintendent Devin Roberts presented an overview of the 2021-22 Beaufort Delta Divisional Education Council Annual Report & Accountability Framework. Superintendent Devin Roberts noted that the annual report and operating plan are now shared with all council members via Google documents. Council members can give feedback on the operating plan and annual report throughout the year.

Superintendent Devin Roberts provided an update on the 2021-22 BDDEC strategic plan, which is included in the annual report. Highlights included success with the Canadian Achievement Tests (CAT4) in literacy and numeracy. 2020-21 and 2021-22 are the two best results BDDEC has seen with students in Grades 4-9 meeting, approaching and exceeding the national average in reading and numeracy.

Superintendent Devin Roberts noted that the percentages do not make up all students in grades 4-9 and that this is a good indication that students on regular programs are seeing success. Superintendent Devin Roberts noted that students on modified education plans are not being captured in this data. We still have a lot of work to do in Inclusive Schooling to ensure students are on level and that barrier skills for students are being addressed.

Success on CAT4 is attributed to unified strategic plan and school improvements plans since 2019-20. Focus on quality Tier I instruction with Instructional Coaches supporting classroom teachers. This has allowed Program Support Teachers to focus on supporting students and teachers with student support plans and Tier II interventions. Additional Support Assistants added from funding from Jordan's Principle has also helped ensure students on support plans have extra attention and support. This also allows teachers to focus on quality instruction.

Highlights for 2021-22 on the Canadian Achievement Tests included:

80% of students in Grade 5 who wrote the test exceeded the national average in Spelling.

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79% of students in Grade 5 who wrote the test exceeded the national average in Mathematics.
77% of students in Grade 4 who wrote the test met the national average in Vocabulary.
78% of students in Grade 6 who wrote the test met the national average in Mathematics.

Oral proficiency assessments (OPA) continue to be collected with students and staff doing short interviews with Indigenous Languages Instructors. BDDEC will also be inviting elders back into schools in 2022-23 to assist with oral ILE interviews. Elders helped collect data in 2020-21 prior to the March shutdown of schools.

Numeracy we continued to find success on the Canadian Achievement Tests as well as the district created Common Math Assessments. Percentage of CMAs meeting or exceeding expectations was seventy-five percent exceeding our district goal of seventy-two percent. Math/Science Consultant Shawn Feener has done an excellent job supporting schools with Mathology and ensuring that math lessons are Indigenized.

Indigenous Languages and Culture (ILE) continues to be a strength of BDDEC. RILE Velma Illasiak and Indigenizing Coordinator Erica Thompson continue to provide excellent service to our region.

Highlights for Indigenous Languages oral proficiency assessments included:

Percentage of students speaking at the Emergent level 32.3%
Percentage of students speaking at the Beginner Level 21.6%
Percentage of students speaking at the Intermediate level 4.8%

More OPA data will be collected in 2022-23. April 2022 data will also be shared at the November DEC meeting. OPA's are collected a minimum of twice a year at the school level.

Superintendent Devin Roberts noted concern with attendance data for 2021-22. While COVID 19 caused school closures and certainly contributed to issues with attendance it should be noted that attendance data overall in the district prior to COVID 19 was also a challenge. The overall district attendance went down 4% in 2021-22. The percentage of students who attended school ninety percent or more was also down 11.3%.

We would like to see more connection with families, elders and community members to support students coming to school on a regular basis. We are very open to feedback from each district education authority about what might work best in individual communities or support attendance in 2022-23.

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A new Check and Connect program from the University of Minnesota is being reviewed by Consultant Jacqui Currie. It will be integrated into the Community of Learners modules, which was piloted for the first six weeks of this academic year. The focus being ensuring students feel welcomed at school and an adult is reaching out on a regular basis if a student is not attending. The Community of Learners is a pilot project in which teachers focus on relationship building and learning about students interests and strengths during the first six weeks of school. The idea is that these strengths and interests can be used later in the year to plan lessons and units. It fits well with the Indigenized Inquiry based focus for the new BDDEC long-term vision.

Reviewing the data from the annual report the BDDEC senior management team decided to add more support to smaller schools with travelling itinerant teachers. Zoe Cristiano recently visited Tsiigehtchic for two-weeks leading classes in culinary arts allowing students to receive Career Technology Studies (CTS) credits at Chief Paul Nitdichie School.

Long time BDDEC employee Cliff Gregory is also travelling the district supporting math teachers as a Numeracy Coach. Cliff recently visited Tuktoyaktuk. This position is in addition to the support the district received from Math/Science Consultant Shawn Feener.

Long time BDDEC employee Colin Pybus will be travelling the district in 2022-23 supporting On the Land classes and excursions in community schools. Three other travelling teachers support Instructional Coaching, Program Support and Inquiry based pedagogy for smaller schools.

The BDDEC senior management team will continue to provide leadership to consultants, coordinators and new traveling teachers in 2022-23. Asst. Superintendent Richard McKinnon is the lead with programs. Asst. Superintendent Krista Cudmore provides direct support for Principals.

Jennifer Costa Inuvik DEA Chair – The teachers and school staff have noted they see the additional support being provided at the school level.

Superintendent Devin Roberts – We have been managing our budget well for many years and currently have a surplus as Comptroller Gary McBride noted. You as a council passed the budget in June, which allowed us to provide extra teachers in the school. We've also hired additional traveling teachers to support small schools. Some of the housing situations have improved. We have more teachers at Angik School in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22. Some teachers have been willing to share. We also had a teacher transfer from Aklavik into Paulatuk that lives in RCMP housing, which helps.

Superintendent Devin Roberts – Let me know if there are any questions about the annual report.

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Jennifer Costa – Inuvik DEA Chair – No additional questions.

Rebecca Blake – Fort McPherson DEA Chair – no questions at this time.

Janeta Pascal – Aklavik DEA Acting Chair – No questions.

Archie Inglangasuk Jr – Tsiigehtchic DEA Chair - No questions

Gilbert Thrasher Sr. – (Acting Chair) Paulatuk DEA Chair and Member at Large – If there are no questions, Can we have a motion to accept the 2021-22 BDDEC Annual Report?

Motion #2022-10-14-05

Motioned – Rebecca Blake – Fort McPherson DEA

Seconded – Jennifer Costa – Inuvik DEA

Motion carried by all

Date of next meeting

A doodle poll will be circulated by Superintendent Devin Roberts to select a date for face-to-face meetings in November. DEC executive elections will be held in person. Each district education authority is invited to send two representatives to Inuvik in November. Members can also join virtually if unable to travel.

5. Adjournment

Motion #2022-10-14-06

Motioned – Archie Inglangasuk Jr. – Tsiigehtchic DEA

Meeting adjourned at 6:17 pm