



**March 6, 2018**

**Neighbourhood Learning Centre; Alumni Hall**

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1. Welcome and Introductions.
2. Review of February Minutes.
3. Middle School Philosophy – Kirk Savage

The re-configuration to a grade 6-8 model is considered the true middle school model. School district staff attended a conference in San Diego in the summer. As a team were able to create a vision for middle schools in Chilliwack. This vision includes 4 pillars:

- 1) Teaming: Working with 1 or 2 other teachers to support a core group of students. Ideally there will be pods of 2 classes. The two teachers in the pod will teach all curricular areas. This creates flexibility and allows teachers to build relationships with the students. Principals will make final decisions on the partnerships.
- 2) Exploratory: All students will have opportunity to participate in a variety of activities such as band, drama, music, art, cooking, woodwork, tech etc. They will begin as starter courses and by grade 8 students will have electives.
- 3) Advisory: Importance of relationships and having an adult advocate. There will be class meetings and teachers will be responsive to the student/group needs. It is intended to be a purposeful time of the day; a way to meet the social and emotional needs of students by being flexible and responsive.
- 4) Collaboration: Staff working together to ensure student success. Teachers sharing a pod will have same prep time. Rather than department heads there will be team leaders.

Doing a number of things to prepare students for transition. WEB “Where Everyone Belongs”. Grade 8 students will become mentors to younger students. District is anticipating improved student achievement. With the new model there is less need for alternative schools since there is more support in place for the students that need it. An inclusionary model.

4. Every Door is the Right Door Updates  
EDRD Award: Members were give a handout of the nomination criteria and encouraged to nominate their agency or another. Award is given out at the Conversation event.

Next EDRD training to take place in mid-May. Dave Manuel shared how valuable the Pro-D Day fieldtrip was for district staff. Were able to see the places they have referred students to. Added meaning to the referrals and made connections. 25 staff visited 6 agencies. Would like to do this more often.

5. Agency Updates

6. Chilliwack Community Services: Youth drop-in has had a successful start; seeing unique faces. Currently training volunteers.

Stolo Service Society: Grand Opening of an on site pharmacy taking place today. Will be open Monday- Fridays, 8am-4pm. Great asset for Youth Health Centre. Are able to help those who may need their prescriptions subsidized.

Ministry of Innovation and Poverty Reduction: March 29, 5:30-8:30 will be holding a forum at the Coast Hotel to gather information about poverty in Chilliwack. Light dinner will be served. No need to register.

SD#33: Currently changing support systems. Counsellor working with Middle School and feeder elementary schools. More capacity to support social and emotional needs of students. ED Centre will be making use of the Chance building. Possibly for agriculture.

DPAC: Parent advocacy training was well-received.

PCRS: Currently looking to fill a youth counsellor position.

NLC: Will have confirmation of NLC space at the end of March.

City Life Church: Currently working on developing a Middle School version of Afternoon Adventures.

Sardis Library: Brochures were distributed. Lots of activities taking place over Spring Break.

YMCA: Youth works doing well. New cohort beginning in April and another in July. YMCA will be offering babysitting training at the NLC.

BBBS: Bowling for Kids Sake is sold out in Chilliwack. Have secured a RBC grant for the HSCEP. Have a new administrative assistant who will be working in Chilliwack 1-2 days a week.

MCFD: CYMH new client intake at the NLC. Youth Health Centre is very active; next step is to secure “society” status.

7. OVER 18 – SEACAT will be hosting the screening of the documentary on March 14 as part of Sexual Exploitation Awareness Week. Along with the screening there will be a panel of local professionals. Member viewed the documentary trailer.

8. Sub-Committee Updates

Early Years: Karen shared some updates from the provincial Success By 6 conference. Invited everyone to participate in the next “Let’s Play” event at Stolo.

Youth Matters: Kate shared how a co-chair is still needed. Also wanting to have regular agency attendance. Have received a grant to do a youth Truth and Reconciliation workshop. Needs to be done by March 31 with 20 youth participating.

Primary Prevention: Non-violent Communication workshop coming in June.

Transitions: Info gathering. Recognizing how the housing crisis is effecting youth in transition. Talked about parent support groups. Transitions fair coming to the NLC on April 18.

9. Sub-Committee Profile – Middle Years

An overview of the Middle Years forum was given to members. Discussion around the keynote highlights as well as the breakout sessions. Those who attended agreed it was a day well spent.

10. Poverty Reduction Project: Karen distributed the questions the Poverty Reduction Task team is hoping to collect through service providers to help support the information gathering on March 29. Participants will be given a grocery gift card.

11. Cultural Diversity Awards - A number of Chilliwack Agencies received nominations. A well planned event. Karen will send the write up she submitted for the CYC.

Next meeting April 3, 2018