



School District 51 Boundary

ACCESSIBILITY ACT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - OCTOBER 18th, 2023

Meeting called to order at: 4:00 pm

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Lois Ehman (Chair)
- Gillian Finlayson
- Peter Beliveau
- Laranna Scott
- Teresa Viebrock
- Amanda Bugeaud (Secretary)
- Natalie Evdokimoff

AGENDA:

Land Acknowledgement

Introductions

Approve minutes from last meeting

Review terms of reference

Categorize survey results

INTRODUCTIONS: Introductions were made as we welcomed a new member.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

- Ensured there were no omissions or corrections from the last meeting.
- It should be clarified that the initial accessibility survey was distributed before the accessibility committee was formed. While the committee will have input toward future surveys that are created, the committee did not provide input to the initial survey.
- The committee discussed developing a student survey with input from students in elementary school and high school and agreed to send any ideas for questions to Lois for a draft survey to be created for review and input.
- Minutes were approved by the committee.

REVIEW TERMS OF REFERENCE:

The committee reviewed the Terms of Reference, specifically, around confidentiality and how and why the committee was formed. The committee was formed as a requirement from the provincial government that all school districts must form an accessibility committee.

- The committee is made of 5 - 9 members picked by the Superintendent of Schools or District Principal of Student Services.
At least one member who self identifies as having Indigenous ancestry.
At least half of the committee will include:



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- People with children or youth in SD 51 with current or emergent considerations related to disability and accessibility, and/or
- People who work or volunteer for SD 51, and/or
- People with disabilities, and/or
- People or organizations that support people with disabilities
- SD 51 committee members shall not circulate draft or committee documents or discuss meeting topics without consent. Meeting minutes will be posted online to the public following committee approval.
- A member who misses three consecutive meetings is deemed to have resigned. Member decision making must reflect the diversity of all disabilities.
- The committee chair reviewed the procedure that we will categorize the results of the survey and then prioritize items to give input to the district.
- The full terms of reference document are available on the School District website on the same page as the accessibility barrier reporting tool.



CATEGORIZE SURVEY RESULTS

The committee reviewed survey results and began to categorize survey results into four groupings:

1. Information and Communication
2. Physical and Architectural
3. School Policy
4. Practice and Technology

DISCUSSIONS FROM MEETING

- The group discussed that more people in schools and in the greater community need to know about the committee and proposed that Secretaries and Principals in all schools send a notice about how to access information about the work of the committee to all families, share via Facebook and make posters/notices with a QR code to the district's accessibility page.
- The district had an accessibility audit completed two years ago and all buildings were found to be meeting code. BC requires that 50% of doors need to be accessible in any public building. It should be noted from the audit, it is not law to retrofit older buildings but moving forward all fixes will be completed with an accessibility lens.



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- Our responsibility as a committee is to look at accessibility barriers for all children and set a plan to address them going forward.
- The group discussed holding an additional meeting to finish categorizing survey results and scheduled an additional meeting on the 7th of November 2023 to expedite this process.
- The group discussed the possibility of moving the meeting times to later in the evening to accommodate all committee members, but a later meeting was not suitable to the members present. It was proposed that we try to make one meeting later in the evening.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

- November 7th, 2023
- December 6th, 2023
- February 28th, 2024
- May 1st, 2023

Meeting adjourned at 5:10