

ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, February 2, 2023

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 pm

Virtual: meet.google.com/icp-zxar-gdr

Chairperson: Laura Di Ianni

Recorder: Vicki Blakely

Members: Joshua Glover, Jeannie Armstrong, Joan Carragher, Laura Di Ianni, Adam White, Darren Kahler, Corrie McInroy, Daniel Piggott, Chantal Bouillon, Eric Hansen, Grace Murphy, Melissa Featherstone, Sean Heuchert, Galen Eagle, Benjamin, Tenesia, Vicki Blakely

Absent: Michael Kaszuba, Richard Driscoll, Theresa Godin, Nora Shaughnessy, Joel Sloggett, Kevin MacKenzie, Teri Smith, Della Stewart-Figueira

A. Call to Order

1. Land Acknowledgement - Jeannie Armstrong
2. Opening Prayer - Chantal Bouillon
3. Additions to the agenda
 - a. Accommodations that affect others accessibility - Round Table
 - b. Low Vision accessibility issues for the board - Round Table
4. Approval of the agenda

Motion: Galen Eagle
Second: Melissa Featherstone
That the Accessibility for All Committee Meeting Agenda of Thursday, February 2, 2023 be approved with additions.

Carried
5. Approval of the [Minutes](#) from the October 13, 2023
Motion: Eric Hansen
Second: Chantal Bouillon
That the Minutes of the October 13, 2023 Accessibility for All Committee meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

6. Business arising from the minutes
 - a. There was none.

B. Information and Discussion Items

1. Welcome and review of Committee Members - L. Di Ianni

Vice Principal Di Ianni welcomed and reviewed committee members. Committee members took the opportunity to introduce themselves.

2. Desk Audit Submission - Updates: J. Armstrong and L. Di Ianni

Superintendent Armstrong gave an update on the Desk Audit submitted to the Ministry. PVNCCDSB provided information on training of both staff and volunteers in regards to customer services and human rights. The website was updated in regards to customer service to reflect the accessibility feedback process. The submission was received and accepted by the Ministry.

3. Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Changes - Updates - L. Di Ianni

Vice Principal Di Ianni gave an update on the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan changes. The plan identifies PVNCCDSB's journey in what has been completed and how it will move forward, with the inclusion of the annual status report.

The Equity team is focusing on challenging attitudinal barriers through equity training with administration as well as special education resource teachers and all educators.

The Annual Status Report 2022-23 includes what has been completed and what is ongoing. This is an important compliance document as it shows the journey as pieces are completed and continue.

4. Department Plans and Updates: in reviewing the updated multi-year accessibility plan and the IASR requirements particular to specific departments, updates from stakeholders:
 - a. Review updated [2022-2023 Multi-Year Plan and Annual Compliance Report](#)
 - b. In reviewing updated Multi-Year Plan and the IASR requirements particular to specific department, updates from Stakeholders:
 - i. Plant/Public Spaces
 - None.
 - ii. IT

- Adjusting under the accessibility resources what's available on the website in order to ensure compliance. This includes the top line of the website, accessibility features and translation for site visitors who do not have English as a first language.
- iii. Transportation
 - None
- iv. Special Education
 - Will provide an update under item 5.
- v. Human Resources
 - No updates as it was discussed already in regards to the Desk Audit.
- vi. Health and Safety
 - Discussion on accommodations - very aware of competing accommodations, for example, lighting and how that affects a student with low vision or hearing impairment that needs to read lips. Lighting refreshers are happening throughout the board as needed. This includes dimmable lights, or colour changeable lights. This has been a relatively new challenge and aiming to find solutions that will be positive for all. It was noted that it was positive that staff feel comfortable enough to ask for accommodations.
 - It is important that we have an equity lens, balancing accommodation of differing groups is key.
 - Recommended that health and safety check in with the plant department regarding international lighting standards. It is important to maintain standards when retrofitting for lighting accommodations.
- vii. Communication
 - The Communications Directional Policy is up for renewal and will be presented to the policy committee Feb 7. Looking for input on guidelines with respect to the provision of accessible formats and wording.
 - The committee discussed wording and provided input.
 - Guidelines in regards to cultural sensitivity and inclusivity in the directional plan - reflective of PVNCCDSB's growing diversity and responsive to the diverse information needs of stakeholders.
 - Other boards have used the student census to provide information of what languages may need translation of documents.
- vii. CUPE
 - None
- viii. OECTA
 - No updates at this time.
- ix. Trustee Glover

- Discussed accessibility in regards to communication - ensuring parents have accessible means of knowing when Catholic School Meetings are happening.
5. Accessibility Grant - Anchoring Accessibility & Inclusion through Relationship & Belonging. The Third Path Lighthouse Schools - Update: L. Di Ianni, C. Chan-Reynolds (Board Psychologist/Manager of Student Services), J. Angelo (Mental Health Lead), T. Benjamin (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Advisor)

Attitudinal Barriers, Universal Design for learning - Grant Funding Update Grounded in The Third Path book by Dr. David Tranter with 15 schools representing all 4 regions of PVNCCDSB. The Third Path supports a paradigm shift to a relational/responsive approach. There are four Professional Development Phases:

- a) Phase 1 - awareness (3 days) being creative: asking intentional questions (What is the meaning for education? For all? How do I live in the world and how does that make me not aware of other beings in the world, with the intention of being self-reflective.
- b) Phase 2: training (3 days) being well - universal design for learning, restorative practices. In training we will move through what is universal design for learning and what is restorative practice.
- c) Phase 3: Implementation - determined by school; being community. Depends on where schools situate themselves and how they fit in their community.

The committee viewed the [CAST video - What is UDL](#). Universal Design for Learning (UDL) was definite and examples of how that relates to education including physical space.

The committee discussed universal design for learning as it relates to and how it fits with the Catholic Faith.

Universal Design for Learning extends beyond Special Education and Learning Support Services on the journey linking good curriculum pedagogy with good for all strategies.

C. Conclusion

1. Next Steps
 - a. Presentation forthcoming on how we're engaging in equity training for the next meeting.
 - b. As a Trustee - made a commitment to visit all schools.
 - c. Student Representation - building, stretching our thinking in regards to special education - not only providing special education support but pushing special education students not to settle, seek voice and set high expectations with them and for them.

2. Future Meetings

- a. The next Accessibility For All Committee meeting will be held Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. virtually.

3. Closing Prayer - Laura Di Ianni

4. Adjournment

Motion: Joshua Glover

Second: Benjamin, Tenesia

That the February 2, 2023 Accessibility For All Committee meeting be adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Carried