

# Calling Lake Outreach Public Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2019

Calling Lake School, Calling Lake, Alberta

5:00 PM – 7:30 PM

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In attendance: 21 community members, 9 staff members, 1 Board Trustee.

Dinner at Calling Lake School

Call to Order: Gloria Cardinal called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm

Opening Prayer, Cultural Reflection or Reflection: Danny Cardinal gave the opening prayer.

Opening Remarks: Superintendent Atkinson gave the opening remarks and acknowledged Ward 8 Trustee, Loretta Gladue.

Superintendent Atkinson gave an overview of the Calling Lake Outreach School Viability Study:

- Background information
- Staffing
- Number of students
  - Correction: there are actually four students attending the Calling Lake Outreach program.
- Building
  - Quonset building is used next to Calling Lake School, it is adequate to support the program
  - Bigstone Cree Nation owns the building, NSD leases it
- Attendance Area
- Busing
- Program Needs
- Written submissions are due April 23 to Gord Atkinson, Superintendent of Schools
- At the May 24, 2019 Board Meeting, a presentation will be made to the Board and they will make the final decision on possible school closure.
- Academic Results
  - Cannot publish the data due to small enrolment
- Financial Impact
  - This does not have a financial impact, one way or the other
  - More students will generate more dollars

Questions/Comments from the Community:

- What is the maximum student age for the Outreach?
  - Technically the school and outreach can only do the same age groups. In some communities, we have supported older students through the Flexible Learning Program, but adults need to go through the college system, not the Outreach.
- The gap that the community is trying to close is to allow over-age students to go to the Outreach.

- I think we would have more students in Outreach if they could get living allowance.
- Outreach is there for extra one on one, and if that is not here, how are we going to get our kids succeed if they cannot fit into a regular classroom? Come September there might be 20 kids.
- The community wants the students to be more in charge and engaged with their education.
- What is the difference between the Calling Lake Outreach and Career Pathways?
  - There are 20 – 30 students every day at Career Pathways.
  - Students from Conklin, Chipewyan Lake, and Paddle Prairie attend the Flexible Learning Program.
  - There are 69 students enrolled at Career Pathways.
- In regards to enrolment, the Outreach is open registration. Students register throughout the year, and they do several courses very quickly, they are in and out.
- In 2015, there were 12 graduates from the Outreach; the numbers will fluctuate year to year.
- The community is wondering about transportation - some students work in the afternoons and they walk every day to school and then walk to work. They have to miss 40 minutes of work to walk to school every day.
  - If there are needs and transportation requests, NSD will work on those request.
- What about adult students that need to get their GED's, can they enroll into the Outreach?
  - It has many conditions because technically they need to be in the post-secondary system.
  - We can provide a facility and access, but we would have to partner with a post – secondary and NSD will explore that.
  - High School ages cuts off at 19 years old, they no longer belong to the K-12 system
- Our daughter graduated from Calling Lake School, but she needed one course to get into post-secondary. She loved the idea of the Outreach, she did not want to go to Wabasca and travel back and forth, it was ideal to be here in Calling Lake.
- There were students that got quite a few credits at the Outreach during the summer school.
- Does the Outreach have the capability to do high-level science and math? My daughter got into post-secondary, but she had to take biology and chemistry first. When students are keen on going into those areas, they need to know what they require – would NSD be able to facilitate that in this community?
  - In the K-12 section, yes, that is what NSD is obligated to do as a school jurisdiction.
  - Every student in NSD will have a success plan to graduation. The Director of Student Engagement, Attendance, and Completion is supporting this work.
- Most jobs use a lot of technology, the labour shortage is going to be 300,000 in technology related jobs, what does the Outreach offer for technology education?
  - NSD is one to one in devices for students from K-12.
  - If part of their learning is accessing technology, we have the hardware for it.
  - Beyond that, there are not many rural Alberta schools that can do the full breadth of the High School program, we can do the core.

- We have to make a way to ensure we engage with the students so we know what is needed to provide them the tools to success.
- Teachers go through the learning plan with the students, and students need to take ownership of their learning – they have to be engaged in order to complete.
- Students need to see their future story.
- NSD is starting a new program for K-6 students, “All About Me”, so they start thinking about their future.
- We are happy you have a lot of faith in teachers, but they cannot do everything.
  - The hardest job in our organization is the principal, 2<sup>nd</sup> hardest job is the teachers, 3<sup>rd</sup> is EA’s.
  - We have to find a way to help teachers learn, but in a way that is manageable and fits in their path.
  - This generation of students have different philosophies and different ways, and they want more.
- The hours of the Outreach are not long enough. The more I kept going, the opening time and closing time was thinning out, and I do not think it is enough time from 1:25 PM– 3:25 PM. I am not the only one that walks to school. It is only 2 hours and I don’t have enough time to complete my work.
- Those hours should be extended more, and be more flexible.
  - The bus will run on its hours but the hours do not meet the hours of the Outreach, so students have to walk to school.
  - We would run a bus but it would have to be during the route times.
- All the roads in Calling Lake are on a bus route.
  - Students should be able to get on the bus, that is something the school to consider and the Board to decide.
- The school has to work around students work hours as well.
- It is unfortunate we have low numbers, and there is potential for growth in the way Calling Lake community wants to see this program.
- We had approached Portage College to do a partnership at Calling Lake School but they wanted \$100,000 to start and Bigstone would not partner.
  - NSD would have to come back with a formal agreement; NSD would be willing to bring a proposal forward.
- There has been a dual credit program started in Wabasca for Health Care Aide, the students finish their high school and at the same time get their certification for health care aide. A lot of it is online, so we can figure out a way to help them do that. The practical lab part would have to be in Wabasca, and maybe talk to BCN to sponsor students to stay in Wabasca over the summer.
- The MD is going to build a 12 unit seniors facility, and we need to train students now.
- All of the organizations that we are talking about, are they communicating? There are different organizations in success.
  - These organizations need to get together and look at what success they want for the children.
  - We tried to work together; we collaborated on a proposal on what this community wanted in education. Not just the students but also the adults. Everything in here should be part of the education – we should open doorways to let them learn.

- Education is a box - that is why we are failing. We are not allowing them to sparkle. I think the Outreach can be a good program. I participated as an Elder, and gave examples about our community and culture. The kids did not know what a poplar tree was, what we need to teach them about is the environment. Education needs to be taught that way.
- You touched our nerves when NSD said they were going to close the Outreach program.
- The community would like to reopen and refresh, and look forward to a better designed Outreach to serve our communities.
- The community would like you to look at the previously submitted education proposal, it would be easy to revamp. Superintendent Atkinson will re-read it, and pass it on.

#### Closing Remarks

- Trustee Gladue commented that the recommendation would be not to close the Outreach based on what was heard. As a community, we have to step up.
- The community commended Mr. Malik, the Outreach teacher, on doing an awesome job; the kids really enjoy having them as their teacher. Everyone clapped for him.
  - The student I work with, she went through the regular school and came to the Outreach. I have never seen anyone so excited to learn, and her self-esteem is going up.

#### Next Steps

- Follow-up Meeting for the community
  - During the next school council meetings, add school closure to the agenda.
- Find the original Outreach proposals to find out the intention of opening the Outreach.

Closing Prayer, Cultural Reflection or Reflection: Danny Cardinal gave the closing prayer.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:16 pm

Recording Admin: Krystal Potts, Executive Assistant