

West Fraser Valley Area Council Meeting

Date: Aug 15, 2022

Time: 5:30pm

Location: Online / ZOOM

Present: Nielene Chand (President, UTE 20007), Monique Baker (Secretary - UHEW, Local 20147), Nerissa Hermosura (Secretary, UTE 20029); Zita Lambert (UTE 20007), Susie Blyth (CEIU 20964), Mike Reeves (USHE 20086)

Guests: Jason Manchester – PSAC Regional Rep ; Dr Balbir Gurm TEAM Surrey School; Tony Rebelo, safety professional and Youth sports advocate; Bobbi Taylor, advocate for children with special needs; Dupinder Saran, international student advocate and Sikh activist; Maryann Pyne, student advocate and Caribbean community activist

Regrets: Celine Ahodekon (Vice-President, UNE 20278)

1. **Call to order** at 5:35pm and acknowledgement of the land by the chair, Nielene Chand; Nielene welcomed the members present and introduced the guests, Dr. Balbir Gurm and other members of the TEAM Surrey School – candidates for Surrey School Board
2. **Adoption of the agenda:** M/S Mike Reeves and Zita to adopt the current agenda. – Carried
3. **Guest speaker:** Dr Balbir Gurm TEAM Surrey School; Tony Rebelo, safety professional and Youth sports advocate; Bobbi Taylor, advocate for children with special needs; Dupinder Saran, international student advocate and Sikh activist; Maryann Pyne, student advocate and Caribbean community activist; Roxanne Charles, activist from Semiahmoo First Nation

Dr Balbir Gurm talked about:

- Her team of diverse members
- Helping student, family, and teacher to have access to proper learning tools
- Making a difference for kids and their future
- Having a violence-free relationship and creating a safe learning environment for students
- Listening to community and advocating for parents
- Funding needed to improve school system
- Ensuring all students are fed and protected

Tony Rebelo talked about:

- Making sure to keep up with growth of Surrey
- Proper funding for students to have access to counselor/counselling
- Lobbying for more funding from provincial government for the benefit of children
- Working together with different sectors of government
- Supporting and advocating for youth sport program
- Leading by examples, e.g volunteering, coaching students, letting young students be leaders

Bobby Taylor talked about:

- Her experience as a mom of 4 children with varying degree of disability

- Advocating for children with special needs
- Helping create inclusion for families
- 67 positions that were cut back last year and how they affected students who are vulnerable and needed support
- The needed transparency with what is happening to school systems

Dupinder Saran talked about:

- Being residence of Surrey for 47 years and her involvement in community
- Helping residence – youth, women – with community issues
- Advocating for international students
- Ensuring everyone has access to support
- Connecting with parents on a regular basis to talk about school issues

Maryann Pyne talked about:

- Her life of 17 years in Surrey about moving here from Jamaica
- Her role as a mother of 4 and grandmother of 6 in serving a diverse community
- Advocating students and a Caribbean community activist
- Lack of resources for children, and not having far and equitable access to school resources
- The TEAM from 6 different background
- Listening and recognizing the issues children face

Roxanne Charles talked about:

- Being an activist from Semiahmoo First Nation
- Advocating for systematic change
- Developing inclusion experiences for indigenous people
- Developing youth school

4. **Review and adoption of the May 9, 2022 meeting report:** M/S of minutes- Zita Lambert and Mike Reeves to adopt the previous meeting report – Carried

5. **Financial report** – reimbursement for Surrey Fest for \$190.99

- \$375 education amount to Samina Anwar for attending Women’s conference in Nova Scotia still to expense
- \$4119.56 current bank balance
- M/S to Monique Baker and Zita Lamber, carried

6. **Events**

- Recap of Surrey Fest Downtown – June 18, 2022
 - Nielene shard some pictures taken during the fest
 - The group did not participate on the Fusion Fest as Nielene was away
 - Roughly 3000 visitors came by in the booth – spinning of a wheel with union related questions, giving of goodies whether the answer given was right or wrong

- Participating in other events
 - Nielene mentioned participating in other events such as Labour Day at Holland Park on Sep 5, 2022 from 11:30 to 2:30; Sep 30 event to commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
 - Jason confirmed a lot of leftover swags and that PSAC may still have some funding available for the event
 - Nielene to send out request for anyone to volunteer, lunch reimbursement is \$15 each
 - Monique made a motion to spend up \$400 for the Labour Day event with the New West District Labour Council, Mike Reeves seconded, carried

7. Education

- Jason Manchester provided updates on Fall Education Schedule for BC PSAC and non-PSAC educational opportunities
- There will be courses on resolution writing course for upcoming convention in Sep 2022 and the in-person treasury board training in strike training plans
- Nielene mentioned that the CLC winter school program was going ahead and that there was a budget of \$375 for one participant

8. Roundtable

- Monique Baker – suggested to recognize Kristen for all the help she has done for the council (card or giant poster to sign by everyone in the council)
- Zita Lambert suggested a Starbucks gift card. She requested to have the link and reminder to be sent out 30 minutes before the meeting date
- Nielene gave out the prize for attending the meeting - orange shirt and pin donated by PSAC to Mike and Zita
- Nielene advised that the next tentative scheduled virtual meeting is on November 7 and any resolution can be put forward in the area council before Nov 6.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.