



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, March 22, 2012 – Board Room, Education Centre

MEMBERS PRESENT: Leisa Desmoulins, Serena Essex, Pauline Fontaine, Lori Laforme, Lori Lukinuk, Sylvia O’Meara, Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Suzanne Tardif, Dolores Wawia

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Jane Lower

ABSENT WITH REGRET: Kathy Beardy, Jonathan Campeau, Elliott Cromarty, Sylvia Davis, Jack Playford, George Saarinen, Sara Shonias, Robin Tabor-John, Nicole Walter-Rowan, Beverley White-Kokeza

RESOURCE: Ellen Chambers, Suzanne Eddy, Amy Farrell, Agnes Hardy, Senator Robert McKay

GUESTS: Kirsti Alaksa, Charles Bishop, Pat Johansen, Patricia Linklater, Vicki Shannon, Cathi Siemieniuk, Storm Walmsley

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Opening Exercises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dolores Wawia called the meeting to order and Sherri-Lynne Pharand called upon Agnes Hardy to conduct the opening. 	Agnes Hardy
2. Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sherri welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Agnes Hardy for the opening. Regrets and substitutions were noted and the attendance sheet was circulated. 	
3.1 Approval of Agenda - March 22, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved by Pauline Fontaine and seconded by Sylvia O’Meara, that the agenda for the March 22, 2012 meeting be approved. Carried. 	
3.2 Approval of Minutes - January 20, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved by Pauline Fontaine and seconded by Lori Lukinuk, that the minutes of the January 20, 2012 meeting be approved. Carried. 	
4. Correspondence File	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence file was circulated. 	
5. Presentations: 5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kirsti Alaksa, Manager of Finance, provided a power point presentation 	

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	<p>on the development of the Board's 2012-2013 budget. Last year, the total funding for education in the Province was \$21 billion dollars, of which \$135.7 million was allocated to Lakehead District School Board. It is estimated that there will be a 4.3% decline in enrolment for the next school year in our Board. Questions from the group were addressed. Sherri thanked Kirsti for her presentation.</p>	
<p>5.2 Churchill Student Presentation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storm Walmsley, a student at Sir Winston Churchill High School, provided the group a presentation on activities he has been working on, one of which was a beautiful headdress he made. He is currently working on a set of drums. He went on to explain how he had a dream where the Spirit guided him to stay on the straight and narrow and thus the making of the drums. Sherri invited Storm to come back to a future AEAC meeting to play his drums when they are completed. Sherri congratulated him on the work he is doing and thanked Storm for sharing his work with the Committee. 	
<p>5.3 New Pilot at Sir Winston Churchill High School (Tutor in a Cultural Environment)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patricia Linklater, Tutor in a Cultural Learning Environment, gave a brief overview of this new pilot at Churchill High School that has been funded through a grant from the Ministry until the end of June 2012. Patricia has been a teacher for the past six years, having spent four years teaching at Pic Mobert. The intent of the pilot is to promote student engagement/achievement. Some objectives of the pilot are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students who are new to the community and transitioning will meet with Patricia as well as those students recommended by their teacher. - Assisting students to prepare for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test. - Create welcoming environments for the students. - Help plan events in the community. - Make available resources to students to make contact with home. - To develop role models from these students to become leaders for other students. - To build trust and confidence with the students. - Participate in field trips. - Get them excited to attend school and learn. • Data will be collected on the success of the program and shared with the Ministry. • Sherri thanked Patricia for her presentation on the pilot program and invited her to come back to a future AEAC meeting. 	

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<p>6. Business Arising from the Minutes:</p> <p>6.1 Alternate AEAC Representative on PIC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suzanne Tardif agreed to be the alternate parent/guardian representative on the Parent Involvement Committee. 	
<p>6.2 Street Wolf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An inquiry was made to the Toronto office of the Ontario Friendship Centre about the possibility of getting additional copies of the Street Wolf publication that was shared with the group by Anthony Shapwaykeesic during his presentation at the January AEAC meeting. They have requested that we let them know how many copies we will require and the intent/use of the materials. The following feedback was provided by the group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - as a classroom resource, K-12 and Post Secondary - as a resource for parents - Aboriginal Education Resource - as a teacher resource – library - Parent Council Resource - as a committee, we are aware of the program in our schools. A letter will be sent to the Ontario Friendship Centre. 	
<p>7. New Business:</p> <p>7.1 AEAC 2012-2013 Budget Deputation Submission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amy provided a draft of the submission for the group's comments and input. Consensus was received from the group to have Amy, Sylvia and Serena put together the submission with the feedback from the group incorporated. Judy will e-mail the updated submission to AEAC for comments prior to submission 	
<p>7.2 Member to Present Budget Deputation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suzanne Tardif offered to attend the Budget Deputation session on April 17, 2012 to present AEAC's submission. 	
<p>7.3 Policy for Review Library Resource</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charles Bishop, Education Officer, attended to solicit feedback from the group on the Library Resource Policy. Charles advised that the current policy is 22 years old and was last reviewed 17 years ago and is of little use in today's world. A Committee has been created to rewrite the policy. Due to modern technology, libraries are becoming a thing of the past. The policy needs to be reflective of today's needs. The following input was received from the group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - suggest a student sit on the Committee to give their feedback on how the Library Commons should look from a student's perspective - Library Commons are to accommodate students who have their own 	

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	<p>IPads, etc. - look at a process to determine which materials are appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sherri thanked Charlie for his presentation and invited him to come back to a future meeting. 	
7.4 OPSBA Achievement Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An invitation was received from the Ontario Public School Boards' Association seeking nominations recognizing outstanding contributions of non-teaching staff, parents, volunteers and community partners involved in education. • Serena Essex and Sylvia O'Meara were nominated by the group and both accepted the nominations. Sherri and Amy will prepare submissions by April 2, 2012. 	
8. Ongoing Business: 8.1 Handbook Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy asked for the group to return their copies of the handbook to her with any changes they would like incorporated. 	
8.2 Advocacy Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy met with the advocates on February 15, 2012. Of the nine advocates originally on the list, three have withdrawn. An ad is being placed in the newspaper and on line. 	
8.3 Transitions Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy advised that the committee met in February and will be meeting again on March 30. The Committee is looking at ways to improve student enrolment and student success. Forms are filled out on a student to determine where they are at and what help they may need. 	
8.4 Translation Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy provided a brief overview of the website and the translations. A media release will be going out. Dolores and Sherri will write a letter to PIC to thank them for the funds allowing this to happen. Sherri thanked Amy for her work on Aboriginal Education. 	
9. Information and Inquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sherri advised that there will be a regional conference for Native Language/Native Studies teachers April 11-13, 2012 at the Valhalla In for participants from Northwestern Ontario. • A delegation will be coming from Russia on April 24, 2012 to see what programs we have in place for Aboriginal students. They would like to meet with the group. Information will be sent to the group re time and location. 	
10. Closing Exercises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing exercises were conducted by Senator McKay. 	

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11. Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Thursday, May 17, 2012, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Board Room, Education Centre.	All
12. Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.	