



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, May 17, 2012 – Board Room, Education Centre

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathy Beardy, Elliott Cromarty, Leisa Desmoulins, Serena Essex, Pauline Fontaine, Sylvia O’Meara, Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Sara Shonias, Suzanne Tardif, Dolores Wawia

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Jonathan Campeau, Jane Lower, Jack Playford

ABSENT WITH REGRET: Ellen Chambers, Lori Laforme, Lori Lukinuk, Senator Robert McKay, George Saarinen, Robin Tabor-John, Beverley White-Kokeza

RESOURCE: Suzanne Eddy, Amy Farrell, Agnes Hardy, Nicole Walter-Rowan

GUESTS: Dawn Aho, Crystall Nielsen, Pat Johansen

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 - May 17, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved by Pauline Fontaine and seconded by Leisa Desmoulin, that the agenda for the May 17, 2012 meeting be approved. Carried. 	
3.2 Approval of Minutes - March 22, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved by Sylvia O’Meara and seconded by Pauline Fontaine, that the minutes of the March 22, 2012 meeting be approved. Carried. 	
4. Correspondence File	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence file was circulated. 	
5. Presentations: 5.1 Learning Through the Arts (LTTA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crystal Neilsen, Manager of Learning Through the Arts (LTTA) and Amy Farrell provided the group with a power point presentation on the work 	

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	<p>done with students. Fourteen out of 23 schools participated in the program. Workshops have been held on loom beading, peyote stitch beading and the making of hammocks. It is planned to introduce Elders into the program for the 2012-2013 school year to work with classroom teachers and artists. The program involves Grades 1 to 6 students and some Grade 7 and Grade 8 students. Draft lesson plans were circulated that will be used as placemats at the Ontario Public School Boards' Association Annual General Meeting being held in Thunder Bay June 8 to 10, 2012. Sherri thanked Crystal and Amy for their very informative presentation.</p>	
5.2 Professional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dawn Aho, Aboriginal Resource Teacher, provided a power point presentation on the PD she has given to teachers this past school year. Dawn explained that she uses the medicine wheel when she plans P.D. for teachers. P.D. was carried out with Kindergarten teachers and their ECE partners, Grade 1 teachers, Secondary History teachers and Social Science Chairs. Between three and four full days were devoted to the training with each group. Training was based on the OFNMI Policy Framework document. Next year, PD will be given to Grades 2, 3 and 6 teachers and secondary subject areas, yet to be identified. Sherri and Dolores thanked Dawn for her presentation and the work she does with teachers. 	
6. New Business: 6.1 2012-2013 Meeting Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed meeting schedule for the 2012-2013 school year will be brought to the June meeting. 	
6.2 Aboriginal Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicole Walter-Rowan informed the group of the initiatives that have gone on during this past school year in Aboriginal Education. Nicole gave a brief overview of the work that Dawn has done over and above her P.D. sessions with teachers. Special Assignment Teachers (SAT) will continue in our Secondary schools for the coming school year. Native Language/Native Studies will also continue to be offered in our Secondary schools. 	
7. Information Reports: 7.1 Summer Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robin Tabor-John, Elementary Coordinator, advised the group that the Summer Literacy program is being offered again this summer at Sherbrooke, Ogden, Agnew, C.D. Howe and Algonquin Public Schools. 	

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	<p>Students who attended the session last summer, gained approximately two months of literacy skills over the summer than those students who did not attend. There will also be a Summer Numeracy and a Summer Literacy for FNMI students. There will be no fewer than 15 students in a class and preference will be given to students who are experiencing achievement gaps. The programs will run from July 9 to July 27, 2012, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. There will be a recreational component, breakfast and lunch and the Board will partner with Lakehead University. There will be an emphasis on connecting with parents so that they are able to support students at home with literacy. Notices were sent to schools during the first week of May. Questions from the group were addressed.</p>	
<p>8. Ongoing Business:</p> <p>8.1 Aboriginal Transitions Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy Farrell provided a brief update. Meeting was held on May 16, 2012, where parents/guardians helped to revise the student information form. Kathy Beardy asked that NAN receive an invite to the next Transitions Committee meeting. Feedback was provided to Amy on ways to share information with students in Northern Communities and who to engage in the process. 	
<p>8.2 Advocacy Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy advised that all nine applicants should be approved. The next training session will be May 28, 2012. A former advocate will provide training on conflict resolution. Amy will be meeting with Principals to provide information on Advocates and posters will be sent to schools advising those in need of an advocate to contact Amy. 	
<p>8.3 Guidebook Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The book is currently being updated and it is hoped a draft will be available for the June 22, 2012 meeting. Some ideas for the cover shared by the group were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7 Grandfather Teachings - Representative of FNMI People - Sleeping Giant - Have students design - Animals on border - Ask Secondary art teachers if they have any drawings 	
<p>9. Information and Inquiries</p> <p>9.1 AYARAE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy advised the group that there will be 50 winners being recognized at 	

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	<p>the Aboriginal Youth Awards Recognition and Achievement Evening being held on May 17, 2012 at the Victoria Inn. Twenty-one of the recipients are from Lakehead Public Schools. Dolores will represent AEAC.</p>	
9.2 Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sherri updated the group on the general audit of Aboriginal Education that was conducted by the Auditor General of Ontario from May 7-11, 2012. Sherri thanked Dolores and Suzanne for attending the meeting to share the work of AEAC. The Auditor said we are leaders in Aboriginal Education in the Province. Sherri thanked AEAC for their work on the Committee that has made this happen. Suzanne Tardif shared her thoughts with the group. 	
9.3 Russian Visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trustee Johansen thanked Dawn Aho and Amy Farrell for chauffeuring the delegation to the schools and sights of Thunder Bay. 	
9.4 Suzanne Tardif	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suzanne advised the group that she has been appointed to the position of Native Access Program Coordinator at Lakehead University. In this role, Suzanne will help individuals of Native descent to prepare to apply for University. Mature students are eligible – two years out of school. 	
10. Closing Exercises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing exercises were conducted by Dolores Wawia. 	
11. Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, June 22, 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. 	