



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

- DATE:** Friday, June 22, 2012 – Board Room, Education Centre
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Elliott Cromarty, Leisa Desmoulins, Serena Essex, Pauline Fontaine, Lori Lukinuk, Sylvia O’Meara, Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Suzanne Tardif, Dolores Wawia
- ALTERNATES PRESENT:** Jane Lower
- ABSENT WITH REGRET:** Kathy Beardy, Agnes Hardy, Lori Laforme, Jack Playford, George Saarinen, Sara Shonias, Nicole Walter-Rowan, Beverley White-Kokeza
- RESOURCE:** Ellen Chambers, Suzanne Eddy, Amy Farrell, Senator Robert McKay, Robin Tabor-John,
- GUESTS:** Pat Johansen, Darren Lentz, Susan Lieske, Cathi Siemieniuk

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Opening Exercises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sherri called the meeting to order and called upon Senator McKay to conduct the opening. 	
2. Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sherri welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Senator McKay for the opening. • Regrets and substitutions were noted and the attendance sheet was circulated. 	
3.1 Approval of Agenda - June 22, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved by Pauline Fontaine and seconded by Leisa Desmoulin, that the agenda for the June 22, 2012 meeting be approved. Carried. 	
3.2 Approval of Minutes - May 17, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved by Sylvia O’Meara and seconded by Trustee Lukinuk, that the minutes of the May 17, 2012 meeting be approved. Carried. 	
4. Correspondence File	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence file was circulated. 	
5. Presentations: 5.1 Algonquin School Aboriginal Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darren Lentz, Vice-Principal and Grade 7 teacher at Algonquin Public School, provided a power point presentation on the activities the school 	

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	<p>participated in on their Aboriginal Day and shared the work they have been doing this school year in Aboriginal education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community, culture, language and land are the most important teachings in the Aboriginal culture and Darren uses these in his curriculum. • Currently working on a resource book for basket weaving. • Partnerships have been made with Old Fort William Historical Park and Lakehead University to name a few. • It was suggested that Darren do his presentation to Diversity Thunder Bay and the Indian Friendship Centre. • Questions from the group were addressed. • Sherri thanked Darren for sharing his talents with students and the AEAC Committee. 	
5.2 Books for Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Lieske, Grade 1 teacher at Hyde Park School, provided a power point presentation on the Books of Life project she did with her class this school year. The project entailed creating a book of their lives representing who they are, what they value and where they are from with links to an Aboriginal perspective. • Susan used the Aboriginal tool kit in doing lesson planning. • Partnered with a teacher in Kanata, ON. • Approximately 7 schools are doing the Book of Life project with their students. • Sherri thanked Susan for sharing her talents with her students and for the very informative presentation. 	
<p>6. Business Arising from the Minutes:</p> <p>6.1 2012-2013 Meeting Schedule</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed meeting schedule for the 2012-2013 school year was reviewed for conflicts. Due to Aboriginal week being held the week of June 17-21, 2013, the proposed meeting date of Friday, June 21 was rescheduled to Thursday, June 13, 2013. • Moved by Sylvia O'Meara and seconded by Suzanne Tardif that the 2012-2013 meeting schedule be approved as amended. Carried. 	
<p>7. New Business:</p> <p>7.2 AEAC Representatives on PIC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An invitation was received from PIC to nominate two parent AEAC representatives (one member and one alternate) to serve on the Parent Involvement Committee for 2012-2013. The positions will be effective 	

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	<p>November 15, 2012 to November 14, 2013 and the committee meets a minimum of four times per year. Members asked to have the item brought back to the September 20, 2012 meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sherri thanked Serena and Suzanne for their attendance at the PIC meetings this past school year. 	
<p>8. Ongoing Business:</p> <p>8.1 Aboriginal Transitions Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy advised that the Transitions Committee met on June 7, 2012 and the student entrance form is now finalized to be piloted in our secondary schools and the two northern communities of Nibinamik and Neskantaga. Questions from the group were addressed. It was suggested that once the form is final, it could be used in NAN's information package for students coming from northern communities to attend high school. • Sherri informed the group that the Tutors in a Cultural Environment in all four high schools was approved by the Budget Committee and will be going for formal approval on June 26, 2012. • Lori informed the group that she attended a launch for Transitions and received a memory stick with a tremendous amount of information and videos. Lori will give to Amy for use. It was suggested to look into sharing the videos on you-tube. 	
<p>8.2 Advocacy Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The last Advocacy meeting was held on June 11, 2012. Amy is waiting for the Police Record Checks to come back. • Training will be slated for September and will be comprised of three orientation sessions. It is proposed to have current advocates attend and provide any additional training they may have received. • List of Advocates will be sent out to Principals as well as pamphlets on the program. • Ellen Chambers will bring a request to the Diversity Committee to have Advocates attend Anti Homophobia training. 	
<p>9. Information and Inquiries</p> <p>9.1 NAD Week</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy informed the group that National Aboriginal Week celebrations went very well. A lot of positive feedback was received. • Fort William Historical Park did two sessions in our schools – one at Five Mile and one at Crestview. • Amy did pony bead animals with the students and in turn, the students 	

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	<p>would write a short story about the beaded animal they made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dates for National Aboriginal Week next year will be June 17-21, 2013. 	
9.2 OPSBA Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sherri informed the group that Serena Essex will be receiving the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Certificate of Appreciation and Sylvia O'Meara will be receiving the OPSBA Award of Excellence at the June 26, 2012 Board meeting to recognize their dedication and volunteer time that these two ladies have put into advocating for Aboriginal education. Sherri also informed the group that Trustee Lukinuk has been re-elected First Vice-President of OPSBA. 	
9.3 Work Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sherri thanked the group for their work this past year and advised that many of the objectives of the Work Plan have been achieved due to AEAC's commitment to Aboriginal education. Reflections from the past year were shared with the group. 	
9.4 Metis First Nations Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senator McKay advised the group the Metis First Nations week will be held the weekend of August 24, 2012 in Sault Ste. Marie and if anyone is passing through at the time, to drop in. 	
10. Closing Exercises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing exercises were conducted by Senator McKay. 	
11. Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday, September 20, 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. 	