



**ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DATE:** Friday, January 18, 2013 – Board Room, Education Centre

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Marg Arnone, Kathy Beardy, Elliott Cromarty, Pauline Fontaine, Sylvia O'Meara, Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Dolores Wawia

**ALTERNATES PRESENT:** Jennifer Barry, Lori Lukinuk

**ABSENT WITH REGRET:** Ellen Chambers, Serena Essex, Tiffany Gordon, Agnes Hardy, Ron Oikonen, Suzanne Tardif, Margaret Vincent, Beverley White-Kokeza

**RESOURCE:** Suzanne Eddy, Amy Farrell-Morneau, JoJo Guillet, Senator Robert McKay, Nicole Walter-Rowan

**GUESTS:** Mary-Beth Minthorn-Biggs, Cathi Siemieniuk, Linda Karlstedt, Riley Lucas, Jodie Cataldo, Nancy Coulter, Margarita Wilson

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Opening Exercises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sherri called the meeting to order and called upon Senator McKay to conduct the opening.</li> </ul>	
2. Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sherri welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Senator McKay for the opening. Introductions were made around the table. Regrets and substitutions were noted and the attendance sheet was circulated.</li> </ul>	
3.1 Approval of Agenda - January 18, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moved by Pauline Fontaine and seconded by Serena Essex, that the agenda for the January 18, 2013 meeting be approved. Carried.</li> </ul>	
3.2 Approval of Minutes - December 20, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moved by Sylvia O'Meara and seconded by Elliott Cromarty, that the minutes of the December 20, 2012 meeting be approved. Carried.</li> </ul>	
4. Correspondence File	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correspondence file was circulated.</li> </ul>	
5. Presentations: 5.1 Strategic Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director of Education, Cathi Siemieniuk, provided a brief presentation on the Strategic Plan that will be going to the Board on January 22, 2013. Questions from the group were addressed.</li> </ul>	

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5.2 Mental Health Initiative Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary-Beth Minthorn-Biggs, Mental Health Lead, provided a power point presentation on the Mental Health initiative she is working on with our Board.</li> <li>• Programs and interventions are provided to ensure our students succeed in whatever they choose to do.</li> <li>• A Mental Health Steering Committee was formed in 2011-2012 comprised of a Superintendent, Vice Principal, Teacher, Community members, Attendance Counsellor and the Special Education Officer.</li> <li>• The Board currently has a Mental Health Nurse in our high schools and plans are in place to have a second nurse by the end of February 2013.</li> <li>• The Mental Health nurses will also work in conjunction with the Emergency Department at our local hospital to put services in place for students when they return to school.</li> <li>• Questions from the group were addressed. Sherri thanked Mary-Beth for her very informative presentation and provided an invite to return to a future meeting with updates on this initiative.</li> </ul>	
5.3 Books with No Bounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Julia and Emma Mogus, two sisters from White Oaks Secondary School in Oakville, Ontario founded “Books with No Bounds”. They collect new or like new children’s books and, in partnership with Wasaya Airways, send them to First Nation Communities in Northern Ontario.</li> <li>• To support Julia and Emma, Linda Karlstedt, Principal of Westgate High School, Riley Lucas, Teacher, Jodi Catoldo, Library Tech., Nancy Coulter, Secretary and Margarita Wilson, Student, held a book drive at Westgate High School and collected 1300 books which were sent to John C. Yesno Education Centre in Eabamengoong Fort Hope. Another 600 books are ready to be sent to Martin Falls. This was made possible through partnership with Wasaya Airways who paid 90% of the shipping costs and the school fund raised the remaining 10%.</li> <li>• Books that were deemed inappropriate, have been donated to the Faye Peterson Transition Home.</li> <li>• Sherri expressed thanks to the group for their commitment and enthusiasm to this project.</li> <li>• Wasaya has offered to fly both Emma and Julia to the Northern Communities where the books have been donated.</li> <li>• More information on this worthwhile project can be found on Julia and Emma’s facebook page at <a href="http://www.facebook.com/bookswithnobounds">www.facebook.com/bookswithnobounds</a>.</li> </ul>	

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<p>6. Business Arising from the Minutes:</p> <p>6.1 Handbook</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amy provided an update on the status of the handbook.</li> <li>• The War of 1812 has been included – key Aboriginal figures.</li> <li>• Launch of the revised handbook will be at Lakehead University March 21, 2013 and will include a celebration and display of all of the artwork by students.</li> <li>• Invitations to the event will be going out early March.</li> </ul>	
<p>6.2 Voluntary Staff Self I.D. Policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defer to March 21, 2013 meeting.</li> </ul>	
<p>6.3 PIC Funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JoJo Gillet provided an update on ideas for PIC funding:</li> <li>• Support the work of the Family Connections program with print and advertising costs – the engagement connection includes working with parents to possibly expand/extend Family Connection programs to other school sites working as hubs for the community.</li> <li>• Promoting the program to extend to and include parents registering for Kindergarten.</li> <li>• Include provision of resources to be used by parent council groups at school level.</li> <li>• The Committee was in agreement to use the funds from PIC to support the Family Connections program.</li> </ul>	
<p>7. New Business:</p> <p>7.1 Promoting Healthy Relationships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defer to next meeting.</li> </ul>	
<p>7.2 Kindergarten Night</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteers are required for the AEAC booth at Kindergarten Information Night at the Valhalla Inn on Monday, February 4, 2013.</li> <li>• Pauline Fontaine offered to help out at the AEAC booth.</li> <li>• Members were asked to e-mail Judy if they were available to volunteer that evening.</li> </ul>	
<p>8. Ongoing Business:</p> <p>8.1 Transitions Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amy advised that the Committee will be meeting February 15, 2013.</li> <li>• Student Information form will be brought for feedback.</li> <li>• Welcome Kits will be reviewed for content – what they would like to see</li> </ul>	

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	<p>included in them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amy and JoJo will be visiting Armstrong – will schedule other northern community visits.</li> <li>• It is hoped to have registrations in by February from tuition agreement communities—it is easier to build a timetable and remove the student in September if they are unable to find a boarding home.</li> </ul>	
<p>9. Information and Inquiries</p> <p>9.1 Northern Ontario Medical School</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senator McKay shared information re applications to the Northern Ontario Medical School.</li> <li>• 1,974 applications were received, over 40 of which were from Aboriginal students. Out of these 40, 25 will be invited for an interview.</li> </ul>	
<p>10. Closing Exercises</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing exercises were conducted by Senator McKay.</li> </ul>	
<p>11. Next Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thursday, March 21, 2013 – 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Board Room, Education Centre.</li> </ul>	<p>All</p>
<p>12. Adjournment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.</li> </ul>	