



**ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DATE:** Friday, February 7, 2014, Board Room, Education Centre

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kathy Beardy, Katrina Fiddler, Pauline Fontaine, Pat Johansen, Sylvia O'Meara, Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Dolores Wawia, Beverley White-Kokeza

**ALTERNATES PRESENT:** Sharon Kanutski, George Saarinen

**ABSENT WITH REGRET:** Lawrence Baxter, Elliott Cromarty, Serena Essex, Steve Lalonde, Senator Robert McKay, Ron Oikonen, Suzanne Tardif

**RESOURCE:** Ellen Chambers, Coral Charlton, Amy Farrell-Morneau, JoJo Guillet, Isabelle Mercier, Jennifer Rissanen, Cathi Siemieniuk, Nicole Walter-Rowan

**GUESTS:** Lori Lukinuk, Kirsti Alaksa

	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
1.	Opening Ceremonies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sherri-Lynne Pharand called the meeting to order and called upon Elder Isabelle Mercier 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 Elder Isabelle Mercier for the drum opening. Regrets and substitutions were noted and the attendance sheet was circulated</li> </ul>	
3.1	Approval of Agenda – February 7, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moved by Pauline Fontaine and seconded by Sylvia O'Meara that the agenda for the February 7, 2014 meeting be approved. Carried.</li> </ul>	
3.2	Approval of Minutes – December 19, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moved by Beverley White-Kokeza and seconded by Pat Johansen that the minutes of the December 19, 2013 AEAC meeting be approved. Carried.</li> </ul>	

4.	Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correspondence file was circulated.</li> </ul>	
5.	Presentations:		
5.1	2014-2015 Budget Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kirsti Alaksa, Manager of Financial Services, provided an overview of the FNMI education supplement. \$42.8 million has been given to the province for FNMI education, of which \$1.178 million is our Board's allocation. Once the Guiding Principles are approved by the Trustees, copies will be sent to the Committee.</li> <li>How the funds are allocated was discussed.</li> <li>Questions from the group were addressed.</li> </ul>	
6.	Business Arising from the Minutes:		
6.1	PIC Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion took place on ways to help parents connect with their children attending school in Thunder Bay from northern communities.</li> <li>It was decided to use the PIC funding to create materials for parents of Urban Aboriginal and Northern Community students.</li> </ul>	
7.	New Business		
7.1	Student Achievement Board Report & Achievement Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nicole Walter-Rowan, Coordinator, provided a power point presentation on the Student Achievement report that compares EQAO results for our Board in relation to the province.</li> <li>Credit accumulation in Grade 9 has increased 11% in Self ID students in the 1<sup>st</sup> semester.</li> <li>Five additional grants have been received from the Ministry this year to support Aboriginal education.</li> <li>Questions from the group were addressed.</li> </ul>	
8.	Ongoing Business		
8.1	Updates:		
8.1.1	Marten Falls Visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amy provided a brief update on the visit to Marten Falls by Sherri, JoJo, Terry Trewin, Karen Desrosiers and herself. The group met with parents to discuss ways in which parents can better connect with the schools in Thunder Bay. i.e. Parent/Teacher interviews. Concerns from parents having to send their child to attend school in</li> </ul>	

		Thunder Bay were addressed. There is the potential for 5 students to be eligible to attend high school in Thunder Bay in the Fall.	
8.1.2	Elder's Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amy and JoJo met with the Elder's Council in December to receive input into the safety portion of the Welcome Book. The group will meet again in April.</li> </ul>	
8.1.3	Native Language Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The regional Native Language conference is being held April 10 and 11, 2014 at the Best Western Nor'Wester Hotel. There will be 60 participants from the region. Our Board is partnering with NOEL for this conference and has invited Dennis Franklin Cromarty.</li> </ul>	
8.1.4	Welcome Book For Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The book is currently at the printers. These books will be sent out to Northern communities.</li> <li>• The group asked that information be included in the book about safety, stress students experience, bullying, etc. Future editions of the booklet will have noted changes.</li> </ul>	
8.1.5	Walk a Mile film Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The launch of the Walk a Mile film project was held on February 6, 2014 at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium and was a resounding success.</li> <li>• Sherri-Lynne acknowledged the incredible job Ellen Chambers' daughter did as one of the speakers in the film. Sherri also acknowledged Rachel Mishenene's participation in the project.</li> </ul>	
8.1.6	TVO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TV Ontario will be in the City on February 18 and 19 re the transition of students from northern communities to Thunder Bay. They will interview parents who struggle with sending their children to Thunder Bay to attend school.</li> </ul>	

8.1.7	Kindergarten/Early Learning F.N. Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JoJo provided a brief update. This training will be supported by grant funding from the Indian Friendship Centre and the Ministry. Kindergarten teachers and ECEs from each school will receive a full day of training on February 10 on strategies and resources for English Language Learners.</li> </ul>	
8.1.8	Grades 2-5 Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training will take place February 27 and 28 on cultural and historical pieces and will be blended into the curriculum.</li> </ul>	
8.1.9	Work Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defer to March 20, 2014 meeting.</li> </ul>	
9.	Information and Inquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NAN EPP Partnership Forum will be held March 4, 5 and 6, 2014 at the Airline. Sherri-Lynne, JoJo and Amy will be attending on behalf of our Board.</li> <li>The Lakehead District School Board endorsed the Charter of Commitment on First Nation, Metis and Inuit Education at the January 28, 2014 Board meeting.</li> </ul>	Judy to send copy of document with minutes.
10.	Closing Ceremonies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closing ceremonies were conducted by Dolores Wawia.</li> </ul>	
11.	Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thursday, March 20, 2014 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Board Room, Education Centre</li> </ul>	
12.	Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.</li> </ul>	