



DATE: Thursday, March 20, 2014, Board Room, Education Centre

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elliott Cromarty, Katrina Fiddler, Pauline Fontaine, Pat Johansen, Sylvia O’Meara, Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Suzanne Tardif, Dolores Wawia, Beverley White-Kokeza

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Robin Haliuk, Sharon Kanutski

ABSENT WITH REGRET: Lawrence Baxter, Kathy Beardy, Serena Essex, Senator Robert McKay, Isabelle Mercier , Ron Oikonen, Jennifer Rissanen, George Saarinen, Cathi Siemieniuk

RESOURCE: Ellen Chambers, Coral Charlton, Amy Farrell-Morneau, JoJo Guillet, , Nicole Walter-Rowan

GUESTS: Marg Arnone

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	Opening Ceremonies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sherri-Lynne Pharand called the meeting to order and called upon Dolores Wawia to conduct the opening. 	
2.	Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sherri welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Dolores for the opening. Regrets and substitutions were noted and the attendance sheet was circulated 	
3.1	Approval of Agenda – March 20, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved by Pauline Fontaine and seconded by Pat Johansen that the agenda for the March 20, 2014 meeting be approved. Carried. 	
3.2	Approval of Minutes – February 7, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved by Beverley White-Kokeza and seconded by Sylvia O’Meara that the minutes of the February 7, 2014 AEAC meeting be approved. Carried. 	

4.	Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence file was circulated. Sherri congratulated Dolores on the article of her life's journey that was featured in Thunder Bay's Bayview magazine. 	
5.	Presentations:		
5.1	Mental Health Strategy Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colleen Kappel, Superintendent, provided a power point presentation on the Mental Health Strategy. The Board has been working on this initiative for the past two years. Last year, Mary-Beth Minthorn-Biggs was hired as the Mental Health Lead for the Board. There is student participation on the Mental Health Steering Committee. Four areas they are working on are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilience – Dr. Unger presentation. Safety – safe and caring environment for all students. Healthy life style – addiction, tobacco use. Wellness – mental health. Aboriginal representation will be included on the steering committee. Suzanne Tardif volunteered to be the representative on behalf of AEAC. Feedback from the group was provided to Colleen. Colleen and Mary-Beth will be invited back to a future meeting. Additional feedback can be forwarded to Judy to pass on to Colleen. 	
5.2	ONWA Adult Ed. Program/Aboriginal Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daniel Denomme, Manager of Lakehead Alternative Education Centre (LAEC) and Irena Filteau, (LAEC) walked the group through a power point presentation on the programs offered at LAEC. 2600 students have been registered in the past 8 years. 123 students graduated last year. 200 students will graduate this year. The Centre has the following partnerships with ONWA: Family Connections and Single Parent Initiative. The Single Parent Initiative is a pilot project. There were 33 registrants for the program and 20 are attending on a regular basis. They are very appreciative of the following services available to them: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counseling services once per week. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meals/snacks. • Regular healing centre once per month. • One on one session with a healer who comes from Fort Frances. • Single fathers attend – multi generational as well. • The group suggested that they contact United Way re funding. 	
	Advancement Pilot Project with Matawa FN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carolyn Chukra of Matawa, gave a power point presentation and brief overview of this pilot project between KKets and Matawa FN. • Project was started in November of 2012 and has had incredible success. • Matawa FN students, on and off reserve, are able to attend this program in order to attain their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). • Funding has been received to run the program for another year. • One Hundred and one participants have enrolled. • Questions from the group were addressed. • Sherri thanked the group for their very informative presentations. 	
5.3	Expanding Opportunities for Excellence 7-12 Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Isherwood, Co-Chair of the Committee, provided a brief overview and purpose of this committee. • The following two questions were asked of the group to provide feedback: • What are the programs necessary to create a full breadth of opportunity for our students: • Politics. • How Aboriginal people tell stories – engage students in story telling – program we should embrace in the school. • Experiential education – students who don't want to learn – personal connection to student and the work. • Students need choice. • What is necessary to meet the academic and engagement needs of students? • Grade 7-8 students vulnerable – pressures being put on students – more humanistic approach. • Explore what we are missing for Aboriginal students. Train teacher on traditional teachings. • Make our Aboriginal learners more connected to their school community. Partner with senior Aboriginal students. • Grade 7-8 level – more intervention – mental health, addiction, etc. • Supporting students who have learning gaps. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage teachers. • Mentors for students. • Social/emotional needs. • Learning gaps. • Ambassador program – seek out students. • Student Services can play significant role with at risk students. • How we meet their needs when they enter high school. • Further input can be e-mailed to Judy. 	
6.	Business Arising from the Minutes:		
6.1	Budget Deputation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JoJo provided a brief update on AEAC’s budget deputation being presented to the Board on April 1 that included input from the committee. Consensus was received from the group. Suzanne Tardif volunteered to present the deputation at the Budget Deputation Meeting. 	
6.2	Work Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JoJo provided a brief update on the work plan. • Consensus was received from the group to accept the work plan. 	
7.	New Business		
7.1	OPSBA 2014 Awards Program – Achievement Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AEAC had the opportunity to nominate members for the OPSBA Achievement Award. • The following nominations were received: • Kathy Beardy nominated by Sylvia O’Meara, seconded by Dolores Wawia. Carried. • Robert McKay nominated by Suzanne Tardif, seconded by Elliott Cromarty. Carried. • Suzanne Tardif nominated by Dolores Wawia, seconded by Pauline Fontaine. Carried. • Amy and JoJo will meet with the nominees to prepare their biographies for submission. 	
7.2	June 19, 2014 AEAC Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to Aboriginal Week June 16-20, 2014, the June 19, 2014 AEAC meeting will need to be moved. • Moved by Suzanne Tardif, seconded by Elliott Cromarty, that we move the June 19, 2014 AEAC meeting to June 6, 2014. Carried. 	
8.	Information Reports:		
8.1	Native Language Conference/Native	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Native Language Conference will be held at the Nor’Wester View Hotel April 10 and 11, 2014. The Native Language Festival 	

	Language Festival	will be held May 16, 2014 at Churchill High School.	
8.2	Aboriginal Youth Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the past, these awards have been held in May. This year, they will be held in September. Concerns re the change in timing of these awards is being brought forward to the awards planning committee. 	
9.	Closing Ceremonies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing ceremonies were conducted by JoJo Guillet. 	
10.	Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday, May 15, 2014 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Board Room, Education Centre 	
11.	Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m. 	