



**ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DATE:** Thursday, March 26, 2015, Board Room, Education Centre

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Trustee Marg Arnone, Pauline Fontaine, Sharon Kanutski, Sylvia O’Meara, Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Dolores Wawia, Beverley White-Kokeza, Elliott Cromarty, Katrina Fiddler, Lawrence Baxter

**ALTERNATES PRESENT:** Robin Haliuk

**ABSENT WITH REGRET:** Kathy Beardy, Trustee Ellen Chambers, Senator Robert McKay, Cathy Ferrazzo, Trustee George Saarinen, Serena Essex, Suzanne Tardif, Mike Judge

**RESOURCE:** Amy Farrell-Morneau, Anika Guthrie, Isabelle Mercier, Nicole Walter-Rowan, Jason Pilot

**GUESTS:** Trustee Trudy Tuchenhagen

	<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-Lynne welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Elder Isabelle Mercier for the opening. Regrets and substitutions were noted and the attendance sheet was circulated.</li> <li>• Sherri-Lynne congratulated Dolores on behalf of AEAC for receiving the Order of Ontario Award and for all the work she does within the community.</li> <li>• Dolores thanked the Committee for their kind words and for cards she received congratulating her for receiving the Order of Ontario. The Order of Ontario award was passed around for all to admire.</li> <li>• Sherri-Lynne informed the Committee of the passing of former Trustee Bill Mokomela and spoke kindly of his dedication to education during his many years as a Board Member.</li> </ul>	

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
3.	Agenda/Minutes		
	3.1 Approval of Agenda – Mar. 26, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moved by Sylvia O'Meara, seconded by Pauline Fontaine, that the agenda for the March 26, 2015 meeting be approved. <b>Carried.</b></li> </ul>	
	3.2 Approval of Minutes – Feb. 12, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moved by Sharon Kanutski, seconded by Beverly White-Kokeza, that the minutes of the Feb. 12, 2015 meeting be approved. <b>Carried.</b></li> </ul>	
4.	Correspondence	The correspondence file was circulated. Sherrilynne asked that members note Section 9.1 of Standing Committee Minutes of March 10, 2015 (Student Achievement Mid-Year Update).	
5.	Presentations		
	5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were no presentations at this meeting.</li> </ul>	
6.	Business Arising From the Minutes		
	6.1 Work Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amy and Anika discussed the change in structure of the Work Plan. Previously it was by <i>theme</i> and the revised form is by <i>year</i>. There is also an Appendix which lists all the goals as outlined in the Ontario FNMI Policy Framework, making it easy to see how the AEAC goals align with those set out by the Ministry.</li> <li>The committee read through the revised document, and found it better but overwhelming. More time is required to review the document. They agreed that the ideas they proposed at the last meeting were captured and were comfortable with the changes as presented. However, it was suggested that the short and long term events be separated into two documents. This will be done for the next meeting and it will be reviewed again.</li> <li>It was noted that some things in the document may be 'ongoing' and not able to be divided into long/short term i.e. professional learning. However, specific things within professional learning can be separated as there are steps we take each year to work towards each goal.</li> <li>Everyone was pleased with the Appendix to the document.</li> </ul>	Amy and Anika to revise and bring back to the next meeting.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Page 2 'Work with researchers at LU to support learning styles' should read: <i>'Work with researchers at LU and community resources to support teachers to embed indigenous knowledge within the education system thus meeting the needs of indigenous students'</i>.</li> <li>Page 2 'Roots of Empathy' ... last column should read: <i>new / proposed.</i></li> </ul>	
	6.2 PIC Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The revised draft of the Magnet was presented and reviewed by the committee. The following changes will be made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee will appear before Special Education Advisory Committee; and</li> <li>Time to call will read: Call weekdays 8:30 – 4:30 EST or leave a message after hours.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The committee questioned the wording of the receptionist's message when families call after hours – are they asked to give a time that is best for a return call.</li> <li>Committee members asked if the magnet template could also be posted on the website.</li> <li>The language barrier issue was raised – will the information on the magnets be translated?</li> <li>Robin manages 'Talk for Healing' which may be able to support this as they offer a 24 hour translation service in Cree and Ojibway and Oji-Cree. Part of Robin's work plan is reaching Northern Schools, so a partnership may be a good idea i.e. a joint magnet project.</li> <li>It was suggested that this may be a good use of next year's PIC money. In the meantime, we could explore the costs of having the magnet translated.</li> <li>When students register, they identify the language spoken at home, so we would know which version of the magnet to send to which communities.</li> </ul>	<p>Sherri-Lynne to follow up on the wording of the message</p> <p>Amy to meet with Robin to see how this partnership might work</p>
	6.3 AEAC Deputation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The revised deputation was reviewed by the committee.</li> <li>Sherri-Lynne advised the committee that Biwaase'aa will have a program in the 7/8 hub at Churchill (4 tutors). Biwaase'aa is also coming out with research to follow students' social and emotional outcomes.</li> <li>A question arose that the City may have or is in the process of</li> </ul>	Anne Magiskan to be

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		<p>setting up a “Peer Group Mentor”. Ann Magiskan, Aboriginal Liaison with the City of Thunder Bay will be contacted for information relating to this inquiry.</p> <p>Moved by Pauline Fontaine and seconded by Sylvia O’Meara that the Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee approves the deputation as written.</p> <p><b>Carried</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suzanne Tardif will present the deputation to the Board on April 7, 2015.</li> </ul>	<p>contacted and information brought to the next meeting.</p>
	6.4 Native Studies Credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sherri-Lynne gave details of the Native Studies Classes/Credits that are being offered at each of the Secondary Schools this semester.</li> <li>• In response to an inquiry, Katrina, who sits in on some of Chris’ classes will ask if reading syllabics is taught, so the language isn’t lost. However, it was noted that the focus is on oral communication.</li> <li>• It was decided to invite Chris Larocque to attend an upcoming AEAC meeting to talk about his courses.</li> <li>• In response to an inquiry, Sherri-Lynne noted that we are trying to get a Native Language program in a south side school. She noted that at the moment we don’t provide transportation for students wishing to attend a school which offers Native Language classes. We receive a grant for transportation for French, but Sherri-Lynne will look into it for Native Languages.</li> <li>• Sherri-Lynne shared a copy of the “Sioux Lookout Bulletin” which talks about the launch of an Oji-Cree dictionary after decades of work.</li> </ul>	<p>Sherri-Lynne will do some research and report back to the Committee.</p>
	6.5 Math Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nicole gave a detailed account of what she described as a “unique opportunity in our province” i.e. Connecting Anishinabee and Western Ways of Knowing Mathematics (facilitated by Ruth Beatty and Danielle Blair). The first community/board meeting took place in January and another is to take place on March 30.</li> <li>• She shared information about a summer leadership camp run by George Couchie (30 youth per camp).</li> </ul>	
7.	New Business		

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8.	Ongoing Business		
	8.1 Updates	<p>Amy Farrell-Morneau provided updates on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kindergarten Night (Feb. 2) – excellent turnout.</li> <li>• Secondary outreach/ transitions materials for the Northern communities were sent and Amy brought samples of the packages which also included a CD with course information; Amy will follow up with the communities asking that the registration information be returned as soon as possible to facilitate timetabling. She will inform our tuition agreement partners that bussing boundaries will be accommodated i.e. transportation isn't a barrier to early registration (as living arrangements won't be known at this time).</li> <li>• Amy, Bruce Sauder, Derek DiBlasio and Sylvia Shapwaykeesic, (Territorial Student Program Councilor) visited Armstrong on February 26 to provide information on high school registration and programming. After their visit, Amy received information that of 12 students leaving for high school, 9 have chosen to attend school at Lakehead District School Board.</li> <li>• Amy shared the names of the AYARA (Aboriginal Youth Achievement &amp; Recognition Award) 2015 winners who will be honoured on April 8, 2015. Dolores and Sherri-Lynne will represent AEAC at the award ceremony.</li> <li>• Amy will be travelling to Sachigo on April 28 to discuss high school registration etc.</li> <li>• Amy brought the data from the cultural sensitivity training and made it available for the committee to peruse.</li> <li>• Sherri-Lynne thanked Amy for her work in planning and organizing the Aboriginal Youth Achievement &amp; Recognition Awards.</li> <li>• Our AEAC student representative, Katrina, is the recipient of one award this year and was asked to bring her award to the next meeting to show the committee.</li> </ul>	
9.	Information and Inquiries		
	9.1 Information and Inquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sherri-Lynne explained the Ontario Public School Boards Association (OPSBA) 2015 Awards Program background including criteria for nominations. She also mentioned some of the previous winners including Sylvia, Dolores, Senator McKay, and Serena.</li> </ul>	

	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She asked the members if they would like to nominate someone for this award.</li> <li>• After some discussion, the committee agreed with the nomination of Sharon Kanutski and Katrina Fiddler.</li> <li>• Amy and Anika will help to complete the nomination papers which include a 1-2 page biography. This is due by March 26 at 4:30 pm.</li> <li>• Several names were submitted that did not meet the criteria for these awards. Marg suggested that they could be considered for the Trustee Awards.</li> <li>• Sherri-Lynne will bring information regarding other awards that are available for teaching staff for discussion at the next AEAC meeting.</li> </ul>	<p>Sherri-Lynn to bring information on other awards to future meeting.</p>
10.	Closing Ceremonies	Elder Isabelle Mercier conducted the closing ceremonies.	
11.	Next Meeting:	Thursday, May 14, 2015.	
12.	Adjournment:	The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.	