



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, Sept. 17, 2015, Board Room, Education Centre

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pauline Fontaine, Sharon Kanutski, Sylvia O'Meara, Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Dolores Wawia, Beverley White-Kokeza, Kathy Beardy, Cathy Ferrazzo, Suzanne Tardif, Serena Essex, Elliott Cromarty, Lawrence Baxter

ALTERNATES PRESENT:

ABSENT WITH REGRET: Mike Judge, Trustee Marg Arnone, Donnalee Morettin, Fay Zoccole, Robin Haliuk, Trustee George Saarinen, Trustee Ellen Chambers

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

GUESTS: Rachelle Pelletier, Helaina Kwandibens, Elyse Big George, Gilchrist (Chris) Ooshay, Pat Johansen (library board), Yolanda Wanakamik and Danielle Blair

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	Opening Ceremonies	Sherri-Lynne Pharand called the meeting to order and asked elder Isabelle Mercier to conduct the opening.	Isabelle Mercier
2.	Welcome and Introductions	Sherri-Lynne welcomed everyone, including our guests and thanked elder Mercier for the opening prayer and drum song. Regrets and substitutions were noted and the attendance sheet was circulated.	
3.	Agenda/Minutes		
	3.1 Approval of Agenda – Sept. 17, 2015	Moved by Beverly White-Kokeza and seconded by Pauline Fontaine, that the agenda for the Sept. 17, 2015 meeting be approved. Carried.	
	3.2 Approval of Minutes – June 11, 2015	Moved by Sylvia O'Meara and seconded by Sharon Kanutski, that the minutes of the June 11, 2015 meeting be approved. Carried.	

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4.	Correspondence	The correspondence file was circulated.	
5.	Presentations		
	5.1 Summer Camps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicole gave a detailed account of the summer camp for 30 self-identified Aboriginal students (grade 6 – 9) from Sherbrooke, McKellar, Algonquin, Ogden and Churchill CVI which was held at Lakehead University. The Committee viewed a video of the week's events, and all the students who took part received a copy of the video at the graduation ceremony. • Yolanda Wanakamik, Danielle Blair, and Serena Essex who were part of the summer camp project shared their experiences and thanked the Board for the partnership and for having the vision to endorse this project. They all felt it was a moving experience for the students and adults, incorporating caring, sharing and respect for cultural practices and teachings. • The long range plan is to grow from this experience and have the students who attended work this year within their own schools to encourage others to attend in the future. • Sherri-Lynne thanked all the partners who all donated their time and the students who participated and Nicole for her leadership, tireless energy and commitment! • All questions were addressed. 	
	5.2 Strategic Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLP explained the development of the Strategic Plan, highlighting the changes to the Three Pillars. She discussed the development of the Operational Plan and the Board Improvement Plan. • All questions were addressed. 	Sherri-Lynne Pharand
6.	Business Arising From the Minutes		
	6.1 New Student Representative for AEAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sherri-Lynne welcomed the students in attendance who were interested in the Student Representative position on AEAC, explaining how important their voice is to the committee. • She discussed the role of Student Trustee on the board and the AEAC Student Rep 	Sherri-Lynne Pharand

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	6.2 Review Work Plan Goals for this Year	<p>Sherri-Lynne outlined several of the projects that we are focusing on for this year:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Connect with environmental people at Lakehead re the wild rice project – schools will create their own inquiries / their own studies (Jason Pilot); 2. Connect with Community Resource People; 3. There is a need for additional Elders/Senators on the Committee; 4. PD Focus – focusing on gr. 3 and 7 teachers ; 5. Catch up year for all of staff training re cultural awareness; 6. Develop a survey for teachers – asking what else they need in order to be successful in their teaching; 7. Continue aboriginal science fair; 8. Learning Through the Arts; 9. Summer programs; and 10.FNMI – Collaborative Inquiry – to be expanded <p>Chairs will bring forward different pieces at each meeting.</p> <p>The AEAC Work Plan (and other committees' plans like SEAC), along with the Board Improvement Plan support the goals in the Strategic Plan.</p>	Sherri-Lynne Pharand
7.	New Business		
	7.1 Truth and Reconciliation Commission Recommendations	<p>Sherri-Lynne asked for thoughts about Calls to Action #62 – 65 in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Recommendations.</p> <p>After a lengthy discussion, the following motion was tabled:</p> <p>Moved by Suzanne Tardif, and seconded by Pauline Fontaine that the Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee request trustees of the LDSB endorse the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.</p> <p>Carried.</p>	Sherri-Lynne Pharand

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	7.2 Nomination for Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) 2015-2016	<p>There were no volunteers for the PIC Committee. Nicole Walter Rowan will continue to attend and report back to AEAC.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne asked that the members consider volunteering for this committee and she will ask again at the November meeting.</p>	Sherri-Lynne Pharand Dolores Wawia
	7.3 AEAC Membership	<p>Sherri-Lynne discussed the make-up of the Committee as per 8061 AEAC – Procedures.</p> <p>A sheet was circulated so members could identify which category they represented.</p>	Sherri-Lynne Pharand
8.	Ongoing Business		
	8.1 Updates	<p>Amy Farrell-Morneau provided updates on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall Harvest (Sept. 22, 23, 24 at FWHP) – due to sanctions, no elementary students will be attending • Magnets have been sent to northern communities • Re: phone message - Bruce Sauder will attend the November meeting to discuss possible changes • Diversity Calendar – being updated • Learning Through The Arts (LTTA) has been with board for at least 15 yrs. The Royal Conservatory is restricting the elder and artist program. This is the last year for this program – everywhere! Although this is disappointing, we will look at doing some things on our own. • Amy showed the committee the Self I.D. Pamphlet that is now being printed and will be handed out. It is a joint effort with TBDCSB. • Amy asked the committee to start thinking of revisions that might be made to the Aboriginal Presence in our Schools booklet – there are only 100 copies left. This will be discussed further at next meeting. 	Amy Farrell-Morneau
	8.2 Native Studies	<p>SLP gave an update on what Aboriginal courses are running in each secondary school for semester one (the next report will come in February).</p> <p>She explained the pilot project in two secondary schools – Visual Arts is Aboriginal Arts (4 at Hammarskjold and 4 at Churchill CVI). At</p>	Sherri-Lynne Pharand

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		<p>Hammar skjold, all social studies classes are Native Social Studies, in addition to the native language courses at each of the schools.</p> <p>Volunteer Self I.D. was noted at 20% (1 in 5) students. New numbers will come in November after new self ID in Sept.</p> <p>All questions were answered.</p>	
9.	Information and Inquiries		
	9.1	Pat Johansen brought information re Thunder Bay Library forgiving all late fees from Sept. 12 – Oct. 24, 2015.	Brenda to scan and send to members
10.	Closing Ceremonies	Elder Isabelle Mercier conducted the closing.	
11.	Next Meeting:	Thursday, November 19, 2015.	
12.	Adjournment:	The meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm	