



**ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- DATE:** November 19, 2015, Board Room, Education Centre
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Pauline Fontaine, Sharon Kanutski, Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Kathy Beardy, Cathy Ferrazzo, Suzanne Tardif, Serena Essex, Elliott Cromarty, Helaina Kwandibens Trustee Marg Arnone, Trustee Ellen Chambers
- ALTERNATES PRESENT:** Elyse Big George, Chris Ooshay
- ABSENT WITH REGRET:** Mike Judge, Dolores Wawia, Beverley White-Kokeza, , Donnalee Morettin, Fay Zoccole, Robin Haliuk, Isabelle Mercier, Lawrence Baxter, Trustee George Saarinen
- RESOURCE:** Dr. Amy Farrell-Morneau, Nicole Walter Rowan, Jason Pilot, Anika Guthrie, Jane Lower, Melissa Ramage
- GUESTS:** **Bruce Sauder, Daniel McMillan, Constance Nowgesic, Lynnita-Jo Guillet, Stone Yapput, Ocean Meekis**

	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
1.	Opening Ceremonies	Sherri-Lynne Pharand called the meeting to order and asked JoJo Guillet to conduct the opening.	JoJo Guillet
2.	Welcome and Introductions	<p>Sherri-Lynne welcomed everyone, including our guests. Introductions were made.</p> <p>She thanked Jo Jo for the opening and for her thoughtfulness in choosing a prayer from Sylvia’s home area. A minute of silence was noted in Sylvia’s honour. Sherri-Lynne shared some wonderful words in honour of Sylvia O’Meara who passed away on November 1, 2015. A sympathy card was circulated and a fruit basket will be sent from AEAC to Dr. John O’Meara</p> <p>Regrets and substitutions were noted and the attendance sheet was circulated.</p>	Brenda to arrange for fruit basket to be delivered.

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3.	Agenda/Minutes		
	3.1 Approval of Agenda – Nov. 19, 2015	Moved by Pauline Fontaine and seconded by Elliott Cromarty, that the agenda for the Nov. 19, 2015 meeting be approved.  <b>Carried.</b>	
	3.2 Approval of Minutes – Sept. 17, 2015	Moved by Pauline Fontaine and seconded by Helaina Kwandibens, that the minutes of the Sept. 17, 2015 meeting be approved.  <b>Carried.</b>	
4.	Correspondence	The correspondence file was circulated.	
5.	Presentations		
	5.1 Hammarskjold – FNMI Student Mentor-Mentee Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daniel McMillan and Constance Nowgesic gave a detailed account of the Mentor-Mentee project at Hammarskjold which was developed for interaction and sharing among the aboriginal students in school and during social experiences. They explained the vision and goals and shared some personal experiences that outlined their passion for the project. They introduced two student mentors, Stone Yapput and Ocean Meekis who spoke briefly outlining how the project has affected their lives. Stone made a powerful statement: “Leadership means picking up the people who can’t get up themselves.”</li> <li>• Dan will forward a PowerPoint presentation to Brenda and she will send it to AEAC members.</li> <li>• Jo Jo asked to be invited to Hammarskjold to see the program in action.</li> <li>• All questions were addressed.</li> </ul>	<p>Daniel McMillan Constance Nowgesic</p> <p>Brenda to send Powerpoint that Dan will provide</p>
6.	Business Arising From the Minutes		
	6.1 After Hours Phone Message	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sherri-Lynne explained the background information related to this topic as per the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting i.e. what AEAC would like the after hours telephone message to say. She mentioned that we</li> </ul>	Bruce Sauder

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		<p>would like to have the option of having a message in French, Cree, Ojibway and Ojicree – or at least a greeting in the different languages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bruce Sauder was invited to the meeting to hear the committee’s ideas and to comment on the possibilities of adapting the changes that have been proposed.</li> <li>• Bruce asked for some clarification specifically related to translation of messages.</li> <li>• Sherri-Lynne will connect Bruce with “Talk for Help” / ONWA / Beendigen for assistance (Robin Haliuk/Tannis).</li> <li>• Bruce will attend the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting with more information to continue the discussion.</li> </ul>	
	<p>6.2 Revisions to Aboriginal Presence in our Schools Booklet</p>	<p>The Ministry of Education is now using the term “Indigenous” rather than ‘Aboriginal’ as globally this is an understanding of very distinct differences.</p> <p>After a lengthy discussion and many suggestions, it was decided to defer any proposed changes to the title of the <i>Aboriginal Presence in our Schools</i> booklet to a future meeting. The student representative and alternates were encouraged to discuss it with staff members at their schools and share what would be helpful. Anika will gather feedback and share it at the December meeting.</p> <p>This booklet was recognized as a successful practice at the National Gathering for Indigenous Education, held in Calgary, AB Nov. 13 – 14, 2015</p>	<p>Dr. Amy Farrell-Morneau</p> <p>Anika to gather feedback for Dec. meeting.</p>
	<p>6.3 Nomination for PIC</p>	<p>Sherri-Lynne asked for volunteers from the AEAC committee to sit on PIC. The PIC Meetings will be held on the following dates for 2015-2016: November 16, January 18, March 7, May 2, June 13, September 12 and October 3.</p> <p>Moved by Pauline Fontaine and seconded by Kathy Beardy, that Sharon Kanuski represent AEAC at PIC meetings and that Serena Essex be the Alternate representative.</p> <p><b>Carried.</b></p>	

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7.	New Business		
	7.1 AEAC Annual Report	<p>The Committee was asked to review the report and make comments and/or suggestions. The suggested changes will be incorporated into the report which will be presented to the Board at the December 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting by Suzanne Tardif.</p> <p>Moved by Serena Essex and seconded by Elliott Cromarty that the AEAC Annual Report for 2014-2015 be approved as amended.  <b>Carried.</b></p>	Sherri-Lynne Pharand
8.	Ongoing Business		
	8.1 Updates	<p>Dr. Amy Farrell-Morneau provided updates on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elders' Council met on November 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss LSDB programs and what could be included or improved upon. Eight (8) elders took part. The elders were invited to come to the November AEAC meeting and/or to become members. Several elders expressed interest but they were not able to attend the November meeting. They will be invited to the December meeting.</li> <li>• Aboriginal Youth Achievement and Recognitions Awards (AYARA) - applications are coming out at the end of the November. Amy stressed the need to get applications in early to get on the short list! The AYARA night is on <i>May 5, 2016</i> at the Italian Cultural Centre.</li> <li>• Aboriginal Transitions – Information will be sent in early January. Amy is encouraging the chiefs to send registration forms back asap – by February – to ensure students get the courses they want – even if funding isn't confirmed. The Nishnawbe Aski Nation website has a Q&amp;A section where they will encourage communities to get registrations in faster/earlier. Ideas were shared and questions addressed in an effort to continue to help our students be successful.</li> </ul>	<p>Dr. Amy Farrell-Morneau</p> <p>Brenda to forward information to members.</p>
	8.2 Wild Rice Project	<p>Jason gave an update on the Wild Rice Project.</p> <p>All questions were answered.</p>	Jason Pilot
	8.3 Voluntary Student Self-ID	Amy distributed the new Voluntary Student Self-ID pamphlets which are a joint collaboration with Thunder Bay Catholic Board of Education.	Dr. Amy Farrell-Morneau

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		These will be distributed to students in September of 2016. This year we had 21% of all students in LPS who have self-identified.	
	8.4 Auditor General	Five years ago the Auditor General spent a full week in Thunder Bay doing an audit. LDSB was part of this audit. Prior to receiving the Auditor General's recommendations, we started implementing suggestions. We were selected again to share what we are doing at the Legislature in Toronto.	Sherri-Lynne Pharand
9.	Information and Inquiries		
	9.1 Training with George Couchie	Nicole announced that LDSB will be hosting three additional – two day training sessions with George Couchie. After these sessions, we will have had approximately 200 LDSB staff participating. She will provide another update at the December meeting.	Nicole Walter Rowan
10.	Closing Ceremonies	Jo Jo Guillet conducted the closing.	
11.	Next Meeting:	Thursday, December 17, 2015.	
12.	Adjournment:	The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.	