



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, May 19, 2016, Board Room, Education Centre

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Dolores Wawia, Serena Essex, Pauline Fontaine, Sharon Kanutski, Helaina Kwandibens, Robin Haliuk, Nicole Walter Rowan, Cathy Ferrazzo, Neil Workman, Kathy Beardy, Elyse Big George, Elliott Cromarty

ABSENT WITH REGRET: Beverley White-Kokeza, Donnalee Morettin, Suzanne Tardif, Trustee George Saarinen, Rita Fenton, Jane Lower, Lawrence Baxter, Dr. Amy Farrell-Morneau, Anika Guthrie, Jason Pilot, Chris Ooshag

ABSENT: Mike Judge, Elder Isabelle Mercier, Trustee Karen Wilson, Trustee Ellen Chambers

GUESTS: Gerry Martin, Brittany Collins - Education Assistant at FWFN

| | AGENDA ITEM | DISCUSSION | ACTION |
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| 1. | Opening Ceremonies | Sherri-Lynne Pharand called the meeting to order and asked Elder Gerry Martin to conduct the opening at 9:35 a.m. | Gerry Martin |
| 2. | Welcome and Introductions | Sherri-Lynne welcomed everyone, including our guests. She thanked Gerry Martin for the opening. Regrets and substitutions were noted and the attendance sheet was circulated. | |
| 3. | Agenda / Minutes | | |
| | 3.1 Approval of Agenda – May 19, 2016 | Moved by Robin Haliuk and seconded by Pauline Fontaine that the agenda for the May 19, 2016 meeting be approved. Carried. | |
| | 3.2 Approval of Minutes – March 30, 2016 | Moved by Robin Haliuk and seconded by Pauline Fontaine that the minutes for the March 30, 2016 AEAC meeting be approved. Carried. | |

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| 4. | Correspondence | The correspondence file was circulated. | |
| 5. | Presentations | | |
| | Board Report | <p>Sherri-Lynne Pharand gave some background information on the Student Achievement Report that is brought to the Board in October and April each year.</p> <p>Nicole Walter Rowan gave a thorough overview of 051-16 Student Achievement Mid-Year Report which was presented to the Board in April 2016, with particular emphasis on Aboriginal students. She explained that the data was accumulated from report cards for this report. In October, EQAO results will also be incorporated. Sherri-Lynne noted that not all Boards in the province have their self ID process as solid as ours. She reminded the committee that the data is system wide, but students' progress is tracked individually by their principal and their teachers in order to help them be successful in school and life in general. This speaks to why our work in AEAC is so important. We are working hard on how we are helping our Aboriginal students achieve their dreams. The ultimate goal is that students are strong, self-confident graduates who have choices in their lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All questions were addressed. | <p>Sherri-Lynne Pharand</p> <p>Nicole Walter Rowan – Program Coordinator</p> |
| 6. | Roundtable Discussion | | |
| | | <p>RACISM – Conversation and brainstorming session</p> <p>At our last meeting, the Co-Chair expressed concern regarding the existence of racism in our community and our schools. Sherri-Lynne noted that we have worked on education and training but we haven't gotten rid of racism. Racism is a reflection of society and racism is present in Thunder Bay.</p> <p>The committee divided into two groups for discussion. Each group included an elder, student, parent, administrator and community member. Pauline and Nicole acted as recorders and reported back with the main points in their discussion.</p> | <p>Sherri-Lynne Pharand Dolores Wawia</p> |

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| | | The discussion will continue at the June AEAC meeting where we explore how we can help staff, students and families. The suggestions will be incorporated into the AEAC work plan. | |
| 7. | Business Arising from the Minutes | | |
| | 7.1 | There was no business arising from the Minutes. | |
| 8. | New Business | | |
| | 8.1 Proposed Calendar for 2016 - 2017 | <p>The proposed calendar for 2016-2017 was reviewed by the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Thursday, September 15, 2016 ➤ Thursday, November 17, 2016 ➤ Thursday, December 15, 2016 ➤ Thursday, February 16, 2017 ➤ Thursday, March 30, 2017 ➤ Thursday, May 18, 2017 ➤ Thursday, June 8, 2017 <p>Moved by Serena Essex and seconded by Helaina Kwandibens that the proposed calendar for 2016 – 2017 AEAC Meetings be approved.</p> <p>Carried</p> | |
| | 8.2 Nomination for 2016 – 2017 PIC | The Parent Involvement Committee asked for a member and an alternate for the 2016 – 2017 year. The meetings will take place in November, January, March, May, June, September, and October. Sharon Kanutski volunteered to continue her role as the AEAC member on this Committee and Serena Essex agreed to continue as the alternate member. | |
| 9. | Ongoing Business | | |
| | 9.1 ARC (North) | Report from North ARC AEAC Representatives who attended the April 11 th Public Meeting at Superior CVI. (The ARC-South Public Meeting was discussed at the March 30 th AEAC meeting.) | Serena Essex Gerry Martin |

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| | | <p>Serena Essex and Gerry Martin shared information about the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All questions were addressed. | |
| | 9.2 ARC (South and North) | <p>Report from both North and South Reps re working meetings ... work on presentations that will be given on May 31 (N) and June 1 (S) at the next working meetings.</p> <p>Pauline Fontaine and Serena Essex shared information about the working meetings they attended. They explained that they will be making a presentation at the next Working Meeting and asked the committee for input for their presentations. Many good suggestions were offered. If AEAC members have more points for consideration, they were asked to forward them to Brenda Barradell prior to May 31, for inclusion in their reports</p> | <p>Pauline Fontaine Serena Essex</p> <p>Brenda will forward all replies to the appropriate ARC representative.</p> |
| | 9.3 Updates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAD Education Day – June 1 – Anika shared information regarding events that will take place on June 1 at Lakehead University (the Agora). Students will be arriving at 9:45 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. National Aboriginal Day is on June 21 at Marina Park. Connecting Anishnaabe and Western Ways of Knowing in Mathematics project – deferred to June meeting Grade 4 PD – deferred to June meeting Native Awareness Training sessions with George Couchie (March/April) – deferred to June meeting | Anika Guthrie |
| 10. | Information and Inquiries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AYARA – Sherri-Lynne expressed her pride that twenty-one (21) of our students were honoured at the Aboriginal Youth and Recognition Awards banquet. | |
| 11. | Closing Ceremonies | Gerry Martin closed the meeting with a prayer. | |
| 12. | Next Meeting: | Thursday, June 9, 2016 | |
| 13. | Adjournment: | The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m. | |