



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, June 9, 2016, Board Room, Education Centre

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Dolores Wawia, Pauline Fontaine, Sharon Kanutski, Robin Haliuk, Nicole Walter Rowan, Cathy Ferrazzo, Neil Workman, Kathy Beardy, Elyse Big George, Elliott Cromarty, Chris Ooshag, Lawrence Baxter, Dr. Amy Farrell-Morneau, Anika Guthrie, Jason Pilot

ABSENT WITH REGRET: Beverley White-Kokeza, Suzanne Tardif, Trustee George Saarinen, Rita Fenton, Jane Lower, Serena Essex, Helaina Kwandibens, Brittany Collins - Education Assistant at FWFN, Trustee Karen Wilson, Trustee Ellen Chambers

ABSENT: Mike Judge, Elder Isabelle Mercier, Donnalee Morettin

GUESTS: Gerry Martin, Rachelle Pelletier, Constable Bob Simon - Thunder Bay Police

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
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. Introductions were made. 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 – June 9, 2016	Moved by Robin Haliuk and seconded by Pauline Fontaine that the agenda for the June 9 th meeting be approved. Carried.	

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	3.2 Approval of Minutes – May 19, 2016	Robin Haliuk's name was misspelled ... and will be corrected. Moved by Elliott Cromarty and seconded by Robin Haliuk that the minutes for the May 19, 2016 AEAC meeting be approved as amended. Carried.	
4.	Correspondence	The correspondence file was circulated.	
5.	Presentations		
	5.1 Nicole Walter Rowan	Connecting Anishinaabe and Western Ways of Knowing Math Nicole Walter Rowan and Anika Guthrie gave a detailed overview of this program. They noted that there is beauty and challenges when working with the community on this project. They are trying to come up with partnerships (FWHP and Fort William First Nation), to be more consistent in extending the opportunity for students across the system in an ecologically sound way. The committee viewed a video made at Kingsway School over a 3 day period, showing the grade. 7 & 8 students making birch bark baskets and explaining how mathematics was used (circumference, area etc.). Anika gave a presentation on Connecting Anishinaabe and Western Ways of Knowing Math at an event in Barrie. This work has been recognized nationally. All questions were addressed.	Nicole Walter Rowan Anika Guthrie
	5.2 Rachelle Pelletier	A Traditional Gathering at Superior CVI – May 31 Rachelle Pelletier gave an overview of the Traditional Gathering, explaining that the Aboriginal Student Committee (through the Student Voice Grant) did most of the organizing. She guided, but the students were empowered to plan and they really pulled together. Information on the Gathering was also published in the Walleye magazine. Jason Pilot commented that not only was it in the papers, it was also well received on social media. Rachelle noted that Isabelle Mercier was the elder at the Gathering.	Rachelle Pelletier

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		Information about the AYARA winners was also showcased in the main entrance to the school during the Gathering.	
6.	Business Arising from the Minutes		
	6.1 PIC	PIC Funding – final report due Aug. 31 The PIC funding will be used to produce a video documentary about “A Day in the Life of a Secondary Student”. It was decided that the video would be produced at the beginning of the school year. Due to the nature of the project, we will request an extension to the deadline for spending and reporting on the PIC funding.	Amy, Nicole, Anika Brenda to write a letter requesting the extension.
7.	New Business	- no new business	
8.	Ongoing Business		
	8.1 Racism	<p>Racism in Our Community and Our Schools Continuation of discussion from May 19</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne prefaced the discussion with “We cannot resolve this ourselves and to help, we have involved our partner from the Thunder Bay Police, Constable Bob Simon”. Const. Simon was involved in the one week Native Awareness Camp last year with George Couchie. He and Constable Cambly work with the schools. They give presentations at the secondary schools including Dennis Franklin Cromarty.</p> <p>When we share personal stories it helps us to work together. Sherri-Lynne complimented everyone for coming together to try and change the way things are. She complimented the police for helping in our schools and outside of school hours and expressed hope that the partnership will continue.</p> <p>Kathy Beardy noted that NAN has an agreement with the ministry regarding the sharing of First Nation resources. Resources have been purchased and will go out to the boards. They are working with the ministry to provide some training around the resources but it is not finalized yet. Sherri-Lynne expressed appreciation for the partnerships around the education table and the supports from NAN.</p>	

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		<p>A variety of ideas were shared and it was agreed that hearing the student voice is where we must start and then we will be able to develop a way to support them in school and with our partners in the community.</p> <p>It was suggested that we try to gather some student input before the next meeting.</p>	
	8.2 Aboriginal Presence in Our Schools	<p>Aboriginal Presence in Our Schools – revisions and updates Amy noted that she has received many suggestions for revisions and updates to the booklet. She is hoping to have the draft finished by June 30th so it can be presented at the September meeting. It was decided that to respect diversity, the title should be “FNMI Presence in Our Schools” rather than Aboriginal, with an explanation within the document.</p> <p>It was also agreed that a dedication to Agnes Hardy and Sylvia O’Meara be included in the document.</p>	Dr. Amy Farrell-Morneau
	8.3 ARC (N)	<p>Report from AEAC Rep who attended the May 31st Working Meeting and the Public Meeting at Hammarskjold on June 8 Gerry Martin reported on the ARC meetings held on May 31 and June 8. Sherri-Lynne clarified the next steps and reminded everyone of how input can be received.</p> <p>All questions were addressed.</p>	Gerry Martin
	8.4 ARC (S)	<p>Report from AEAC Rep who attended the June 1st Working Meeting and the Public Meeting at Churchill on June 6 Pauline Fontaine reported on the ARC meetings held on June 1 and 6. A copy of the AEAC PowerPoint presentation given to the south and north ARC meeting is attached</p> <p>All questions were addressed.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne thanked Gerry, Pauline and Serena for their diligence in representing AEAC at the ARC meetings.</p>	Pauline Fontaine

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	8.5 Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAD – Amy outlined the events for the event which will be held at Marina Park on June 21. She also shared information about the NAD Education Day which was held on June 1 at Lakehead University. Amy asked for volunteers to set up a booth to display AEAC information at NAD on June 21. Contact Brenda if interested. • Grade 4 PD – One and one half day-long session – teachers received the booklet entitled Achieving Aboriginal Student Success (A Guide for K-8 Classrooms) by Pamela Rose Toulouse which deals with imbedding Aboriginal information into the social studies curriculum – teachers expressed concern regarding the lack of information and materials. • Sherri-Lynne thanked Anika and Elliott for their excellent work. • Native Awareness Training sessions with George Couchie [March/April] - (deferred from May 19) 	<p>Dr. Amy Farrell-Morneau</p> <p>Anika Guthrie Nicole Walter Rowan</p>
9.	Information and Inquiries		
	9.1	<p>Letter to Stakeholders – re School Renewal</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne noted that a letter was sent to Education Councils asking that they disseminate the contact information which would give First Nations parents the opportunity to submit their feedback on the School Renewal plan.</p>	Sherri-Lynne Pharand
	9.2	<p>Sherri-Lynne shared information regarding the job posting for two FNMI Graduation Coaches to help students on their education path. These are new positions (pending approval of the budget).</p> <p>It was noted that Fort Hope sent a group of students to participate in 3 pitch tournament and track meet.</p> <p>Ogden Community School has incorporated a reading during their daily announcements to acknowledge their presence on the traditional territory of the Ojibwe peoples of Fort William First Nation.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne thanked Lawrence Baxter for inviting Bob Rae, former premier of Ontario to visit Woodcrest Public School to introduce the Grade 5 students to treaties.</p>	Sherri-Lynne Pharand

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
10.	Closing Ceremonies	Gerry Martin closed the meeting with a prayer.	
11.	Next Meeting:	Thursday, September 15, 2016	
12.	Adjournment:	The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.	