



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016, Board Room, Education Centre

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Dolores Wawia, Pauline Fontaine, Robin Haliuk, Nicole Walter Rowan, Cathy Ferrazzo, Neil Workman, Elyse Big George, Elliott Cromarty, Lawrence Baxter, Dr. Amy Farrell-Morneau, Anika Guthrie, Beverley White-Kokeza, Elder Isabelle Mercier, Brittany Collins - Education Assistant at FWFN, Trustee Ellen Chambers, Jane Lower, Serena Essex, Sharon Kanutski, Suzanne Tardif

ABSENT WITH REGRET: Gerry Martin, Trustee George Saarinen, Rita Fenton, Kathy Beardy

ABSENT: Mike Judge, Trustee Karen Wilson, Donnalee Morettin, Chris Ooshag

GUESTS: Precious Anderson, Rachelle Pelletier, Angela Benedict, Ocean Meekis (student), Brittany Collins (FWFN)

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	Opening Ceremonies	Sherri-Lynne Pharand called the meeting to order and asked Elder Isabelle Mercier to conduct the opening at 9:35 a.m.	Elder Mercier
2.	Welcome and Introductions	<p>Sherri-Lynne welcomed everyone, including our guests, Precious Anderson, Rachelle Pelletier, Angela Benedict, Brittany Collins and Ocean Meekis. Introductions were made.</p> <p>She thanked Elder Mercier for the opening.</p> <p>Regrets and substitutions were noted and the attendance sheet was circulated.</p>	

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3.	Agenda / Minutes		
	3.1 Approval of Agenda – Sept. 15, 2016	Moved by Robin Haliuk and seconded by Pauline Fontaine that the agenda for the Sept. 15th meeting be amended. Carried.	
	3.2 Approval of Minutes – June 9, 2016	Moved by Beverly White-Kokeza and seconded by Suzanne Tardiff that the minutes for the June 9th, 2016 AEAC meeting be approved as written. Carried.	
4.	Correspondence	The correspondence file was circulated.	
5.	Presentations		
	5.1 Summer Camp - Mino Bimaadiziwin	<p>Nicole Walter Rowan and Anika Guthrie opened their presentation with a video which was produced by the Ministry of Education. Following the video, they gave a detailed report outlining the events of the Summer Camp which was held at Lakehead University. This is the second year that LDSB has hosted Mino Bimaadiziwin.</p> <p>It was noted that this camp could not have happened without the support of all partners who gave unselfishly of their time to help out. It takes many supports and partners to make this camp run smoothly and LDSB is very appreciative of the excellent relationship that has been developed with the Thunder Bay Police, the OPP, Lakehead University, The Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre and all the mentors. Southern Ontario Boards also sent representatives to the game to learn from us!</p> <p>This year 33 students completed the week long course. The camp was based at Lakehead University but the students spent time at Kingfisher as well, making the connection with the land which is so important. A group of students also received a Gr. 9 Reach Ahead course credit by attending a second week of class workshops following the camp.</p> <p>Willow Fiddler from APTN visited the camp and produced an excellent documentary which was broadcast on APTN National News.</p>	Nicole Walter Rowan Anika Guthrie

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		<p>Several committee members shared their children’s experiences with the group. All commented that the children totally enjoyed the experience which helped them build a network of friends and also lead to healing and personal growth.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne Pharand thanked everyone who was involved in making this camp a success again this year. She expressed her gratitude for the great leadership and partnerships that are investing their time and skills in supporting in Aboriginal Education.</p>	<p>Sherri-Lynne Pharand will write a thank you letter to supporting partners.</p>
	<p>5.2 Four Directions</p>	<p>Jane Lower, Student Success Lead introduced the FNMI Graduation Coaches – Rachelle Pelletier and Precious Anderson</p> <p>She gave detailed information on the background research that preceded the hiring of the FNMI Graduation Coaches, including the trip to Dryden and Sioux Lookout (Sherri-Lynne and Jane) to check out their programs and discuss their success stories.</p> <p>Keiko Kuji-Shikalani, Education Officer, Student Achievement Division, Ministry of Education – Toronto and Kieran McMonagle, FNMI Graduation Coach, Dryden High School helped with interviewing and they continue to be invaluable resources for the team.</p> <p>Rachelle and Precious are working with grade 9 students that have self-identified and they explained their role and what they have worked on since they started their new roles. They gave some examples of problems that have been avoided and/or solved before they become big issues. They will soon be meeting with the students’ families.</p> <p>Lynnita-Jo (Jojo) Guillet, Education Officer - Northwestern Ontario / Thunder Bay Region, Aboriginal Education Office, Ministry of Education expressed her gratitude for the development of the FNMI Graduation Coach positions – to help students work through problems and issues. She will bring this initiative to the attention of her colleagues in the Ministry and help in any way she can.</p> <p>Dolores applauded the excellent things that are happening for native students in Thunder Bay, saying “We are the leading district in Ontario”.</p>	<p>Jane Lower</p>

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		All questions were answered.	
6.	Business Arising from the Minutes		
	6.1 PIC	<p>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. We asked for and were granted an extension for spending the PIC funding.</p> <p>Amy gave an update on the camera equipment we are purchasing with the PIC funds and also explained that we would be getting quotes from videographers for the production of the actual video. This information will be brought to the next meeting.</p>	<p>Amy, Nicole, Anika</p> <p>Amy to get quotes and share information at the November meeting.</p>
7.	New Business		
	7.1 Student Representative on AEAC	<p>Sherri-Lynne welcomed Ocean Meekis from Hammarskjold, and thanked her for her interest in attending the AEAC meetings. She explained the role of the student representative and the alternate. Elyse Big George will step into the role of voting student representative, replacing Helaina Kwandibens who graduated in June. Ocean’s name will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees for approval as the alternate student representative.</p>	
	7.2 Native Studies / Native Language Programs for 2016 - 2017	<p>Sherri-Lynne gave a report on the Native Studies and Native Language Programs for 2016 – 2017. She stated that all classes are very full which shows the great interest in Ojibwe and Native Studies. It was noted that there are non-native students taking these classes as well. The Ministry is trying to get a Language Secretariat established. Jo Jo will take our information and needs to the Ministry.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne is working on some new initiatives and she will have updates at the next meeting.</p> <p>All questions were answered.</p>	<p>Sherri-Lynne to update new initiatives.</p>

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	7.3 Treaty Week (Provincial)	<p>In late May, 2016, Nov. 1 – 4 was declared Treaty Week in Ontario. It is important to emphasize that Treaties are living documents.</p> <p>Jo Jo Guillet will send the link that the ministry has to Anika – who will then forward it to staff. Staff and students have already been talking about Treaties. LDSB has always engaged our FN Partners in this teaching. SLP assured AEAC that we wouldn't do anything without discussing it first with FN partners.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne asked the committee to think of ways we can engage schools during this week? Several suggestions were shared including the Blanket Exercise or Ceremony.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne noted that we have many resources to draw from and we will bring information that teachers have available for teaching Aboriginal Education to the next meeting. Some of this information is on the website. Jo Jo extended an invitation for those interested to visit the Ministry office as well to see what is available.</p> <p>Anika spoke with the Provincial Office of Indigenous Affairs regarding their involvement during Treaty Days. They are looking to support school boards in hosting "Living Libraries" and they are willing to provide funding (honorarium) to have speakers com to different events happening in our schools. Anika will plan for this, likely with grade 7 students as Treaties fit very well with their social studies curriculum.</p>	<p>Brenda will send the link to Committee members.</p> <p>Copies of materials will be made available for Isabelle to pick up.</p>
8.	Updates		
	8.1 Fall Harvest	The Fall Harvest takes place September 19 – 22 at Fort William Historical Park. There are 30 full classes/groups attending from Lakehead District School Board.	Amy Farrell-Morneau
	8.2 National Aboriginal Day	National Aboriginal Day was held at Prince Arthur's Landing on June 21. The day was very successful again this year.	
	8.3 Self-ID Pamphlets	The Self-ID Pamphlets were distributed to all the schools in time for the start of the 2016-2017 school year. Once they are completed and returned, the information will be entered into Trillium and the pamphlets	

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		will then be shredded.	
9.	Information and Inquiries		
	9.1 Festival of Services	On Sept. 21 there will be a 'Festival of Services' held at the CLE ground. This will help students from northern communities so they know what Thunder Bay has to offer.	Sherri-Lynne Pharand
	9.2 NAN – Working Together for Student Success – Sept. 8	NAN hosted a 'Working Together for Student Success' fair on Sept. 8th at Dennis Franklin Cromarty School. We were asked to participate and LDSB did provide some financial support for this event.	Sherri-Lynne Pharand
	9.3 Request for letter of support for Grant for Adult Education Program	<p>Denise Baxter addressed the Committee asking for their support of her grant proposal for the Adult Education Program.</p> <p>Her grant proposal is called <i>"Steps to the Future: Linking Urban Indigenous youth to Education and Employability Skills"</i>.</p> <p>The objective of this Call for Proposal is to provide funding for organizations to deliver a range of activities that enable youth to make more informed career decisions and develop their skills.</p> <p>The goals of the proposal are to obtain OSSD completion, gain employability skills and to provide exploration of and experience in green jobs. The project will support students in gaining experience in green sector fields in our region, provide cultural supports with Traditional knowledge keepers, elders and senators, as well as looking for opportunities in the course content. It will also align with the TRC goals of improving educational outcomes for Indigenous people.</p> <p>The proposal suggests financial supports of \$200 per week. If students are receiving Ontario Works this would be tied into a weekly stipend to assist with expenses.</p> <p>Denise would like to come back and give updates and receive feedback with in the year, if her proposal is granted.</p>	Denise Baxter

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		<p>All questions were answered. Moved by Robin Haliuk and seconded by Serena Essex that Sherri-Lynne Pharand write a letter on behalf of AEAC supporting the grant proposal <i>“Steps to the Future: Linking Urban Indigenous youth to Education and Employability Skills”</i>.</p> <p>Carried.</p>	
10.	Closing Ceremonies	Jo Jo Guillet closed the meeting with a prayer.	
11.	Next Meeting:	Thursday, November 17, 2016	
12.	Adjournment:	The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.	