



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016, Board Room, Education Centre

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Dolores Wawia, Pauline Fontaine, Nicole Walter Rowan, Cathy Ferrazzo, Elyse Big George, Elliott Cromarty, Dr. Amy Farrell-Morneau, Anika Guthrie, Beverley White-Kokeza, Elder Isabelle Mercier, Brittany Collins - Education Assistant at FWFN, Jane Lower, Serena Essex, Sharon Kanutski, Kathy Beardy, Ocean Meekis (student)

ABSENT WITH REGRET: Gerry Martin, Trustee George Saarinen, Robin Haliuk, Neil Workman, Lawrence Baxter, Trustee Ellen Chambers, Suzanne Tardif, Trustee Karen Wilson, Donnalee Morettin, Chris Ooshag

ABSENT: Mike Judge

GUESTS: Jo Jo Guillet, Dr. John Hodson, Darren Lentz and Claudia Kataquapit (Student President)

	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 Jo Jo Guillet, Dr. John Hodson, Darren Lentz, Principal, Kingsway Park and Claudia Kataquapit, Student President at Kingsway Park. 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>	

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
3.	Agenda / Minutes		
	3.1 Approval of Agenda – Nov. 17, 2016	Moved by Pauline Fontaine and seconded by Sharon Kanutski that the agenda for the Nov. 17th meeting be approved as written. Carried.	
	3.2 Approval of Minutes – Sept. 15, 2016	Moved by Beverley White-Kokeza and seconded by Pauline Fontaine that the minutes for the Sept. 15, 2016 AEAC meeting be approved as written. Carried.	
4.	Correspondence	The correspondence file was circulated.	
5.	Presentations		
	5.1 Update on the progress of the Biwaase'aa/ Maamaa-wisiwin Project	<p>Dr. John Hodson gave review of the Biwaase'aa project.</p> <p>Biwaase'aa (pronounced BIH-WAH-SAY-AH) was created in 2004 by the Thunder Bay Urban Aboriginal Strategy Management Committee. It was the first of its kind in Canada, designed with a goal to eradicate child poverty by increasing life and living skills amongst children and their families. Originally named the Neighbourhood Capacity Building Project, the program evolved into Biwaase'aa in 2012. Biwaase'aa is a culturally designed program that provides Aboriginal youth aged seven to thirteen (7 to 13) years and their families with a fun opportunity to participate in programs which contribute to their cultural, mental, physical and emotional well-being. These activities provide children, youth and their families with the necessary tools to make healthier lifestyle choices as the youth grow older.</p> <p>He noted that there is a need for more professional development and continued research is crucial to the project.</p> <p>Jo Jo noted that the Ministry is always available for support. She noted that Dr. Hodson's team recently presented to the Ministry at a conference in Toronto and was well received. Cathy Ferrazzo mentioned how well the students at Churchill appreciate the program and that it is well received by the students and staff.</p>	

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
		<p>All questions were answered.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne thanked Dr. Hodson for coming and also for working with our students. She asked that he come back and update the committee at a future meeting.</p>	
	5.2 Kingsway Outdoor Education Academy	<p>SLP gave some background info on how the Learning Academies began – how we keep kids excited while providing meaningful experiences. Kingsway Park is one of three schools in the Pilot Project.</p> <p>Darren Lentz and Claudia Kataquapit, student president, presented an in depth report about the work of the Kingsway Learning Academy - Learning in an Indigenous Way – Land, Culture, Community, Language.</p> <p>The first semester will focus on Outdoor, Physical and Environmental Education and the second semester will focus on Arts and Music Academy.</p> <p>Darren noted that all activities are linked to the curriculum and all require partnerships (in semester one there were 14 partners) and building relationships with these partners.</p> <p>The Academy provides experiential learning where students have the opportunity to ‘Participate, Reflect and Apply’.</p> <p>He noted that Justin Trudeau even tweeted about their canoe project (through Mr. Don Rusnak).</p> <p>ALL questions were answered.</p>	
6.	Business Arising from the Minutes		
	6.1 Treaty Week	<p>Nov. 6 – 12 was declared Treaty Week in Ontario.</p> <p>SLP shared information on what each school did during Treaty week.</p> <p>Anika elaborated on each of the activities listed below.</p>	<p>Anika Guthrie</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne Pharand</p>

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION		ACTION	
		Elementary Activities			
		Algonquin Avenue	Gr. 8's to go to Hammarskjold to attend "Living Library"		
		Edgewater Park	Assembly on Tuesday, Nov. 8, and a "promise walk. We will be working with the theme "Connected to the Land, we are one with each other" (Grassy Narrows video "Home to Me"). Doing a schoolyard walk. We will gather around the maple trees in the front of the school to lay down tobacco in thanks. Students will individually complete an eagle feather "promise".		
		Kingsway Park Hyde Park	Special guest MP Rusnak. Plan curriculum-linked learning activities about treaties. MP Rusnak will tour the school with students.		
		McKellar Park Central	Our intermediate students are working on class presentations which include investigations about treaties. It's been great learning for our students.		
		Ogden Community	Sending home a letter to all families asking to let us know where they are from or where they were born so that we can see what Treaty region they fall under. Making stickers for all students and staff that say which Treaty they are a part of. Create a visual graph representation of our students and the Treaties to be displayed in school. Partnering with Biwaase'aa to do a presentation.		
		Woodcrest	All classes to attend Pow Wow Nov. 11 from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Focus on the role of Indigenous veterans. Highlight the contributions of Indigenous people in war efforts.		
		Secondary Activities			
		Hammerskjold	Grade 10's and Algonquin Grade 8's – to attend "Living Library" event - speaker Bentley Cheechoo from NAN.		
		Sir Winston Churchill	Workshop with the Canadian Roots Exchange		

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	6.2 PIC Report – Amy to report	<p>Jo Jo will share information with the Ministry on what was done and how this will carry forward according to the curriculum links. She asked how the Ministry could help as staff plans for Treaty Week next year. Anika and Amy will meet with her in this regard.</p> <p>All questions were answered.</p> <p>Amy reported that the PIC money was spent to purchase a 'Go Pro' to produce "A Day in the Life of a Student". Once the video is completed, she will share it with AEAC.</p>	<p>Anika Guthrie and Amy Farrell to meet with Jo Jo Guillet</p> <p>Amy Farrell</p>
	6.3 New Initiatives and Research Projects	<p>Sherri-Lynne reported that we are expanding the Native Language Program into Ogden and McKellar for the new year (January 2017). We will also be changing the start grade to grade 4 from grade 6 at Algonquin.</p> <p>SLP shared information about the seven (7) Research Projects that are now taking place in our school board. She explained the projects and their purposes. It was noted that we receive many project proposals and unfortunately we cannot approve all of them as we much have a balance. We choose ones that are beneficial to our students.</p>	Sherri-Lynne Pharand
7.	New Business		
	7.1 Student Voice on Racism	<p>Sherri-Lynne Pharand gave some background information on this topic.</p> <p>Anika shared that there is a Secondary School Senate (one rep from each Elementary School) and now they are developing an Elementary School Senate (15 elementary schools participating this year – all schools were invited) which will transition from gr. 8 to high school. They are hoping to see what students see as their needs and how they will work toward this change. Students were asked to discuss issues, how students can affect change, and how students connect with the adults to see that their issues are addressed.</p> <p>Leslie Hynnes spoke at length about The Unity Project which brought students from various schools in Thunder Bay together to discuss a</p>	<p>Anika Guthrie Leslie Hynnes</p>

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
		<p>number of topics, including racism. A booklet produced from this conference was made available to committee members.</p> <p>This senate is a natural fit for combining the Youth Advisory Committee and the Senate (run by the LDSB Student Trustee-Robyn Sulkko). Anika is hoping to use students from the summer camp who are becoming mentors.</p> <p>Anika mentioned Harmony Movement (from southern ON) which is a workshop which address stereotype issues – we are sending grade 7 & 8 students to this workshop in February.</p> <p>There is also a Youth Addressing Diversity in Education (YADE) conference coming up as well.</p> <p>At the end of the year, there will be a culmination activity/meeting, with information coming from the student voice i.e. what they think is necessary and how they plan to get there.</p>	
	7.2 Work Plan Summary	<p>Amy went through her copy of the plan and discussed what we have completed and what still needs to be done.</p> <p>A summary is attached with the minutes.</p>	Amy Farrell
	7.3 Success Advisory Committee	<p>Sherri-Lynne asked for a volunteer from AEAC to sit on the Success Advisory Committee. They meet 4 times per year, on Thursdays, from 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. The next meeting will be January 12, 2017.</p> <p>Serena Essex volunteered.</p>	
	7.4 Transition Team(s)	<p>We will need a representative from AEAC to sit on the Transition Team(s) for the school renewal project.</p> <p>Two transition teams will be struck:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hyde Park and Kingsway and 2. Churchill and Westgate. 	

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		Sherri-Lynne asked committee members to consider this and we will ask for delegates at the December meeting.	
	7.5 Request for Donations	<p>AEAC received a letter from Indian Youth Friendship Society asking for a donation for their 44th Annual Children's Christmas Party.</p> <p>Since AEAC is a non-profit group, we are mandated as to how our budget is spent. It was decided that we may want to forward this letter to our schools to see if the schools and/or their staff, or members of AEAC would like to take up the challenge individually.</p>	Leslie Hynnes will forward a copy of the letter to the schools.
8.	Updates		
	8.1 Graduation Coaches / Four Directions	<p>Jane gave an update on the Graduations Coaches Churchill Precious Anderson at Churchill and Rachelle Pelletier at Hammarskjold. They are continuing to support the students to become leaders, and are also working with their families, community partners and education counsellors. In December they will be reaching out to grade 8 students who they will be working with next year in high school to help make the transition to high school move more smoothly.</p> <p>NAN has asked for a presentation on this program at their upcoming conference.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne commented on how well this program is working and gave kudos to the Ministry for their help. All feedback has been very positive.</p> <p>All questions were answered.</p>	Jane Lower
	8.2 Video Projects	Amy shared information on how she worked with the students on some of the field trips they went on.	Amy Farrell
	8.3 FNMI Presence in Our Schools	Amy has given her revisions to Heather Houston who in turn is working diligently to prepare a draft. Amy asked for 3 or 4 committee members to review the draft (before it is presented to AEAC). She noted that it would be great if a student could help to get their perspective (this would be volunteer hours).	

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		The following committee members volunteered to review the draft: Serena Essex Dolores Wawia Kathy Beardy Ocean Meekis Elyse Big George Sharon Kanuski	Amy Farrell to give copies to the volunteers to review.
	8.4 Class Visits	Elder Visits (Felicia Waboose) – spoke to students. Diana Lidemark – went to Churchill – hand drumming and other outreach with classes.	
	8.5 Fall Harvest	800 students from our board attended over the 3 days.	
	8.6 National Aboriginal Day	NAD will be take place at the Marina again this year. There will also be another education day in weeks prior (i.e. early June).	
9.	Information and Inquiries		
	9.1 Media articles	<p>a) Sherri-Lynne shared a newspaper article which was published on November 11 entitled “Students Take on Knowledge of Treaties” and an online response from a resident in BC entitled “Lakehead Public School Principal Perpetuates Racist Ideology”.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne asked AEAC for guidance on whether a response was warranted. It was noted that AEAC and LDSB support the work done by the principal in question.</p> <p>They felt that a response from an educational perspective was warranted. It would be one of support of what is done in our Board, not a critique of what has been said. This may even be a breach of the Human Rights Code.</p> <p>b) CBC story regarding aboriginal instructors – Sherri-Lynne explained that she will respond if and when she is able to, as it is presently before the Human Rights tribunal. She will ask our Human Resources department to come to the next AEAC meeting to explain our hiring practices.</p>	Sherri-Lynne Pharand

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	9.1 AEAC Annual Report	The AEAC Annual Report will be presented at the Board's Annual Meeting on December 6. Sherri-Lynne asked for a volunteer to bring the report forward. Pauline Fontaine will present the report to the Board of Trustees.	Brenda to contact Suzanne Tardif.
	9.2 People for Education Conference	Serena Essex shared comments about the People for Education Conference that she attended. She was proud of our Board as we were well ahead of others in Ontario.	
	9.3 National Gathering for Indigenous Education	Anika Guthrie, Darren Lentz, and Nicole Walter Rowan along with Danielle Blair (Ministry rep.) gave a presentation on Mino Bimaadiziwin, Youth Leadership Camp at the Indspire's 2016 National Gathering for Indigenous Education in Toronto Nov. 3 – 5.	
10.	Closing Ceremonies	Elder Mercier closed the meeting with a prayer.	
11.	Next Meeting:	Thursday, December 15, 2016	
12.	Adjournment:	The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.	

AEAC Work Plan 2014-2016 **New/Proposed Items Update**

These items are completed unless otherwise indicated:

1. Native Language and Native Studies:

- a. CONNECT with Environmental Education resource people at Lakehead University
 - *In-class birch bark basket making with LU at Ecole Gron Morgan (2014)*

2. Indigenous Connections in Science, Math, Physical Education Subject Areas:

- a. Work with researchers and community resources to support embedding Indigenous knowledge within the curriculum and meeting learning needs of Indigenous students
 - i. Specific: Math research project: Connecting Anishinaabe and Western ways of Knowing in Mathematics.
 - *Community advisory groups, PD sessions with teachers, classroom practice – Grade 7/8 class at Kingsway participated in basket construction*
 - *Wild Rice Project in connection with Siene River First Nation & Lakehead University, 2 PD sessions with Grade 9 science teachers.*

3. Elders, Senators and Cultural Knowledge/Resource People:

- a. Resource list of Elders/Cultural Knowledge keepers/artists that teachers can access to find community resources (to be kept private, but release to help with making connections)
 - i. Specific: Suggested to build a list of community organizations with their mandate that could be distributed to schools.
 - *List completed, updated, and shared every year to schools*
- b. INCOMPLETE: Resident Elder or Cultural Resource community member for a family of schools

4. Professional Development & Professional Learning Opportunities:

- a. Indigenous Professional Development
 - i. Strategies for teachers – PD will focus on selected grades in elementary and a subject in secondary to be determined annually
 - ii. Appropriate content resource and materials
 - *Achieving Aboriginal Student Success resource distributed*
 - *many literacy mentor texts also purchased for schools and included in PD sessions*
 - iii. Embed Indigenous knowledge/content into curriculum
 - iv. Specific: Grade 1/2,2 in 2014-2015, Grade 3/4, 4, 4/5 teachers in 2015-2016
 - *Indigenous content expanded to include within Science PD the inclusion of wild rice as science; Physical Education PD with Lacrosse content (2014)*
- b. INCOMPLETE: Surveys
 - i. Teachers: how has the newly revised resource been used; what information is useful

- ii. Teachers: how many access the FPRC and how often? What resources should be added/updated? What would make the FPRC more user friendly or would make you use it more often? Supports needed?
 - *However,*
 - *Aboriginal Presence in Our Schools and FPRC books/texts shared regularly during Indigenous PD*
 - *APIOS and list of FPRC regularly shared at board and publicly attended events*

5. Extracurricular and Summer Programs:

- a. **None at the time written**

6. Outreach (School, Local, and Northern Communities):

- a. Encourage seat opportunities for Indigenous Trustee and Indigenous student as Trustee
- b. Aboriginal Transitions for Secondary Service Agreement students
 - i. Grade 9 registration ; Secondary registration; Welcome Booklet; Kindergarten Welcome Booklet; Student supports (Board and School levels; includes the Aboriginal Achievement Tutors, ESL/ELL supports); Parent communication and outreach
 - *Annually updated and shared with northern communities, and local schools and parents/guardians*
 - ii. SPECIFIC: Parent Outreach Toll-free number magnet
 - *Completed in 2015/2016 and shared to northern community parents/guardians and band offices*
- c. AEAC
 - i. Series of presentations
 - ii. Committee to be comprised of AEAC members and new people for new ideas
 - iii. Promote Aboriginal Education and AEAC in schools, board events, community
 - iv. Maintenance and additions of Aboriginal Education link on Lakehead Public Schools' website
 - *Items one and two are prepared for and sourced throughout the year for every meeting possible*
 - *Items three and four are done throughout the year at every opportunity*
 - v. INCOMPLETE Specific: Kids' page for AEAC (tie together Gron Morgan, Algonquin and secondary schools)

7. Student and Staff Self-ID:

- a. **None for this plan**