



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, December 15, 2016, Board Room, Education Centre

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

ABSENT WITH REGRET: Trustee Saarinen, Donnalee Morettin, Chris Ooshag, Kathy Beardy, Beverley White-Kokeza, Nicole Walter Rowan

ABSENT: Mike Judge

GUESTS: **Wendy Doran, Human Resources Officer; Colleen Kappel, Superintendent of Education; Bruce Nugent, Communications Officer; Michelle Crow, Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Skills Ontario**

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	Opening Ceremonies	Sherri-Lynne Pharand called the meeting to order and asked Elder Martin to conduct the opening at 9:35 a.m.	Gerry Martin
2.	Welcome and Introductions	<p>Sherri-Lynne thanked Elder Martin for the opening.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne welcomed everyone, including our guests: Wendy Doran, Human Resources Officer; Colleen Kappel, Superintendent of Education; Bruce Nugent, Communications Officer; Michelle Crow, Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Skills Ontario. She also welcomed Donica LeBlanc, Supervising Principal – Early Learning Lead as a new Resource person from the Program Department. Introductions were made.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne congratulated Trustee Chambers and welcomed her back as the Trustee Representative (as per the Board’s Annual Meeting on December 6). Trustee Saarinen and Trustee Arnone will be the</p>	

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
		<p>Alternates for 2017.</p> <p>Regrets and substitutions were noted and the attendance sheet was circulated.</p> <p>Election of Co-Chair: Dolores Wawia accepted the pre-nomination by Pauline Fontaine. Sherri-Lynne called for any other nominations.</p> <p>Moved by Robin Haliuk and Sharon Kanutski that the nominations for Co-Chair are closed.</p> <p>Dolores was declared elected as Co-chair for 2017. Dolores thanked the group for their support.</p>	
3.	Agenda / Minutes		
	3.1 Approval of Agenda – Dec. 15, 2016	<p>Moved by Pauline Fontaine and seconded by Robin Haliuk that the agenda for the Dec. 15th meeting be approved as written.</p> <p>Carried.</p>	
	3.2 Approval of Minutes – Nov. 17, 2016	<p>Moved by Suzanne Tardif and seconded by Pauline Fontaine that the minutes for the Nov. 17, 2016 AEAC meeting be approved as amended.</p> <p>Carried.</p>	
4.	Correspondence	The correspondence file was circulated.	
5.	Presentations		
	5.1 HERE Campaign	<p>Colleen Kappel and Bruce Nugent gave a presentation on the HERE Campaign.</p> <p>It was noted that LDSB's rate of chronic absenteeism (students who are absent for 10+ days per year) at the elementary level was 24.3%</p> <p>Reasons for chronic absenteeism in the Board and the region are: participation in sports; medical; poverty (looking after siblings) etc.</p>	<p>Colleen Kappel Bruce Nugent</p>

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
		<p>In an effort to lower the rate of chronic absenteeism, LDSB is piloting a Safe Arrival project in 3 schools where parents call in if their children will be absent. Parents cannot opt out of this – the school will track down children/parents if they do not show up as they are concerned about their welfare. This has been quite successful and the Board is looking to roll this out further within our system.</p> <p>LDSB is also involved in a research project to dig deeper into data we see exactly why children are absent.</p> <p>The aim of the HERE Campaign, which will be used in all 8 Boards in our region, is to build awareness around the attendance issues in our region and to provide communication tools to help improve attendance in our schools.</p> <p>There is a Safe Arrival app available for mobile phone. Information regarding how to download this app will be sent to AEAC members and will be included with the minutes.</p> <p>In future meetings, AEAC will discuss what is it, as a committee, that we can do as a coordinated effort in order to better support our children.</p> <p>All questions were answered.</p>	<p>Brenda to send app out to this group!!</p>
	<p>5.2 Michelle Crow, Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Skills Ontario</p>	<p>Michelle Crow shared a presentation entitled “The First Step in Addressing Ontario’s Skills Shortage”.</p> <p><u>Mission of Skills Ontario:</u> To champion and stimulate the development of world class technological employability skills in Ontario youth.</p> <p><u>Mandate of Skills Ontario:</u> To promote careers in skilled trades and technologies as viable, first choice career options to young people in Ontario.</p> <p>Michelle explained that Skills Ontario works with Grade 7 – 12 students, doing in school presentations; skills Ontario competition and qualifying competitions (Canada’s largest skilled trades competition); cardboard boat races; video challenges; skills work summer camps: skilled</p>	<p>Michelle Crow</p>

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
		<p>trade/tech camps for students entering grades 7-9; Career Awareness Workshops for Aboriginal Youth; Mentoring Events; Trades & Tech Days & Aboriginal Student Conferences; etc.</p> <p>Ontario Liaison Officers make 1,500+ school visits, delivering 2,000+ presentations to 125,000+ students each year.</p> <p>All questions were answered.</p>	
	5.3 LDSB Hiring Practices	<p>Wendy Doran, LDSB Human Resource Officer gave a broad overview of hiring practices for secondary and adult education teachers.</p> <p>She noted that when hiring, LDSB must adhere to the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) guidelines, the Ministry of Education and the collective agreements.</p> <p>She explained the challenges associated with hiring Native Language Teachers i.e. the position may not be full time and supply teaching in these positions is very sporadic. For these reasons, the number of applications during recruitment is very low. Written and verbal tests are given during the interview and input is received from an elder when setting up the interviews as well as having their verbal ability tested. In the past elders Elmer Baxter and Felicia Waboose have helped with the interview process. LDSB values the quality of the programs offered.</p> <p>All questions were answered.</p> <p>At the November AEAC meeting, there were many questions regarding David Thompson's departure from his Aboriginal Language teaching position with LDSB. After consultation with the Board's lawyer, Sherri-Lynne read the media release which was prepared as a rebuttal to the erroneous comments presented by David Thompson.</p>	Wendy Doran – secondary and adult education hiring practices

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
6.	Business Arising from the Minutes		
	6.1 Transition Teams	<p>There will be two transition teams stuck:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Hyde Park and Kingsway</i> (Chaired by Colleen Kappel with Marg Arnone as the trustee) A representative from AEAC is needed to sit on this team. Sherri-Lynne Pharand explained what is involved in this position. The first Transition Meeting will be Jan. 16 at Kingsway from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. (now until June). No one volunteered at this time. 2. <i>Churchill and Westgate</i> (Chaired by Sherri-Lynne Pharand with George Saarinen as the trustee) A representative from AEAC is needed to sit on this team. No one volunteered at this time. 	<p>Sherri-Lynne Pharand</p> <p>As no one volunteered, Sherri-Lynne and Brenda will be calling the members individually.</p>
	6.2 Work Plan – summary	Due to time constraints, this matter has been deferred to the February meeting.	Dr. Amy Farrell-Morneau
	6.3 Cultural Awareness Video	<p>There will be a different approach to the Cultural Awareness training this year. Amy will produce a video for the 4th round of training for all staff. It will reflect the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.</p> <p>More information on the training video will be forthcoming at the February meeting.</p>	Dr. Amy Farrell-Morneau
7.	New Business		
	7.1 PIC Funding	<p>Letter from Ian MacRae – allocating funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due to time constraints, this matter has been deferred to the February meeting. 	Sherri-Lynne Pharand
8.	Updates	Due to time constraints, the updates have been deferred to the February meeting.	

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
9.	Information and Inquiries		
	9.1	Kindergarten Information Session at Valhalla Inn February 6 at 7:00 p.m. - As there was no volunteer from the committee, Brenda Barradell offered to attend with Amy Farrell-Morneau.	
10.	Closing Ceremonies	Elder Mercier closed the meeting with a prayer.	
11.	Next Meeting:	Thursday, February 16, 2017	
12.	Adjournment:	The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.	