



**ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DATE:** Thursday, Sept. 7, 2017, Board Room, Education Centre

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Dolores Wawia, Trustee Chambers, Trustee Arnone, Elliott Cromarty, Brittany Collins, Donica LeBlanc, Elder Gerry Martin, Jane Lower, Nicole Walter Rowan, Anna Fern Kakegamic-NAN (Alternate for Kathy Beardy), Ashley Nurmela, Jasmine Sgambelluri, Chris Larocque, Serena Essex

**ABSENT WITH REGRET:** Lawrence Baxter, Trustee Saarinen, Kathy Beardy, Pauline Fontaine, Sharon Kanutski, Elder Isabelle Mercier

**ABSENT:** Mike Judge

**GUESTS:** **Anna Fern Kakegamic and Angela Benedict (NAN) presenters; Jo Jo Guillett; Lisa Primavesi, Education Navigator, Nokiiwin Tribal council; Sean Serino and Nick Potovszky, Brook McIlroy Inc.; Jim Desaulniers, Manager Property Services; Mark Hakala, Capital Projects Coordinator; Bruce Nugent, Communications Officer**

	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
1.	Opening Ceremonies	Sherri-Lynne Pharand called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and asked Elder Gerry Martin to conduct the opening.	
2.	Welcome and Introductions	<p>Sherri-Lynne thanked Elder Martin for the opening.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne welcomed everyone, including our guests and introductions were made.</p> <p>Regrets and substitutions were noted and the attendance sheet was circulated.</p>	Letter to Bev and Suzanne thanking them for their work with AEAC.

	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
3.	Agenda / Minutes		
	3.1 Approval of Agenda – Sept. 7, 2017	Moved by Trustee Ellen Chambers and seconded by Elliott Cromarty that the agenda for the Sept. 7, 2017 meeting be approved.  <b>Carried.</b>	
	3.2 Approval of Minutes – June 8, 2017	Moved by Trustee Ellen Chambers and seconded by Anna Fern Kakegamic that the minutes for the June 8, 2017 AEAC meeting be approved as written.  <b>Carried.</b>	
4.	Correspondence	There was no correspondence to be circulated.	
5.	Presentations		
	5.1 NAN Presentation	<p>Angela shared a PowerPoint presentation which an overview of NAN and explained that Nishnawbe Aski Nation Education Partnerships Program (EPP) is designed to improve the success of First Nation students attending provincial schools. 2017-2018 is the Joint Implementation Plan phase.</p> <p>Angela noted that there will be a NAN Conference in January which will be a way for all NAN students to interact together (boarding students and all NAN students in Thunder Bay). AEAC will have a table at the Conference.</p> <p>The following handouts/booklets were available:            Know you Rights and Responsibilities (booklet)            Beyond the Classroom – Extra Curricular Activities (booklet)            Early High School Registration and Course Selection (booklet)            Summer High School Transition Program            Life Skills and Transitions Curriculum for Grades 7 and 8 (booklet)            City Orientation Curriculum            Parent – Student Communication Guide – translated to many dialects (booklet)            Student Attendance, Retention, and FN Student Success (booklet)</p>	<p>Angela Benedict and Anna Fern Kakegamic</p> <p>The PowerPoint presentation will be sent to Brenda for distribution to the Committee.</p>

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
		<p>There are many other references and documents available on the NAN website.</p> <p>All questions were answered.</p>	
	5.2 Brook McIlroy Inc – presentation	<p>re Additions and Renovations at Westgate</p> <p>Sean Serino gave an overview of Brook McIlroy Inc. and their work in Thunder Bay. He explained the scope of work involved in the Churchill/Westgate transition, including the changes and additions (cafetorium, learning lodge etc.) – interior and exterior.</p> <p>Comments / questions were addressed by Sean Serino, Mark Hakala - Capital Projects Coordinator and Jim Desaulnier – Manager, Property Services.</p> <p>Sharon Kanustski is AEAC’s rep on the transition committee. Sherri-Lynne Pharand expressed appreciation on behalf of AEAC for the opportunity to give input regarding the transition planning.</p>	<p>Sean Serino</p> <p>Jo Jo Guillet will ask other Boards across the province who have recently completed new builds to share what worked and what didn’t work for them.</p>
	5.3 Summer Camps	<p><b>a) Mino Bimaadiziwin – Nicole</b></p> <p>Nicole Walter Rowan gave an overview of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mino Bimaadiziwin camp that was held this summer. She acknowledged our partners, specifically the Indigenous Friendship Centre, TB Police, Lakehead University and the Ministry of Education who all played an invaluable part in the success of the camp which saw 35 students and 4 mentors attending.</p> <p><b>b) Summer Camps – Donica and Jane</b></p> <p>Jane Lower reported that 23 grade 8 students volunteered to attend a ‘Reach Ahead’ credit program after the Mino Bimaadiziwin camp ended. This enabled the students to get ready for high school with confidence and a higher self-esteem. There were no credits attached; the students were offered a chance to earn some volunteer hours – with help from grad coaches and tutors.</p>	Nicole, Jane and Donica

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
		<p>There were also summer classes held at Confederation College which enabled the students to earn/finish a credit that they didn't complete during the school year. Some earned a dual (high school and college credit).</p> <p>Focus on Youth was a partnership with Roots to Harvest which was a paid co-op for students who planted, harvested and sold their produce to the public.</p> <p>Donica LeBlanc reported on the Elementary Programs for grades 1 - 7, funded by CODE which were offered over the summer:  There were 3 Math; 3 Literacy; 3 Literacy with FNMI focus; 3 literacy focused on newcomers to Canada; and a Math program for grade 6 - 7 students who were at risk. They worked at Carpenter's Union which was an excellent opportunity for the students. FNMI literacy programs connected with Tyler Armstrong and worked with Sherbrooke and Ogden. They also had an Indigenous artist work with the students. Donica acknowledged the partnership with the Achievement Program at Lakehead University when sharing the success of the summer programs.</p>	
6.	Business Arising from the Minutes		
	6.1 Budget Deputation Update	<p>Sherri-Lynne Pharand reported that the Trustees approved the budget in June and all the items in our AEAC's budget deputation were approved.</p>	Sherri-Lynne Pharand
	6.2 Work Plan	<p>The information derived from the group sessions during the April AEAC meeting was collated by Dr. Amy Farrell-Morneau to form the Draft Work Plan for 2017 – 2019 which was distributed to members at the May meeting.</p> <p>Ashley spoke briefly to the Work Plan and identified the final edits that were made before the Committee was asked to approve the plan.</p> <p>Moved by Trustee Ellen Chambers and seconded by Gerry Martin that the 2017 – 2019 Work Plan be approved.</p> <p><b>Carried.</b></p>	Ashley Nurmela

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	6.3 Flags - update	<p>We have purchased the Metis, Canadian and Rainbow flag. (re pow wows in schools)</p> <p>Ashley Nurmela and Brittany Collins will work together to obtain the Fort William First Nation flag. We will purchase 2 sets which will be kept at Board Office and loaned to the schools as needed.</p> <p>Ashley Nurmela will try to get community flags. She will research the protocol regarding use of the flags and report back to AEAC.</p> <p>NAN may be able to help with this research. Ashley Nurmela will talk to NAN about obtaining NAN flags as well.</p>	Donica LeBlanc
	6.4 Anti-Racism Campaign	<p>At our last meeting we discussed the development of a sub-committee to work on an anti-racism campaign for our schools. The sub-committee (working group) would come back to AEAC monthly to report.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne gave some background information on this project. She explained that Generator is the Marketing firm that will be working with us to develop this campaign.</p> <p>Bruce Nugent asked for assistance, guidance and support from AEAC. We need to do some research in building a solid campaign. We also need to reach out to the students for their input. We need to find the best way to 'reach' students and determine how students can report racism.</p> <p>The goal is for students to feel heard, that actions have been taken by adults and that they feel supported. Education is the way to change the future to develop a cohesive and collaborative community.</p> <p>Moved by Gerry Martin and seconded by Serena Essex that we schedule an additional AEAC meeting on October 19, 2017 to work on the Anti-Racism Campaign be approved.</p> <p><b>Carried.</b></p>	Sherri-Lynne Pharand Bruce Nugent

	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	6.5 Role Titles	Deferred to the November meeting.	Sherri-Lynne Pharand
7.	New Business		
	7.1 Native Studies Courses	Sherri-Lynne gave a report on the Native Studies and Native Language Programs for 2017 – 2018. There are 28 courses running in the secondary schools. These courses are not just for the FN students.	Sherri-Lynne Pharand
	7.3 Membership	We are actively looking for new parent members on AEAC. More information and application forms can be found on the website.	Sherri-Lynne Pharand
8.	Updates		
	8.1 Working Together For Student Success	Jasmine Sgambelluri, Chris Larocque and Ashley Nurmela will be attending the Orientation “Working Together for Student Success” sponsored by NAN. Students will be bussed to the event at Dennis Franklin Cromarty School.	Ashley Nurmela
9.	Information and Inquiries		
	9.1 Treaty Week	Treaty Week is from Nov. 5 – 11, 2017. Ashley Nurmela has connected with Becky Fong who is involved in the planning/sponsorship of Treaty Week activities for the Ministry. The Cultural Resources people at Friendship Centre would be happy to offer suggestions.  Jo Jo Guillet asked to receive information regarding the activities.	Ashley Nurmela
10.	Closing	Elder Martin closed the meeting with a prayer.	
11.	Next Meeting	Special Meeting re Anti-Racism Campaign – October 19, 2017; Regular Meeting – November 16, 2017	
12.	Adjournment	12:10 pm	