



**ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DATE:** Thursday, Nov. 16, 2017, Board Room, Education Centre

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Dolores Wawia, Trustee Chambers, Trustee Arnone, Brittany Collins, Elder Isabelle Mercier, Donica LeBlanc, Nicole Walter Rowan, Anna Fern Kakegamic-NAN (Alternate for Kathy Beardy), Serena Essex, Pauline Fontaine, Sharon Kanutski

**ABSENT WITH REGRET:** Lawrence Baxter, Trustee Saarinen, Kathy Beardy, Elder Gerry Martin, Ashley Nurmela, Jasmine Sgambelluri, Chris Larocque, Elliott Cromarty, Jane Lower, Kathleen Andrews

**ABSENT:** Mike Judge

**GUESTS:** Lisa Primavesi, Education Navigator, Nookiwin Tribal Council; Skylene Metatawabin, Education Partnership Program Liaison – Matawa; 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 Isabelle Mercier to conduct the opening.	
2.	Welcome and Introductions	<p>Sherri-Lynne thanked Elder Mercier 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>	
3.	Agenda / Minutes		
	3.1 Approval of Agenda – Nov. 16, 2017	Moved by Pauline Fontaine and seconded by Serena Essex that the agenda for the November 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2017 meeting be approve as amended with the addition of: 6.3 Flags.	

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
		<b>Carried.</b>	
	3.2 Approval of Minutes – Sept. 7, 2017	Moved by Sharon Kanutski and seconded by Serena Essex that the minutes for the September 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2017 AEAC meeting be approved as written.  <b>Carried.</b>	
4.	Correspondence	The correspondence file was circulated.	
5.	Presentations		
	5.1 Matawa EPP Presentation	<b>Education Partnership Program - Matawa</b> Skylene Metatawabin, EPP Liaison with Matawa gave a presentation to the committee on Matawa’s Education Partnership Program. The PowerPoint presentation will be forwarded to members.  All questions were answered.	Skylene Metatawabin
	5.3 Ottawa Trip	<b>Mino Bimaadiziwin - Update from Summer Program (Cultural/Education Camp)</b> Nicole Walter Rowan gave an overview of Mino Bimaadiziwin i.e. how it developed and progressed over the three years LDSB has been running the program. She shared how our Indigenous students were honoured and celebrated in the Nation’s capital and she shared a video and tweets of the trip.  AEAC will send a thank you note.	Nicole Walter Rowan  Sherri-Lynne to send note.
6.	Business Arising from the Minutes		
	6.1 Membership	Sherri discussed our need to recruit new parent members and alternates. AEAC can have 6 parents on the committee, so members were asked to think about who might be interested in becoming members of AEAC. There is information and application forms on our website. Information has also been posted on Facebook.	Sherri-Lynne Pharand

	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	6.2 Anti-Racism Campaign	<p>Bruce Nugent gave an overview of the progress of the planning of the Anti-Racism campaign to date.</p> <p>We are presently in the data collection gathering phase. Input has been gathered from staff and resource staff. Next groups of 6 students at all 4 secondary and with 3 elementary (Ogden, Sherbrooke and Algonquin) will take part in focus groups. An elder and a social worker will be present for these focus groups.</p> <p>Bruce asked for guidance from AEAC regarding others in the community who should be interviewed. Suggestions were noted. He would like to update AEAC at a future meeting.</p> <p>All questions were answered.</p>	Bruce Nugent
	6.3 Flags (addition)	<p>Elder Mercier asked that we consider flying the FWFN flag at our elementary and secondary schools, the Board Office and other buildings out of which we conduct business.</p> <p>It was agreed to bring the request to the Trustees.</p> <p>Moved by Marg Arnone and seconded by Sharon Kanutski that AEAC request of the Trustees that we fly the FWFN flag at all our Thunder Bay sites and approach Whitesands First Nation for discussion regarding the Armstrong Site.</p> <p><b>Carried</b></p>	Elder Mercier
7.	New Business		
	7.1 Indigenous Languages Legislation	<p>Sherri-Lynne has been asked to attend a meeting about the Indigenous Languages Legislation. She explained that one of the calls to action was about Indigenous languages. This meeting is a pre-consultation phase, which will be followed by the consultation phase.</p> <p>The goal is to get input from those who offer Native Language programs (also LU was invited) – They will be looking at how the programs can</p>	Sherri-Lynne Pharand

	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
		<p>support the languages. This is a Federal Government initiative and hopefully we will have influence on the importance of language to culture.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne will give a full report at the December meeting.</p>	
8.	Updates		
	8.1 Working Together For Student Success	NAN held an Orientation day at DFC (similar to a career day). AEAC had a table with Jasmine Sgambelluri, Chris Larocque and Ashley Nurmela in attendance. They were able to reach out to all schools and provided supports that were available in the community.	Written report by Ashley Nurmela (attached)
	8.2 Treaty Week and Fall Harvest	<p>Treaty Week was Nov. 5 – 11, 2017. All schools took part in a variety of activities. Sherri-Lynne expressed her thanks to the elders for their participation.</p> <p>Fall Harvest which took place on September 26, 27 and 28<sup>th</sup> was a great success. It was noted that Community Coalition Unified for the Protection of our Children and Youth (CCUPCY) organizes this event and LDSB is 'a seat' on the organizing committee. The committee received a number of suggestions to make the event even better for next year.</p>	
	8.3 Human Rights	<p>Sherri-Lynne reminded the Committee of Human Rights application that was filed against Lakehead Public Schools on July 20, 2016 with regard to the assignment of secondary school Ojibwe language classes. On September 27, 2017 the application was dismissed by the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario. Lakehead Public Schools complied with the Human Rights process. Sherri-Lynne read a statement from the Board's lawyer regarding this dismissal of this application.</p>	Sherri-Lynne Pharand
	8.4 Collaborative Inquiries	<p>Donica gave a brief overview of Collaborative Inquiries. She also discussed Peer Mentoring. Donna Flaszka talked about the Peer Mentoring at Hammarskjold. It was noted that Churchill has had one for some time</p>	Donica LeBlanc

	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
9.	Information and Inquiries		
	9.1	<p><b>1. Transitions Committee from Westgate / Churchill</b>            Sherri-Lynne gave an update on how Westgate and Churchill are working collaboratively to bring the students together. Their newsletter will be entitled "Southside Excellence". There will be 20 new courses available for the students to choose from due to the increase in enrollment next year. Different events are also being planned by staff, students and parent councils. The new design will be brought to AEAC once it has been finalized.</p> <p><b>2. IB Transition Committee</b>            An IB Transition Committee is being struck. A number of meetings and activities are being planned for students and families of IB students. We have to re-accredit the program to run at Superior as it is presently accredited for Churchill.</p> <p>Serena Essex volunteered to be the AEAC representative for the IB Transition Committee.</p> <p><b>3. New Elementary School Build – Agnew and Edgewater schools will be coming together on the Churchill site. We will need to transition these students as well. Pauline Fontaine volunteered to be the AEAC representative on this committee.</b></p>	
	9.2	There was a short discussion on the use of Aboriginal or Indigenous in role titles. This item will be re-visited at a later meeting.	
10.	Closing	Elder Mercier closed the meeting with a prayer.	
11.	Next Meeting	December 14, 2017	
12.	Adjournment	12:00 pm	

Updates: Ashley Nurmela, FNMI Community Liaison Officer (November 16, 2017)

**Fall Harvest  
September 26, 27 and 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Partnership with CCUPCY**

Over the three days we had 1600 students which included high school, and elementary Lakehead Public School Board, DFC, Thunder Bay Catholic School Board, Superior Greenstone School Board some students from Creighton Youth Services and children from Dilico.

We had 20 booths on each day which saw the children alternating in 20 minute intervals and 40 minutes for lunch. The event was a huge success. Many on the CCUPCY Committee were new this year and had not previously taken part.

Students took advantage of animal harvesting, wild rice harvesting, crafts, smoking fish, wild mushroom and rice soup, and bannock tasting.

Critiques for next year are to do with scheduling and trying to ensure those that were outside are moved inside and vice versa to avoid repetitive participation.

**Anti-Racism Focus Group**

‘Generator’ facilitated a focus group with Principals, Vice Principals, guidance councillors, and graduation coaches. They had lots to say and it was, in my opinion, the first of many successes. Next steps include some training for content on the selected group who already have a relationship with the students to facilitate students. We are looking to do the training in the week of November 20<sup>th</sup> and have the groups with the students take place over three days. Three elementary schools Ogden, Sherbrook and Algonquin on December 4, and all four secondary schools on December 5 & 6, two secondary schools each day. We will have mental health support on hand in the event that we need it to support the students.

**TREATY WEEK**

The week of November 5 to 11 is Treaties Recognition Week in Ontario. Through local elders and the Canadian Roots Exchange (CRE), Lakehead Public School students will learn about treaty rights and responsibilities throughout the week. In 2016, Ontario passed new legislation to bring awareness to the treaty relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in the province.

CBC Interview: “It is extremely important for our students to learn about the importance of treaties and the responsibilities that we all have in relation to treaties,” says Ashley Nurmela, First Nations, Metis & Inuit Community Liaison Officer at Lakehead Public Schools. “We are extremely fortunate to have the support and guidance of our local elders and the Canadian Roots Exchange so that our students will be able to learn about treaty rights and treaty relationships.”

Canadian Roots Exchange Presentations  
Churchill High School  
November 2, 2017

Westgate High School  
November 2, 2017

Hammarskjold High School Library  
Tuesday, November 7, 1:00 p.m.

Elder "Living Library" Visits Nor'wester View Public School  
Monday, November 6, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Agnew H. Johnston Public School – being held in the Library at Churchill Monday, November 6, 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.  
Algonquin Avenue Public School Wednesday, November 8, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Woodcrest Public School Wednesday, November 8, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Ogden Public School Friday, November 10, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

It was a very busy week however that being said it was a huge success - all students were engaged and we had grades 2/3, 5, 7, 7/8, and a mix from secondary schools.

Can't wait to do it all over again next year.

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