



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017, Board Room, Education Centre

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Dolores Wawia, Trustee Arnone, Brittany Collins, Donica LeBlanc, Anna Fern Kakegamic-NAN (Alternate for Kathy Beardy), Serena Essex, Pauline Fontaine, Elder Gerry Martin, Ashley Nurmela, Elliott Cromarty, Jane Lower, Mike Judge, Brandon Moonias, Selena Baxter, Donna Flasz

ABSENT WITH REGRET: Lawrence Baxter, Kathy Beardy, Jasmine Sgambelluri, Chris Larocque, Kathleen Andrews

ABSENT: Trustee Chambers, Elder Isabelle Mercier, Sharon Kanutski, Nicole Walter Rowan

GUESTS: **Skylene Metatawabin, Education Partnership Program Liaison – Matawa; Heather Harris, Capital Planning Officer; Dave Isherwood, Principal-sir Winston Churchill; Roger Drcar, Teacher-Sir Winston Churchill; Precious Anderson, FNMI Graduation Coach-Sir Winston Churchill; Students: Tristyn Mattinas, Michelle Gagne-Koroscil, and Caleb Garrow-Ledoux-Sir Winston Churchill; Precious Anderson-FNMI Graduation Coach**

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
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>2.1 Sherri-Lynne thanked Elder Martin for the opening.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne welcomed everyone, including our guests and introductions were made. Regrets and substitutions were noted and the attendance sheet was circulated.</p> <p>Each year at the December meeting a co-chair must be elected. Pauline Fontaine pre-nominated Dolores Wawia and she accepted the nomination. Sherri-Lynne called for other nominations from the floor but none were forthcoming.</p>	

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		<p>from grade 8 to secondary school. With the grant, they will grow the committee and there will be a student advisory group at Churchill; there is a Westgate / Churchill teacher advisory group that will work to build a program for grade 9 students focusing on team building etc. to help with the transition i.e. to have a sense of belonging. They hope to invite inspirational speakers to engage with staff and students. Jane Lower and Precious Anderson will keep AEAC updated with information on this project.</p> <p>All questions were answered.</p>	
	<p>5.2 Edgewater / Agnew H. Johnson Transition</p>	<p>Heather Harris gave an overview of the Edgewater / Agnew H. Johnston transition. The Ventin Group is the architect – this company also designed Superior CVI and Woodcrest. The new build will be complete by September 2019 with a start date of April 2018. Churchill CVI will be demolished at the end of summer 2018. The new build will be located on the field between Churchill CVI and Dennis Franklin Cromarty School. There will be 745 students attending the new school.</p> <p>On behalf of AEAC, Sherri-Lynne Pharand thanked Heather Harris for her efforts in writing business cases, meeting with the Ministry and bringing the needs of the students in Lakehead Public Schools to the forefront in the transition process.</p> <p>All questions were answered.</p>	<p>Heather Harris</p>
	<p>5.3 Vale Breakfast Program</p>	<p>Roger Drcar, a teacher at Sir Winston Churchill CVI explained that the Vale Breakfast Program was initiated to provide a healthy start to the day for students and build relationships within the community.</p> <p>Mr. Drcar, Precious Anderson (Indigenous Graduation Coach) and students Tristyn Mattinas, Michelle Gagne-Koroscil, and Caleb Garrow Ledoux shared information about the program including why they volunteer for this program. Although they receive volunteer hours for their efforts, this is not their prime focus since some have already exceeded their volunteer hours.</p> <p>All questions were answered.</p>	<p>Dave Isherwood, Roger Drcar, Precious Anderson and students: Tristyn Mattinas, Michelle Gagne- Koroscil, and Caleb Garrow-Ledoux</p>

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6.	Business Arising from the Minutes		
	6.1 Indigenous Languages Legislation	<p>Sherri-Lynne gave an update on the meeting she attended.</p> <p>Gerry Martin also attended the meeting.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne was pleased to be invited to the discussion on how to honour and preserve the native languages. She said this cannot be a top down process!</p> <p>Trustee Marg Arnone suggested that Sherri-Lynne Pharand on behalf of AEAC, send a letter with her comments to the sponsors of the Indigenous K Languages Legislation meeting expressing our continuing interest for the future and asking them to release their findings.</p>	<p>Sherri-Lynne Pharand</p> <p>SLP to write a letter</p>
7.	New Business		
	7.1 PIC Funding	<p>AEAC received a letter from Director Ian MacRae regarding PIC's funding of \$1,125.00 for the 2017 – 2018 school year.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne asked committee to think of how this money could be spent. Ashley Nurmela will bring the videos that were made with last year's funding to the February meeting.</p>	Sherri-Lynne Pharand
	7.2 Trustee Reps for 2018	At the Lakehead Public School Board December meeting, Trustee Marg Arnone was named the trustee representative for AEAC. Trustee Ellen Chambers and Trustee Trudy Tuchenhagen were named as alternate representatives for 2018.	Sherri-Lynne Pharand
8.	Updates		
	8.1 AEAC Annual Report to Trustees	<p>The AEAC Annual Report for 2016 - 2017 was presented to Trustees at the Board's December meeting.</p> <p>As we are actively seeking new parent members, it was suggested that presentations should be made to parent councils/groups to encourage new memberships.</p>	Sherri-Lynne Pharand

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	8.2 Aboriginal Presence in Our Schools Booklet	<p>The revised Aboriginal Presence in Our Schools booklet is ready for printing. AEAC was consulted on whether this booklet should be distributed in print or electronic form.</p> <p>After some discussion, it was decided that print form would be best for staff members who use it as a resource in teaching Aboriginal Education in the classroom. It is also used in the mandatory training for all staff.</p> <p>It was noted that Lakehead University also purchases copies to use with their curriculum and that our First Nation partners should also be sent copies of the booklet.</p>	SLP for Ashley Nurmela
	8.3 Anti-Racism	<p>Sherri-Lynne explained that we have started to speak to the student groups for their ideas re addressing racism as discussed at the first special meeting regarding the Anti-Racism Campaign.</p> <p>Generator, the marketing company working with LDSB on the Anti-Racism Campaign has requested another special meeting in January.</p> <p>Moved by Trustee Marg Arnone and seconded by Selena Baxter that AEAC schedule a special 1 ½ hour meeting on January 18, 2018 to discuss feedback we have received and future action of our Anti-Racism Campaign.</p> <p>Carried.</p>	Sherri-Lynne Pharand
	8.4 Treaty Puzzle Resource for Next Year	A puzzle showing the Robinson Superior Treaty and part of the Huron Treaty area was made for use during Treaty Week. Ashley would like to make have more puzzles made for next year.	SLP for Ashley Nurmela
	8.5 Diversity Counts – United Way	Diversity Counts is a United Way community engagement project funded by the In Spirit Foundation and the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation. The project hopes to bring together the community as a whole to discuss racism and discrimination, define the ‘problems and issues’ that are created in the community, hear the voices of those who are experiencing it, and build on the good work that is already taking place in Thunder Bay. Community discussion will lead to action planning for a future where diversity is valued and racism and other forms of discrimination are not accepted.	SLP for Ashley Nurmela

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	8.6 Indigenous Knowledge – conference update	This was an excellent conference which gave an insight into the amazing initiatives being done in the different school boards to engage students. For example: In Lac Suel, the Tim Horton's has certain days when students receive their order free if they place their order in their native language.	SLP for Ashley Nurmela
	8.7 Building Blocks of Wellness	Dr. Muskwash presented "Building Blocks of Wellness" where he spoke about the barriers our students face each and every day and how they can be overcome. He discussed sleep and nutrition and the likelihood of trauma being a contributing factor in success or lack thereof for our students.	SLP for Ashley Nurmela Dolores asked to have the slide show of this presentation at the Feb. meeting.
	8.8 Indspire Conference	Donica LeBlanc gave a report on the National Indspire Conference held in Montreal December 29 – January 1. A big part of the conference was networking with other educators from different school boards in Canada. Donica shared the resource book that she received which supports reconciliation (20 education plans that address the calls to action with strategies for teachers to use in the classroom). She noted that Lakehead District School Board had 3 groups presenting at this conference. There is a lot of information on the Indspire website: www.Indspire.ca They have Indspire awards, bursaries and scholarships as well.	Donica LeBlanc
9.	Information and Inquiries		
	9.1 2017-2018 Board Action Plan on FMNI Education	The Ministry has a new template (we can no longer just use our Work Plan template). Sherri-Lynne Pharand pointed out the salient points in the document. Moved by Serena Essex and seconded by Pauline Fontaine that AEAC approve the 2017 – 2018 Board Action Plan on FMNI Education and send it to the Ministry. Carried NEW – LDSB now has a tutor that will be going to FWFN twice a week, starting in January.	Sherri-Lynne Pharand Brenda to email copies of the BAP to all Committee members

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10.	Closing	Dolores Wawia closed the meeting with a prayer.	
11.	Next Meeting	February 15, 2018	
12.	Adjournment	12:05 p.m.	