



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, April 18, 2019, Board Room, Education Centre

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sharon Kanutski, Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Skylene Metatawabin, Board Chair Ellen Chambers, Lawrence Baxter, Noel Jones, Cheryl King-Zewiec, Elliott Cromarty, Maggie Rutter, Jane Lower Pauline Fontaine, Elder Gerry Martin, Serena Essex, Elder Isabelle Mercier, Brittany Collins, Jasmine Sgambelluri, Katrina Fiddler, Dinah Jung, Anika Guthrie, Trustee Ryan Sitch

ABSENT WITH REGRET: Chris Larocque, Mike Judge, Donna Flasz, Brandon Moonias, Fred Van Elburg, Ashley Nurmela, Dolores Wawia, Kathy Beardy, Mahejabeen Ebrahim, AJ Keene

GUESTS: Gino Russo, Shawn Dunlop, Emanuel Iorianni, and Kris Sandberg – LDSB Teachers; David Wright, Business Superintendent, LDSB; Amanda Stefanile and Melissa Burton, LU; Leanna Marshall, Confederation College

	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	2.1 Sherri-Lynne Pharand thanked Elder Martin for the opening. She welcomed everyone, including our guests and introductions were made. Regrets and substitutions were noted and the attendance sheet was circulated. Sherri-Lynne thanked Sharon Kanutski for co-chairing today's meeting.	
3.	Agenda / Minutes		
	3.1 Approval of Agenda – April 18, 2019	Moved by Pauline Fontaine and seconded by Gerry Martin that the agenda for the April 18th, 2019 AEAC meeting be approved with the following additions. Defer 7.2 - Student Rep Concern re Aboriginal Language Program at Hammarskjold (May meeting)	

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
		Defer 6.1 - Work Plan (May meeting) Add 6.3 - Business Arising: Update on Indigenous Trustee Carried	
	3.2 Approval of Minutes – Feb. 7, 2019	Moved by Elliott Cromarty and seconded by Pauline Fontaine that the minutes for the February 7, 2019 AEAC meeting be approved. Carried.	
4.	Correspondence	The correspondence file was circulated	
5.	Presentations		
	5.1 Ojibwe Coding Program	McKellar Park School is doing a Pilot Project entitled “Minecraft Coding and Other Fun Stuff” Thanks to Trustee Sitch (who shared information about this project), an Ojibwe Coding Pilot Project is underway at McKellar Park School. Shawn Dunlop, Emanuel Iorianni and Kris Sandberg shared the experiences with their classes as they learn logical thinking, problem solving, creativity and imagination, and teamwork and collaboration. Their video presentation showed the students working on coding projects, sharing their experiences and obvious enjoyment in their work. All questions were answered.	Gino Russo Shawn Dunlop Emanuel Iorianni Kris Sandberg
	5.2 Budget Presentation	2019 – 2020 Budget Presentation This presentation is usually done before the Budget Deputation but due to our cancelled March meeting, it was deferred until the April meeting. David Wright, Business Superintendent gave a break down on the budget, including historical and current data. He emphasized that we don’t know yet what we will have next year. There may be significant changes due to the change of Government. We are yet to hear specifics of information that did come out in the budget that was presented in early April. David Wright thanked the committee for their Budget Deputation saying it is always very helpful when allocating the budget funds.	David Wright

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	5.3 LU Achievement Program	<p>AJ Keene introduced Amanda Stefenile, Achievement Program Coordinator at LU. Amanda gave a brief overview of the Achievement Program that encourages students to believe in their highest potential and support their journey into postsecondary education. The program is focussed on FNMI youth, but is open to all students.</p> <p>Through participation in this program, students enrol in grade 4 and earn financial support by completing certain requirements at their school, community and at Lakehead University. The accrued financial support will fund up to a maximum of first year tuition at Lakehead University for an undergraduate degree (or be used for other educational related expenses). Students have 5 years after graduating to use the financial support they have earned.</p> <p>LU is partnering with Lakehead District School Board, Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board, Superior Greenstone District School Board and Superior North Catholic District School Board. LDSB was the first pilot group – enrolling in 2011.</p> <p>At the moment, there are participants in 13 of Lakehead Public schools in grades 4 through 11, with a high success rate of continuing in the program.</p> <p>All questions were answered.</p>	<p>Amanda Stefanile AJ Keene</p>
6.	Business Arising from Minutes		
	6.1 Work Plan	Deferred to May meeting.	
	6.2 Upcoming Event – April 30 at LU	<p>Board Chair Ellen Chambers spoke briefly about an upcoming event originally called ‘Coming Together to Talk’. It has been re-named: “Coming Together to Talk With Youth – A Community Conversation With Hope”.</p> <p><i>The Communication and Education Committee of Diversity Thunder Bay in partnership with Lakehead University, the City of Thunder Bay and others are inviting secondary school students to view ‘Coming Together to Talk’, a film by produced by Michelle Desrosier of Thunderstone Pictures film, co-directed by Ardelle Sagutcheway, Casha Adams, and Savanna Boucher. ‘Coming Together to Talk’ is an Indigenous youth film production that explores the realities of Indigenous youth in Thunder Bay and possibilities for positive change.</i></p>	<p>Board Chair Ellen Chambers</p>

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		Chair Ellen Chambers spoke about the upcoming event and will provide an update at the May meeting.	
	6.3 Update on Indigenous Trustee	The Board is interested in pursuing the appointment of an Indigenous Trustee but would like more information on how the process works (as per the legislation – ON Reg. 7/07) and how it gets filled. Elder Gerry Martin agreed to meet with the Trustees at an informal session to share what an Indigenous Trustee would bring to the table and why it is important to have that voice as part of the Board. Sherri-Lynne Pharand would also be part of the informal meeting with Trustees.	Trustee Ryan Sitch Board Chair Ellen Chambers Sherri-Lynne Pharand
7.	Ongoing Business		
	7.1 Native Language	<p>Native Language Supports and Resources Anika Guthrie and Jasmine Sgambelluri provided the members with a handout entitled: <i>Native Language Supports and Resources</i> which outlines the resources available at the elementary and secondary level, professional development sessions, conferences, information shared and requests.</p> <p>They discussed the results of the survey that was sent out to all FMNI families, noting that 266 responses were received.</p> <p>LDSB is continually trying to hire Native Language teachers. Anika and Jasmine will be attending a Language Conference at the end of April in an attempt to recruit some fluent speakers.</p>	Anika Guthrie Jasmine Sgambelluri
	7.2 Student Rep Concern	Aboriginal Languages Program at Hammarskjold – deferred to May meeting	Brandon Moonias
8.	New Business		
	8.1 Student Trustee	Sherri-Lynne Pharand explained Ontario's updated Regulation 7-07 regarding Student Trustees. All school boards must have student trustees on the Board.	Sherri-Lynne Pharand

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		<p>AEAC decided unanimously that they would like to recommend to Trustees that we should have 2 or 3 student trustees and that at least one of them should be an Indigenous Student Trustee.</p> <p>Moved by Sharon Kanutski and seconded by Serena Essex that AEAC request trustees of the Lakehead District School Board have an Indigenous Student Trustee in accordance with Regulation 7/07.</p> <p>Carried.</p>	Sherri-Lynne Pharand
	8.2 AYARA	The Aboriginal Youth Achievement and Recognition Awards (AYARA) banquet will be held at the Italian Cultural Centre on May 1, 2019. Many student from LDSB will be receiving awards again this year. LDSB has purchased two table of 8 for the event. There are still 6 tickets available, so interested people should contact Brenda after the meeting.	
9.	Updates		
		<p>9.1 Elder Visits to Schools 9.2 Kindergarten Registration/Self Identification Info 9.3 AYARA Nominations 9.4 National Indigenous Peoples Day 9.5 Truth, Reconciliation & Rights – Professional Learning 9.6 Stand Up and Speak Up 9.7 Coming Together to Talk</p> <p>Ashley was not in attendance but a handout was given to members explaining each update. She can speak to these next time and update if / as necessary</p>	Ashley Nurmela (handout given to members)
10.	Information and Inquiries	<p>10.1 Anti-Racism Campaign – This has been re-named as The Racial Equity and Inclusion Campaign.</p> <p>There is a meeting scheduled with Generator for early May to work on the next scheduled items that we will focus on over the next few year. An update will be available for the May meeting.</p>	

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		10.2 Board Chair, Ellen Chambers asked Trustee Sitch to share the motion he brought forward at a previous Board Meeting. Trustee Sitch explained that he suggested that the land acknowledgement be read at the beginning of all regular board meetings. This motion passed and the land acknowledgement will now be part of all regular meetings.	
11.	Closing	Gerry Martin closed the meeting with a prayer.	
12.	Next Meeting	Thursday, May 16, 2019	
13.	Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm	