



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, Sept. 19, 2019, Board Room, Education Centre

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Elliott Cromarty, Pauline Fontaine, Jasmine Sgambelluri, Trustee Ryan Sitch;, Donna Flasz; Fred Van Elburg, Ashley Nurmela, Dolores Wawia, Mahejabeen Ebrahim; Ardelle Sagutcheway; Kathy Beardy, Board Chair Ellen Chambers, Lawrence Baxter, AJ Keene, Noel Jones, Brittany Collins, Leanna Marshall, Skylene Metatawabin, Jane Lower, Serena Essex

ABSENT WITH REGRET: Sharon Kanutski, Elder Gerry Martin, Anika Guthrie, Lindsay Catlin-Gravelle, Cheryl King-Zewiec, Chris Larocque, Elder Isabelle Mercier, Brandon Moonias, Mike Judge

GUESTS: Heather Harris, Ma-Nee Chacaby, Ashley Johnston (NAN EPP Officer)

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	Opening Ceremonies	Sherri-Lynne Pharand called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and asked Elder Ma-Nee Chacaby to conduct the opening.	
2.	Welcome and Introductions	2.1 Sherri-Lynne Pharand thanked Elder Chacaby for the opening. She welcomed everyone and introductions were made. Regrets and substitutions were noted and the attendance sheet was circulated.	
3.	Agenda / Minutes		
	3.1 Approval of Agenda – Sept. 19, 2019	Moved by Pauline Fontaine and seconded by Skylene Metatawabin that the agenda for the AEAC meeting be approved as amended: Amend 6.2 to read Indigenous Student Trustee Add 10.2 – Upcoming Events - Kathy Beardy Carried	

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	3.2 Approval of Minutes – June 13, 2019	Moved by Pauline Fontaine and seconded by Lawrence Baxter that the minutes for the June 13, 2019 AEAC meeting be approved as written. Carried.	
4.	Correspondence	The correspondence file was circulated.	
5.	Presentations		
	5.1 Mino B	<p>Fred Van Elburg provided information on the Mino Bimaadiziwin Camp which was held from August 18-23 at Fort William Historical Park and included a day at Kingfisher Outdoor Education Centre.</p> <p>32 students from Grade 7-10 took part. The students were from all 3 secondary schools and 10 elementary schools. In addition to this week, students entering Grade 9 also participated in a second week GLS credit program. The community partners included Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre; Thunder Bay Police Services; Elders/Knowledge Keepers: Beatrice Twance-Hynes, Bob Baxter, Marcel Bananish and Joel Agowissa; Christina Ruddy – Pikwakanagan First Nation, Mike Fitzmaurice – Eganvale Elementary School and Dr. Ruth Beatty – Lakehead University.</p> <p>On the final day of the camp, 130 people attended a ceremony and family luncheon. Seventeen new drums were birthed and students sang the travelling song to close the ceremony. It was an amazing week for staff, students and community partners. Many students are already looking forward to returning next year.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne thanked the staff and partners for all their dedication and taking time out of their summer to make this learning experience so positive.</p>	Fred Van Elburg for Anika Guthrie
	5.2 Elementary Summer Camps	AJ Keene provided information on the summer camps for elementary students. There were eleven (11) camps running from July 3 – 19 (8:30 – 2:30) – 4 Numeracy, 3 Literacy, 3 FNMI focus and 1 blended Literacy and Numeracy. The community partners included Elder Gerry Martin, Science North, Blue Sky Drumming and the local Carpenters' Union. Students had a great time and one parent made the following comment: "Wow, what an amazing program: After about 3 days, he asked if he can go back next year."	AJ Keene

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	Secondary Programs	<p>Jane Lower provided information on the summer programs for secondary students. The following camps were offered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit Recovery – Grades 9 – 12 – July 2 – 26; • Dual Credits in Taste of the Trades and Culinary – Grades 11 – 12 - July 8 – 26; • R4 Camp – Grades 9 – 10 – July 2 – 5; and • GLS10 Summer Learning – Reach Ahead – FNMI students going into Grade 9 in September – August 19 – 30 – Grad Coach supported. <p>The community partners included RFDA, Shelter House, Boys & Girls Club, Roseview Manor, Roots to Harvest, Ministry of Education, Actua (from Ottawa), Lakehead University, Confederation College and the local Carpenters' Union.</p> <p>All questions were answered.</p>	Jane Lower
	5.3 Ecole Elsie MacGill Public School	<p>Heather Harris shared information about the new Ecole Elsie MacGill Public School which is being built on the site of the former Churchill Secondary School. She gave some background on the school's namesake, Elsie MacGill and provided drone footage of the demolition of the old school as well as pictures of the new school plans. Construction of the new school is on target, with the opening date planned for September 2020. Heather Harris has been appointed as the Principal of the new school.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne thanked Heather for her work as the Capital Planning Officer, noting that she was instrumental in the preparation of the Case Study for this project that was presented to and accepted by the Ministry of Education.</p>	Heather Harris
6.	Business Arising from Minutes		
	6.1 Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)	<p>Sherri-Lynne reminded AEAC of the letter from Ian MacRae asking for an AEAC representative (and alternate) for the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) for the 2019 – 2020 school year.</p> <p>Serena agreed to be the AEAC representative on PIC for the 2019 -2020 term, with Sharon Kanutski as the alternate representative. Ashley asked if others who may be interested were allowed to 'shadow' the members at a</p>	Sherri-Lynne Pharand

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		<p>meeting. PIC meetings are open to the public, so this is definitely allowed.</p> <p>Moved by Pauline Fontaine and seconded by Skylene Metatawabin that Serena Essex represent AEAC at the PIC meetings and Sharon Kanutski attend as the alternate for the 2019 – 2020 term.</p> <p>Carried</p>	
	6.2 Indigenous Student Trustee	<p>Sherri-Lynne explained that she presented the Student Trustee Policy (3095) update to the Board at the Standing Committee Meeting on Sept. 10.</p> <p>This update included the changes in accordance with Ontario Regulation 7/07 S.3, noting that the Board shall have two Student Trustees, which includes one Indigenous Student Trustee who self-identifies as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit (FNMI) elected by students who voluntarily self-identify as FNMI.</p> <p>The two student trustees (from grade 11 or 12) – one which is FNMI – will be selected by their school through an interview process by students from the leadership teams.</p> <p>The new policy will go to the Regular Board meeting on September 24 and if approved, the term will begin in October and would be for one or two school years – depending on what grade the trustee is in when selected.</p>	Trustee Sitch Sherri-Lynne Pharand
	6.3 First Nation Trustee Update	<p>LDSB Trustees voted unanimously to have a First Nation Trustee as part of the Lakehead District School Board. Communities with which we have Education Agreements were contacted (letters and meetings), as per Ministry guidelines. Sherri-Lynne Pharand explained that it is up to the communities with which we have signed agreements, to decide how the person is selected. They need to be willing to work on behalf of all Indigenous children (Chief Yesno’s comment) and the timeframe is for the remainder of the term, i.e. 3 more years. Chief Collins and Chief Yesno are working together to make this happen. Once they select a candidate, the Board can ‘appoint’ the trustee.</p>	Sherri-Lynne Pharand

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		<p>It was suggested that an invitation be extended to Peter Collins to attend an AEAC meeting in the near future.</p> <p>There is new legislation regarding Reciprocal Education Agreements (REA) which Sherri-Lynne will be clarifying to see if it impacts what we are doing.</p>	
7.	New Business		
	7.1	No new business	Sherri-Lynne Pharand
8.	Ongoing Business		
	8.1 Native Language Supports and Resources	<p>New Smart TVs and I-pads have been purchased to support the Native Language classes. Two fluent language speakers have also been hired.</p> <p>Meetings are being planned and Jasmine Sgambelluri and Anika Guthrie are providing resources to assist staff. Professional Learning Community meetings (PLCs) will be happening.</p>	Jasmine Sgambelluri
	8.2 Cultural Safety Plan	<p>All members received a copy of the plan that Generator updated with input from members at the December AEAC meeting.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne Pharand highlighted the initiatives/activities that were identified as high priority for the Fall of 2019.</p> <p>At the November meeting, we will focus on the Liaison Advisory Group that LDSB will form. Ashley will be the lead and will be looking for input from AEAC.</p> <p>The Cultural Safety Plan is now ready to be presented to the Board.</p>	Sherri-Lynne Pharand
9.	Updates		
		<p>9.1 Fall Harvest</p> <p>Trustees and AEAC will be receiving invitations to attend at any time during the three day event – Sept. 24, 25, 26 at Fort William Historical Park.</p>	Ashley Nurmela (handout given to members)

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		<p>9.2 Bus Tour</p> <p>9.3 Treaty Week – first week in November</p> <p>9.4 Cultural Awareness Training</p> <p>All questions were answered.</p>	
10.	Information and Inquiries		
	10.1 I.R. Churchill Elementary School	There is an Independent First Nation School called I.R. Churchill Elementary School run by Lac De Milles Lac located in the former Hyde Park Elementary School. It is an Indigenous immersion program which has opened with 105 students in grades JK – 3.	Sherri-Lynne Pharand
	10.2 Upcoming NAN Events	<p>Kathy Beardy shared information on some upcoming NAN sponsored events:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Best Practices in First Nations Education Conference taking place from Nov. 5 – 7 at the Airline hotel. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They will be putting out a call for presentations' shortly. - All school boards will be invited. - They will be inviting 3 teaching staff from each of the partner school boards (teacher release time will be covered) 2. The annual FN resource and curriculum sharing event is being planned - more information will be coming out shortly (no date yet) 3. NAN is planning Community Visits and will invite school board representatives to make join them. They will visit 4 communities – the dates have not been confirmed but hopefully this will happen by the end of October. 4. They just finished their student orientation session and were very pleased with attendance at the Valhalla. <p>Sherri-Lynne commented on the success of the 'Wake the Giant' event.</p>	<p>Kathy Beardy</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne Pharand</p>
	10.3 Orange Shirt Day	Sherri-Lynne Pharand reminded everyone of Orange Shirt Day which is Monday, September 30. She encouraged everyone to participate.	Sherri-Lynne Pharand

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	10.4 Strike Possibility	<p>A committee member asked about the possibility of a strike in our elementary and secondary schools this year.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne Pharand noted that we have 9 different collective agreements and all are expired except the one with our Principals. She noted that negotiations are taking place at the Provincial level (not the local level).</p> <p>She emphasized that our goal is to maintain positive relationships locally with our groups while recognizing that people have the right to strike.</p>	Sherri-Lynne Pharand
11.	Closing	Elder Ma-Nee Chacaby closed the meeting with a prayer.	
12.	Next Meeting	Thursday, November 14, 2019	
13.	Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.	