



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019, Board Room, Education Centre

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Pauline Fontaine, Jasmine Sgambelluri, Trustee Ryan Sitch, Donna Flasz; Fred Van Elburg, Ashley Nurmela, Dolores Wawia, Ardelle Sagutcheway, Board Chair Ellen Chambers, AJ Keene, Leanna Marshall, Serena Essex; Sharon Kanutski, Anika Guthrie, Lindsay Catlin-Gravelle, Elder Isabelle Mercier, Dinah Jung

ABSENT WITH REGRET: Elliott Cromarty, Mahejabeen Ebrahim; Noel Jones, Brittany Collins, Skylene Metatawabin, Elder Gerry Martin, Cheryl King-Zewiec, Chris Larocque, Mike Judge, Kathy Beardy, Lawrence Baxter, Jane Lower

GUESTS: **Mike Parkhill – Ojibwe Language Strategy; Erin Aylward-Ecole Gron Morgan; Sierra Gaudreau-Student Trustee; Emma Kaminawash-Westgate; Ashley Johnston - NAN**

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION		ACTION
1.	Opening Ceremonies	Sherri-Lynne Pharand called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and asked Elder Mercier to conduct the opening.		
2.	Welcome and Introductions	2.1 Sherri-Lynne Pharand thanked Elder Mercier 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 – Nov. 14, 2019	Moved by Pauline Fontaine and seconded by Ardelle Sagutcheway that the agenda for the Nov. 14, 2019 AEAC meeting be approved. Carried		Sherri-Lynne Pharand

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION		ACTION
	3.2 Approval of Minutes – Sept 19, 2019	Moved by Ryan Sitch and seconded by Serena Essex that the minutes for the Sept. 19, 2019 AEAC meeting be approved as written. Carried.		Sherri-Lynne Pharand
4.	Correspondence	The correspondence file was circulated.		
5.	Presentations			
	5.1 Ecole Gron Morgan	<p>“Our Journey as a Legacy School: A Path Through ReconciliACTIONS Principal Erin Aylward shared her school’s journey through story and art. She also discussed their participation in a special day long walk (with classes taking part at various times throughout the day) to bring awareness to Chanie Wenjack’s experience in residential school.</p> <p>Ecole Gron Morgan applied to become a “Legacy School” through the Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack Fund (DWF). The Legacy Schools program is a free national initiative to engage, empower and connect students and educators to further reconciliation through awareness, education and action (#reconciliACTION). Upon signing up as a Legacy Schools, educators will receive a Legacy Schools Toolkit free-of-charge in the fall for the start of the school year (existing schools will receive a booster pack). These toolkits contain resources to engage students, staff, and the school community and act as a catalyst for their commitment to the work of reconciliation.</p> <p>Other schools can google this information if they are interested in signing up as a Legacy School by visiting: https://downiewenjack.ca/our-work/legacy-schools-programs/.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne thanked her for sharing their journey.</p>		Erin Aylward

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		<p>Information regarding another project related to reconciliation called 'Project Heart' was also shared with the committee. More information on this project can be found at: http://projectofheart.ca/</p> <p>All questions were answered.</p>		
	5.2 Ojibwe Language Strategy	<p>Mike Parkhill (SayITFirst Inc.) presented information on the Language Project which he is piloting with the Rainy River District School Board. He is passionate about keeping the language alive and believes that you must continue to talk about the past to change the future. The following websites will provide more information on his project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anishinaabemodaa.ca - wakingupojibwe.ca 		Mike Parkhill
6.	Business Arising from Minutes			
	6.1 REAs	<p>Reciprocal Education Agreements (REA) Sherri-Lynne explained that Reciprocal Education Agreements allow each student and their family to choose where they go to school (rather than gov't making the decisions). LDSB is still trying to work through the details with the northern communities. We are working closely with the Ministry while they develop the framework. As the details are being ironed out, we are doing what is best for the students we serve.</p>		Sherri-Lynne Pharand
	6.2 Indigenous Student Trustee Update	<p>Indigenous Student Trustee Update</p> <p>Sierra Gaudreau reported on the progress of the application process for the Indigenous Student Trustee. She reported that we have received an application from each secondary school. These applicants will be interviewed on November 27 by the Student Trustee, a representative from the Indigenous student leadership team and the student advisory team. The</p>		Sherri-Lynne Pharand

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION		ACTION
		<p>successful candidate will be sworn in at the Board's inaugural meeting on December 2, 2019</p> <p>All questions were answered</p>		
7.	New Business			
	7.1 Award	<p>2019 Women's History Month Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sherri-Lynne congratulated Dolores for her award. AEAC is thankful for her work and guidance and is pleased that the City has also now recognized her 		Sherri-Lynne Pharand
	7.2 Land Acknowledgement	<p>After the conference with Kevin Lamoureux, Sherri-Lynne was approached about a possible revision to the Land Acknowledgement. A request for the addition of "We are all treaty people" and "Anemki Wajiw" was made.</p> <p>After some discussion, it was decided that Sherri-Lynne and Ashley will speak to Chief Collins and share the information provided by AEAC. The present Land Acknowledgement was written by Chief Collins, so any changes will have to be approved by him. She will report back to AEAC. Until this meeting takes place and a decision is made, we will continue to use the Land Acknowledgement below:</p> <p><i>The Lakehead District School Board office is located on the traditional territory of the Ojibwe people of Fort William First Nation, signatory to the Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850. We also acknowledge all of the First Nation, Métis and Inuit who reside in this territory and across our Nation. We are committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation and respect for all Canadians.</i></p>		Sherri-Lynne Pharand
	7.3 Student Rep.	Brandon Moonias has tendered his resignation as Student Representative. An email was sent to him, thanking him for his participation in AEAC.		Sherri-Lynne Pharand

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION		ACTION
	7.4 Eng 3U	<p>Eng 3U (this is a Gr. 11 English compulsory credit course)</p> <p>A number of Boards are introducing a class that focuses on Indigenous knowledge as part of the curriculum.</p> <p>Teachers at LDSB are being trained this year so they will be ready to introduce the course which is called 'Understanding Contemporary First nations, Métis and Inuit Voices'. Ongoing support will be available as the new course is rolled out.</p> <p>Niigaan Sinclair is helping to make suggestions for resources to be used in these courses offering a full amount of information.</p>		Anika Guthrie
	7.5 AEAC Annual Report	A draft of the AEAC Annual Report to the Board was shared with the committee. Anika, Jasmine and Ashley reviewed the salient points. Ashley volunteered to present this report to the Board at the Dec. 3 rd meeting.		AnikaGuthrie, Jasmine Sgambelluri Ashley Nurmela
8.	Ongoing Business			
	8.1 Native Language Supports and Resources	Native Language Professional Learning Community meetings continue to take place – Gino Russo attended these meetings and explained the benefits of using the Smart TVs and I-pads in the classrooms. Two new Native Language Teachers been hired and they have joined NTIP (New Teacher Induction Program) under Fred VanElburg's supervision.		Anika Guthrie, Jasmine Sgambelluri
	8.2 Cultural Safety Plan	-deferred to next meeting		Ashley Nurmela
9.	Updates			
	9.1 Ashley's Updates	9.1 Treaty Week 9.2 Fall Harvest 9.3 Bus Tours		Ashley Nurmela (handout given to members)

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	9.2 Community Visits	NAN invited LDSB to visit some northern communities and meet with education counsellors and students that will soon be attending secondary school in Thunder Bay. Anika visited Muskrat Dam First Nation and Dave McCallum and Jason Tymko visited Aroland First Nation. On Nov. 28, a grad coach from each school, Sherri-Lynne and Anika will be visiting Eabematong FN (Fort Hope) with Matawa.		Anika Guthrie
	9.3 George Couchie	- deferred to next meeting		Anika Guthrie
10.	Information and Inquiries			
	10.1	Ellen Chambers reported that when she recently had an opportunity to speak to Chief Collins. She asked him about the Indigenous Trustee issue. He informed her that FWFN will be having a by-election in February and the Indigenous Trustee would be elected at that time		Sherri-Lynne Pharand
	10.2	Ardelle Sagutcheway reported that the 'Coming Together' report with student feedback will be out soon. Sherri-Lynne asked her to bring it to the December AEAC meeting (if possible).		
11.	Closing	Elder Mercier closed the meeting with a prayer.		
12.	Next Meeting	Thursday, December 12, 2019		
13.	Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.		