



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, May 14, 2020 - Virtual Meeting via ZOOM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pauline Fontaine, Trustee Ryan Sitch, Donna Flaszka; Ashley Nurmela, Board Chair Ellen Chambers, Brittany Collins, Elder Gerry Martin, Elliott Cromarty, Serena Essex, Mahejabeen Ebrahim, Kathy Beardy, Anika Guthrie, Leanna Marshall, Noel Jones, Jasmine Sgambelluri, Fred Van Elburg, Patti Pella, AJ Keene, Emma Kaminawash, Ardelle Sagutcheway, Sharon Kanutski, Skylene Metatawabin, Sue Doughty-Smith, Keira Essex, Emma Kaminawash, Dolores Wawia

ABSENT WITH REGRET: Knowledge Keeper Renee Tookenay, Cheryl King-Zewiec, Jane Lower, Sophie Sutherland, Chris Larocque, Lawrence Baxter, Mike Judge

GUESTS: Patti Pella, Jo Jo Guillet, Megan Tiernan, Rita Fenton

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION		ACTION
1.	Opening Ceremonies			Gerry Martin
2.	Welcome and Introductions	<p>2.1 Anika Guthrie welcomed everyone and thanked Elder Martin for the opening which included a smudging ceremony.</p> <p>She welcomed everyone, in particular AJ Keene as the new Superintendent of Education, Rita Fenton, and Megan Tiernan, Mental Health Worker. All attendees were asked to introduce themselves and share some experiences of working through this pandemic.</p>		Anika Guthrie
3.	Agenda / Minutes			
	3.1 Approval of Agenda – May 14, 2020	<p>Moved by Pauline Fontaine and seconded by Serena Essex that the agenda for the May 14, 2020 AEAC virtual meeting be approved with the change of 5.2 being moved to the beginning of the meeting (during introductions).</p> <p>Carried</p>		Anika Guthrie

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION		ACTION
	3.2 Approval of Minutes – Feb. 13, 2020	Moved by Serena Essex and seconded by Ryan Sitch that the minutes for the Feb. 13, 2020 AEAC meeting be approved as written. Carried.		Anika Guthrie
4.	Business Arising from Minutes			
	4.1 Equity and Community Inclusive Education Committee	Equity and Community Inclusive Education Committee needs one member from AEAC to sit on their committee. AEAC has been asked for a volunteer to sit as a member on Equity and Inclusive Education Committee. The committee will meet during the day, a minimum of 3 times per year. Serena Essex offered to be the AEAC rep.		Anika Guthrie
	4.2 Diversity Breakfast	Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this event was rescheduled to March 21, 2021. Members who agreed to attend will be reminded of this new date in February of next year.		Anika Guthrie
	4.3 Budget Update	AEAC's Budget deputation was received and reviewed by trustees. At this time, there is no information on the budget. Updates from Ministry will be coming – hopefully funding will not change but this cannot be confirmed until we hear back from the Ministry. All questions were answered.		AJ Keene
5.	New Business			
	5.1 COVID-19 Update	AJ Keene gave a general update re closure of our schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that it's been an 'evolution' and emphasized the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We take direction from the Ministry (re whether schools are open or not); 2. LDSB is working in conjunction with the Health Unit's guidance; 3. We are awaiting the announcement from the Ministry re opening schools. There are so many scenarios – the 		AJ Keene

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION		ACTION
		<p>Ministry relies on the Chief Medical Officer for their decisions; and</p> <p>4. We will be ready when we are permitted to go back.</p>		
	5.2 Mental Health Supports	<p>Megan Tiernan, Mental Health Coordinator gave a brief update on the role of the mental health team during the pandemic. They have regularly been making training webinars available to the public. The social workers are working with the guidance counsellors at the secondary level to connect with teachers and students as needed. The elementary social workers are engaging with students and families who are requesting their services.</p> <p>She confirmed that it is 'business as usual' – they are still managing referrals and she encouraged everyone to reach out to her if they have a need/concern so they can help students in our system.</p>		Megan Tiernan
	5.3 Learn at Home Update	<p>Connection, Communication and Collaboration are the key to successful on-line learning.</p> <p>AJ Keene shared information on the comprehensive Learn at Home program that LDSB put together for our students. He commended the Program staff for getting this off the ground in a timely fashion. It was noted that LDSB had given out approximately 1,500 devices and numerous phone to assist students.</p> <p>LDSB has been responsive to our communities with regular contact with families. Expectations for on-line learning are set by the Ministry (re number of hours per week for different grade levels). The Ministry recently encouraged Synchronous Learning i.e. Live Teaching. Some of our teachers have already been doing this in addition to other methods.</p> <p>Families were surveyed for their approval of the Learn at Home program and LDSB received an 85% approval rating. Responsiveness to what the children need is what is making</p>		AJ Keene

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION		ACTION
		<p>families pleased with the approach.</p> <p>Paper packages have been made available to students who don't have internet capabilities or who choose not to use on-line leaning.</p> <p>Committee members shared their thanks for staff setting up the on-line learning.</p> <p>All questions were answered.</p>		
	5.4 Supports for FNMI Education	<p>Anika Guthrie gave a brief update on the Supports for FNMI Education.</p> <p>There is a Learn at Home website with specific FNMI resources for teachers. We purchased a membership to FNMI Education Association which has amazing resources.</p> <p>Jasmine Sgambelluri and Anika Guthrie are continually assisting staff. The Grad Coaches are playing a very important role especially at this time. They have excellent connections with secondary students.</p> <p>Ashley Nurmela and Anika Guthrie are continuing to connect with community partners, so they, in turn can continue to connect with students.</p> <p>Experiential Learning: LDSB is partnering with Keewatin Patricia District School Board and NAN to create a resource to help connect teachers with curriculum links for students working at home. This pulls out key learning that is already happening in the homes/communities. This can be used when students return to classrooms when school opens again.</p> <p>Feedback was received from the committee members to make this program even better.</p>		Anika Guthrie Jasmine Sgambelluri

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION		ACTION
	5.5 Student Trustee Report	<p>Keira Essex reported that during the Student Senate meeting which was led by Student Trustee Sierra Gaudreau, the At Home Learning Program received very positive feedback. She said it was noted that there will always be challenges but everyone believed that it was doing well. The major concern for the students was Graduation.</p> <p>Keira personally initiated an activity for students to create cards for Health Care Workers, to show that children and youth could have a positive impact when people feel powerless. She collected many cards from students from K – gr 12 and they were delivered to the Health Care Workers. We are hoping these will be posted on the LDSB website.</p>		Keira Essex
	5.6 AEAC Meeting Dates for 2020-2021	<p>The following meeting dates were suggested for 2020 – 2021: Thursday, Sept. 17, 2020 Thursday, Nov. 12, 2020 Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020 Thursday, Feb. 11, 2021 Thursday, March 25, 2021 Thursday, May 13, 2021 Thursday, June 10, 2021</p> <p>Moved by Sharon Kanutski and seconded by Pauline Fontaine that the meeting dates for 2020 – 2021 be approved.</p> <p>Carried</p>		
6.	Ongoing Business			
	6.1 Updates	Ashley Nurmela shared that AYARA has been postponed but they still accepting nominations, and that National Indigenous Peoples Day has been cancelled for this year.		Ashley Nurmela
	6.2 Native Language Supports and Resources	<p>Anika Guthrie and Jasmine Sgambelluri continue to support Native Language teachers through Microsoft Teams meetings where they can share information and ask questions</p> <p>An example of the sharing is the kitchen display by Corrine</p>		Anika Guthrie, Jasmine Sgambelluri

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		Bannon where she teaches students the Indigenous words for kitchen utensils and appliances. This was posted on Algonquin's face book page and Jasmine will contact Bruce Nugent and Tim Dowling to have this put on LDSB's face book page as well. All answers were questioned		
7.	Information and Inquiries			
	7.1	Ellen Chambers thanked the Committee for doing a Virtual Meeting stressing the importance for staying connected.		Ellen Chambers
	7.2	AJ Keene spoke about a Teams Meeting with superintendents in other districts. He shared with them how much LDSB's AEAC has accomplished over the years under the direction of Sherri-Lynne and Dolores in comparison to other Boards.		AJ Keene
8.	Closing	Elder Martin closed the meeting with a prayer.		
9.	Next Meeting	Thursday, June 11, 2020		
10.	Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.		