



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, June 11, 2020 - Virtual Meeting via ZOOM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anika Guthrie, Pauline Fontaine, Trustee Ryan Sitch, Ashley Nurmela, Board Chair Ellen Chambers, Elder Gerry Martin, Serena Essex, Mahejabeen Ebrahim, Kathy Beardy, Leanna Marshall, Jasmine Sgambelluri, Cheryl King-Zewiec, Superintendent AJ Keene, Emma Kaminawash, Ardelle Sagutcheway, Sharon Kanutski, Keira Essex, Sophie Sutherland, Jane Lower

ABSENT WITH REGRET: Trustee Sue Doughty-Smith, Lawrence Baxter, Mike Judge, Brittany Collins, Elliot Cromarty, Skylene Metatawabin, Fred Van Elburg

GUESTS: Patti Pella, Jennifer Johnson, Jo Jo Guillet

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION		ACTION
1.	Opening Ceremonies			Gerry Martin
2.	Welcome and Introductions	2.1 Anika Guthrie welcomed everyone and thanked Elder Gerry Martin for the opening. She welcomed everyone, in particular Renee Tookenay, Knowledge Keeper, Michelle Tavares, Executive Secretary, AJ Keene, Superintendent of Education, and Jennifer Johnson, Hammarskjold High School's Fire Council.		Anika Guthrie
3.	Agenda / Minutes			
	3.1 Approval of Agenda – June 11, 2020	Moved by Pauline Fontaine and seconded by Gerry Martin that the agenda for the June 11, 2020 AEAC virtual meeting be approved with the change of 7.3 being moved to the beginning of the meeting. Carried		Anika Guthrie

	3.2 Approval of Minutes – May 14, 2020	Moved by Ryan Sitch and seconded by Gerry Martin that the minutes for the May 14, 2020 AEAC meeting be approved as written. Carried.		Anika Guthrie
4.	Business Arising from Minutes			
5.	New Business			
	5.1 Dolores' Memorial	Anika Guthrie expressed her deepest condolences for Co-Chair Dolores Wawia's passing. Sentiments were expressed from members through Zoom. Anika will send the sentiments to Dolores' family. Elder Gerry Martin shared a story about his last meeting with Dolores when she attended the last AEAC meeting. Ashley Nurmela shared her story about Dolores and about how much Dolores impacted her life. Jane Lower shared a memory of Dolores. Ryan Sitch asked the committee for suggestion about how to honour Dolores. Elder Gerry Martin suggested a picture of Dolores in the foyer of the Board Office. AJ Keene commented that he would bring the request to senior administration. Ellen Chambers suggested consulting with Dolores' family as to their wish for a commemoration. Ardelle Sagutcheway suggested a feast to be held in the fall and invite Dolores' family. Ashley Nurmela suggested a scholarship or bursary in Dolores' name. Ellen Chambers made a suggestion for the Program Department to compile Dolores' stories into the curriculum. A decision will be made at the next AEAC meeting in September.		Anika Guthrie
	5.2 Re-opening Committee	AJ Keene informed the committee that a Re-opening Committee would be meeting next week to discuss plans for September's re-opening. Subcommittees would be created to handle specific endeavours of the re-opening. AJ Keene requested a FNMI committee member to be part of the Re-opening Committee. AJ Keene informed the committee that day care supervisors would be going into the schools this week. A maximum of ten children and one adult per room is being allowed. Custodians would be cleaning the day cares that were going to re-open.		AJ Keene

		<p>The Board would be working with the Thunder Bay Health Unit to make sure proper protocol was being followed. Sherbrooke Public School and Vance Chapman Public School day cares would be re-opening.</p> <p>The Re-opening Committee will be comprised of members from the IT Department, Transportation Department, an AEAC representative, a SEAC representative and senior administration.</p> <p>The Re-opening Subcommittees will be comprised of transportation, cleaning, elementary and secondary.</p> <p>AJ Keene informed the committee of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) chiefs' meeting that will be held on June 17 and June 18 in the mornings for two hours. AJ Keene and Anika Guthrie will be attending the meetings. The main focus of the meetings is education.</p>		
	7.3 Student Trustee Report	<p>Keira Essex expressed best wishes to exiting Student Trustee Sierra Gaudreau and welcomed 2020-2021 Student Trustee Simran Talpade.</p> <p>Keira Essex reported to the committee that she did not have any concerns about re-entering school in the fall.</p>		Keira Essex
	5.3 National Indigenous People's Day – Education Day	<p>Ashley Nurmela reported that the National Indigenous People's Day was currently collecting videos to keep and use as educational resources. They are collecting elementary and secondary videos. The videos would be shared on their Facebook page and used by schools as an educational tool. Their focus was on local knowledge and traditions in hopes to spread learning. Ashley asked the committee to record and share videos of harvesting over the next three months. No editing of the videos would be made. The videos could be sent to the National Indigenous People's drop box. Ashley would provide the link to the committee.</p>		Ashley Nurmela Anika Guthrie
6.	Ongoing Business			
	6.1 Fire Council Retreats –	<p>Jennifer Johnson, Fire Council, Hammarskjold High School made a PowerPoint presentation on Hammarskjold Fire Council – Kingfisher Cultural Retreats. During the time of the</p>		Jennifer Johnson

	Hammar skj old High School	bomb threats at Hammar skjold High School last year, it was decided to have the members of the Fire Council attend Fall Cultural Retreats. With assistance from Melissa Roberts, the council constructed a sweat lodge for usage over one of the weekends. With their partnership with the Indigenous Friendship centre they were able to participate in two sweat lodge ceremonies and smudging with the students. The Fire Council also invited Hammar skjold High School's SAC members to attend the weekends with them. The Meshake family was also invited to share stories. The students of the Fire Council greatly enjoyed their weekends at the Kingfisher Cultural Retreats.		
7.	Information and Inquiries			
	7.1 COVID-19 Update	AJ Keene provided information to the committee. He indicated that the school year was gearing down and commended the Program Department for all their hard work initiating the online learning. AJ informed the committee that the June 12 elementary school PD day would be an online teaching day and that videos would be provided to parents for activities that they could do at home with their child. Report cards are being prepared to be distributed to all students at the end of June. Devices would be returned to the schools, for the summer, to be cleaned and updated.		AJ Keene
	7.2 Updates	Ashley Nurmela reported that the AYARA awards were postponed in March and that nominations were still open. She indicated that they were fundraising in partnership with the United Way and an event was being scheduled for the end of September.		Ashley Nurmela
	7.3 Native Language Supports and Resources	Jasmine Sgambelluri reported to the committee that the Board is currently hiring Native Language teachers. That the teachers would be partnering up with Sherbrooke Public School and St. James Public School.		Anika Guthrie Jasmine Sgambelluri
8.	Information and Inquiries			
	8.1 Meeting With FWFN	AJ Keene and Ellen Chambers met with FWFN Chief Peter Collins regarding the new First Nation trustee position at the Board table. Elections for the First Nation trustee member would be conducted in the very near future.		AJ Keene

	8.2 Dolores' Service	Gerry Martin inquired about who would be attending Dolores' service from the Board and who would be speaking on behalf of the Board. AJ Keene indicated that he would speak to senior administration about the inquiry. Anika Guthrie indicated that she would connect with Dolores' family to inquire about their expectations at the service.		Anika Guthrie AJ Keene
9.	Closing	Elder Martin closed the meeting with a prayer.		
10.	Next Meeting	Thursday, September 17, 2020		
11.	Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.		