



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

- DATE:** Thursday, September 17, 2020 - Virtual Meeting via ZOOM
- CHAIR:** Anika Guthrie
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kathy Beardy, Elliott Cromarty, Keira Essex, Serena Essex, Pauline Fontaine, Sharon Kanutski, Leanna Marshall, Elder Gerry Martin, Skylene Metatawabin, Ardelle Sagutcheway, Trustee Ryan Sitch
- ALTERNATES:** Trustee Ellen Chambers, Trustee Sue Doughty-Smith, Dinah Jung, Renee Tookenay
- RESOURCES:** Brittany Collins, Mahejabeen Ebrahim, Eric Fredrickson, Donna Flasz, AJ Keene, Nick Sacevich, Ashley Nurmela, Michelle Tavares, Fred Van Elburg
- GUESTS:** Patti Pella, Yolanda Wanakamik, Kieran McMonagle
- ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Scottie Wemigwans, Lawrence Baxter, Anna Fern Kakegamic, Emma Kaminawash, Chery King-Zewiec, Mike Judge, Jasmine Sgambelluri, Sophie Sutherland

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION		ACTION
1.	Opening Ceremonies			Elder Gerry Martin
2.	Welcome and Introductions	<p>2.1 Anika Guthrie welcomed everyone and thanked Elder Gerry Martin for the opening.</p> <p>Anika welcomed new members, Eric Fredrickson, Principal of Program and Early Years, Nick Sacevich, Student Success Lead, Kieran McMonagle, FNMI Graduation Coach and new parent representative, Yolanda Wanakamik.</p>		Anika Guthrie

3.	Agenda / Minutes			
	3.1 Approval of Agenda – Sept. 17, 2020	<p>Moved by Pauline Fontaine and seconded by Elder Gerry Martin that the agenda for the September 17, 2020 AEAC virtual meeting be approved.</p> <p>Carried</p>		Anika Guthrie
	3.2 Approval of Minutes – June 11, 2020	<p>Moved by Sharon Kanutski and seconded by Serena Essex that the minutes for the June 11, 2020 AEAC meeting be approved as written.</p> <p>Carried.</p>		Anika Guthrie
4.	Business Arising from Minutes			
	4.1 Dolores Wawia's Commemoration	<p>Ashley Nurmela met with Dolores' family last week and was presented with Dolores' life's writings (Chapters 1-10) <i>Out of the Frying Pan</i>. The family would like to see it used as a teaching resource and used for staff training. The family would also like it to be dedicated to Dolores' son. It would be a great resource to share it provincially and federally. The resource should be ready to share by September 2021.</p> <p>Anika Guthrie spoke to Sherri-Lynne Pharand about her thoughts of a commemoration. Sherri-Lynne suggested that a school library be named and dedicated to Dolores, since she was such a gifted storyteller. Sherri-Lynne also suggested, that since Dolores was know as the 'Frog Lady, that an artist be commissioned to create a painting that captured her 'Frog Lady' essence.</p> <p>Yolanda Wanakamik suggested an artist from Gull Bay should be selected to create the painting and that a partnership could be developed.</p> <p>Elder Gerry Martin added that anything that would honour her memory would be good.</p> <p>AJ Keene commented that the suggestions were wonderful and that he would bring the recommendations to the senior team to put into motion.</p>		

		<p>Ellen Chambers suggested a picture of Dolores be hung in the hallway of the Board Office or in the Board Room.</p> <p>Anika will bring the ideas back to the family to see how they feel about the suggestions and see if they have additional suggestions.</p>		
5.	New Business			
	5.1 Appointment of Co-Chair for AEAC	<p>Anika Guthrie brought forward the need for a new co-chair for AEAC. She asked for nominations from the floor. Elder Gerry Martin nominated Serena Essex. Anika asked for further nominations from the floor. There were no further nominations from the floor. Serena Essex accepted the nomination. Anika welcomed Serena as the new co-chair for AEAC.</p>		Anika Guthrie
	5.2 AEAC Rep on PIC	<p>Anika brought forward the request from PIC for a member and an alternate member from AEAC be the representatives on the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC). Serena (the current AEAC member on PIC) provided the committee with information about PIC. Anika will connect with other parent members of AEAC to see if they may be interested in being this year's AEAC representative and/or alternate representative on PIC.</p>		Anika Guthrie
	5.3 Discussion regarding the working in 8061 AEAC Procedure	<p>Anika shared the 8061 AEAC policy and procedure with the committee and made suggestions for some changes to the wording (ie. all students) in response to the call of reconciliation.</p> <p>Trustee Ryan Sitch agreed to the proposed changes and also suggested to add the Indigenous trustee to the document as an official member.</p> <p>AJ Keene will have the review added to the policies review schedule.</p> <p>Serena Essex suggested to the committee that a sub-committee should be created to undertake the task of reviewing and rewording the policy/procedures. Anika asked for volunteers for the subcommittee. The subcommittee will consist of Serena Essex, Yolanda Wanakamik, Ashley Nurmela and Anika Guthrie.</p>		Anika Guthrie

6.	Ongoing Business			
	6.1 Student Census	<p>AJ Keene, Superintendent, and Mahejabeen Ebrahim, Human Rights and Equity Advisor, informed the committee that the census pilot project is funded by the Ministry of Education and is in accordance with the Education Act and the Ontario Human Rights Code. Data will be used to identify disparities and promote equity of access and outcomes for students as well as racial equality. A test-pilot census is currently being created and will be conducted at Woodcrest Public School and Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute. The census is voluntary. The census then will be conducted system wide in 2021-2022 school year. The census will allow administration to make decisions about programs and supports for our students. The goal of the census is the success of every student. The census will be completed by parents for those students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 and Grades 7 to 12 students will complete the census themselves. The data received from the census will remain confidential. A plan will be created and communicated to parents, students and staff.</p>		AJ Keene/ Mahejabeen Ebrahim
	6.2 Summer Learning Programs	<p>Eric Fredrickson, Principal of Program and Early Years, Nick Sacevich, Student Success Lead, and Kieran McMonagle, FNMI Graduation Coach, shared information on the summer programs offered by Lakehead Public Schools.</p> <p>Eric and Nick informed the committee that the summer programs that were offered to students were online learning. The programs were centred around literacy and numeracy. The classes were blended and 20 sessions long. The sessions ran for three weeks and packages were provided to assist with the at-home learning.</p> <p>Kieran assisted students transitioning from elementary to secondary school by providing school tours and assisting in course selections for September. Students, in Grades 10 to 12, were offered a summer credit in education and career planning. Supplies were provided to students and students were expected to log into their class two times a day during their morning and afternoon sessions.</p>		Eric Fredrickson/ Nick Sacevich/ Kieran McMonagle

7.	Information and Inquiries			
	7.1 COVID-19 Update	<p>AJ Keene provided a COVID-19 update to the committee. He spoke about the new Elementary Virtual Learning School that was being offered to Lakehead Public School students. So far, there are 750 elementary students enrolled in the new school. There are also 350 secondary students that are enrolled at their current secondary school for virtual learning. AJ Keene informed the committee that it has been difficult tracking some of the missing students that did not return to their schools or engaged in their virtual learning. He also informed the committee that the technology was tricky, but resolutions were being implemented. Students that were attending school were wearing masks and were engaged in learning.</p> <p>Transportation was a challenge and an additional driver has been hired.</p> <p>Whitesand First Nation have requested desks, chairs and computers for their virtual learning students.</p> <p>Our Board is posting a job for a teaching vice principal for Gull Bay First Nation.</p>		AJ Keene
	7.2 Updates	<p>Ashley Nurmela reported that the IYARA awards is fundraising, in partnership with the United Way, an event called Run the North that is being scheduled from September 26 to October 4, 2020. The cost is \$25 per person and proceeds are supporting First Nation communities.</p>		Ashley Nurmela
	7.3 Native Language Supports and Resources	<p>Anika informed the committee that Lakehead Public Schools is offering Native as a Second Language at Sherbrooke Public School for Grades 5 and up. Tyler Armstrong is the teacher for these classes that are being offered two to three times a week. Ron Kanutski is a community member supporting the program. One class will be offered at École Gron Morgan Public School.</p>		Anika Guthrie

	7.4 Student Trustee Update	<p>Indigenous Student Trustee Keira Essex informed the committee that over the summer she attended the administration updates. She supported the letters that were being sent to the Minister of Education by Chair Chambers. Keira also had input into the questions being put forward on the Student Census to make sure it included the student perspective.</p> <p>Trustee Chambers commented on how excellent an editor Keira is from her input into the letters to the Minister of Education. She also commended Keira on how well she presented herself during her interview on CBC Radio regarding going back to school.</p>		Keira Essex
8.	Information and Inquiries			
	8.1 Strategic Plan	Trustee Ellen Chambers informed the committee that constituents would be invited to meet in October to discuss the Board's Strategic Plan.		
9.	Closing	Elder Martin closed the meeting with a prayer.		
10.	Next Meeting	Thursday, November 12, 2020		
11.	Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.		