



**ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- DATE:** Thursday, November 5, 2020 – 9:30 am – 12:00pm - Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams
- CO-CHAIRS:** Anika Guthrie  
Serena Essex
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Elliott Cromarty, Trustee Ellen Chambers, Pauline Fontaine, Sharon Kanutski, Cheryl King-Zewiec, Leanna Marshall, Elder Gerry Martin, Skylene Metatawabin, Ardelle Sagutcheway
- ALTERNATES:** Trustee Sue Doughty-Smith, Elder/Knowledge Keeper Renee Tookenay
- RESOURCES:** Brittany Collins, AJ Keene, Eric Fredrickson, Anna Fern Kakegamic, Nick Sacevich, Ashley Nurmela, Fred Van Elburg
- GUESTS:** Scottie Wemigwans, Keli Cristofaro, Shy-Anne Bartlett
- ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Lawrence, Baxter, Kathy Beardy, Kristy Boucher, Mahejabeen Ebrahim, Donna Flasz, Keira Essex, Mike Judge, Dinah Jung, Anna Fern Kakegamic, Emma Kaminawash, Patti Pella, Trustee Ryan Sitch, Sophie Sutherland, Yolanda Wanakamik

	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>		<b>ACTION</b>
1.	Opening Ceremonies			Elder Gerry Martin
2.	2.1 Land Acknowledgement	Anika Guthrie acknowledged the lands and traditional territory.		Anika Guthrie

2.	2.2 Welcome and Introductions	<p>Anika introduced Serena Essex as the new co-chair of AEAC.</p> <p>Serena introduced and welcomed Indigenous Trustee Scottie Wemigwans.</p> <p>Serena had all members attending introduce themselves to the committee.</p>		Serena Essex
3.	Agenda / Minutes			
	3.1 Approval of Agenda – Nov. 5, 2020	<p>Moved by Elder Gerry Martin and seconded by Sharon Kanutski that the agenda for the November 5, 2020 AEAC Microsoft Teams meeting be approved.</p> <p><b>Carried</b></p>		Anika Guthrie
	3.2 Approval of Minutes – Sept. 17, 2020	<p>Moved by Elliott Cromarty and seconded by Elder Gerry Martin that the minutes for the September 17, 2020 AEAC meeting be approved as written.</p> <p>AJ Keene, on behalf of Mahejabeen Ebrahim, made a correction to the minutes. The Student Census pilot project is being funded by the Ministry of Education and is in accordance with the Education Act and the Ontario Human Rights Code. The data from the census will be used to identify disparities and promote equity of access and outcomes for students as well as racial equality.</p> <p><b>Carried.</b></p>		Anika Guthrie
4.	Business Arising from Minutes			
	4.1 Dolores Wawia's Commemoration	<p>Serena introduced AJ Keene who informed the committee that Director's Council has approved the commissioning of the painting to commemorate the late Co-Chair Dolores Wawia.</p> <p>Serena reminded the committee about Dolores' writings and the creation of book was being looked into.</p> <p>Sharon Kanutski suggested that a picture of Dolores Wawia be placed in every school. Superintendent Keene would bring that suggestion back to the senior team for a decision.</p>		Anika Guthrie/ Serena Essex

		<p>Trustee Ellen Chambers requested a letter be sent to trustees regarding the final plans to commemorate Dolores Wawia.</p> <p>Elder Gerry Martin suggested that friends and members of the community should be able to submit a story or a one liner of their memories of Dolores and have it included in the booklet.</p> <p>Cheryl King-Zewiec suggested that a write-up from Chief King be included in the booklet.</p> <p>Superintendent Keene promised to find the financial means for the booklet and to find the outside support to create the resource.</p> <p>Elder Gerry Martin suggested an award in Dolores' name be given to an Indigenous student with the most improved attendance. Superintendent Keene will look into how this award can be created.</p>		
	4.2 AEAC Member Attending PIC Meetings	<p>Anika announced that Sharon Kanutski would be the AEAC representative for the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC). Serena would be the alternate member from AEAC to attend PIC meetings.</p> <p>If any other member would like to volunteer to attend the PIC meetings, please contact Anika or Michelle Tavares, Executive Secretary.</p>		Anika Guthrie
5.	New Business			
	5.1 8061 Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Policy/ Procedure	<p>Anika reported to the committee that a subcommittee to review the 8061 Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Policy/Procedures was established at the last AEAC meeting. The subcommittee consists of Co-chairs Guthrie and Essex, Yolanda Wanakamik and Ashley Nurmela.</p> <p>The subcommittee will be looking at policy, procedure and guiding principles. Reflect the changes with the Ministry and the Board and educating all students. Renee Tookenay and Sharon Kanutski also volunteered to be on the subcommittee. The meetings will be held virtually in the near future.</p>		Anika Guthrie

	5.2 AEAC Committee Membership Update	Serena updated the committee on the new members that will be joining AEAC. Yolanda Wanakamik will be a new parent member, Keli Cristofaro, Councillor at Large, Thunder Bay Métis Council, will be a new community member, and Renee Tookenay will become the Alternate Community Elder/Knowledge Keeper. A report will be brought forward to the Board at the next Regular Board meeting notifying them of the new appointments		Serena Essex
	5.3 Four Directions Rooms	Anika updated the committee that each of our secondary schools has a graduation coach and an Aboriginal achievement tutor that work together in a Four Directions room. They have been offering, for those students that need to stay at school in the afternoons, the usage of the rooms to complete their virtual learning with the assistance of the tutor.		Anika Guthrie
6.	Presentation			
	6.1 Student Census	Ashley Nurmela presented the committee with a viewing of the video that was made to support the upcoming Student Census. The pilot will begin on November 5, 2020 at Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute and at Woodcrest Public School.		Mahejabeen Ebrahim/ Ashley Nurmela
7.	Information and Inquiries			
	7.1 COVID-19 Update	<p>AJ Keene informed the committee that there will be a new guideline memo with changes regarding school closures being released in the near future. He informed the committee that the Grade 9 Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) testing will be conducted virtually this year. The test will be for data purposes only. He also notified the committee that the Grade 12 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) will not be conducted this year.</p> <p>AJ Keene recognized Anika Guthrie and Ashley Nurmela for all their hard work with the remote students. He announced that there is a new teacher in Gull Bay. He informed that committee that Whitesand First Nation has support and he hoped for a solution in the near future regarding a new teacher. He mentioned that remote communities are a struggle for a number of different reasons but that there will be two Alternative Education teachers in place for Quad 2 for all remote students and they will receive paper packages.</p>		AJ Keene

		<p>AJ Keene informed the group that the Board is participating in a Ministry Survey regarding its Readiness Plan that will have details if there is a shutdown with a school or the Board has to go to full remote learning. The Ministry was giving a deadline of 24 hours to switch to remote, which was unrealistic, a 48-72-hour deadline was more reasonable. Switching secondary students to remote would be easy as they are all remote learning in the afternoons. Elementary students would be more difficult to switch quickly as devices would have to be distributed.</p> <p>Anika reported to the committee that a new Indigenous Youth Engagement Worker was hired and they would be connecting with the students who have disengaged and are not active in the Virtual Elementary School.</p> <p>AJ Keene informed the committee that there were originally about 300 elementary students virtually learning that were not engaged and now there are about 150 elementary students who are not attending consistently</p> <p>Anika shared that in discussions with other Indigenous Education Leads across our region, the number of virtual learners are much smaller. More students are attending in person, and there are less concerns with attendance because of less virtual learners.</p>		
	7.2 Student Trustee Update	Student Trustee Keira Essex sent her regrets.		Keira Essex
	7.3 Native Language Supports and Resources	<p>Anika reported to the committee that there is a virtual class that has started for Lakehead Virtual Elementary School. The class runs from 11:10 to 11:50 am every day. Corine Bannon is the teacher for this virtual Native Language class. Ms. Bannon has taught Native Language to Grades 4-8 at Algonquin Avenue Public School.</p> <p>Tyler Armstrong is teaching the new program at Sherbrooke Public School with the assistance of community partner, Ron Kanutski, two days a week. Really great things are happening with these programs.</p>		Anika Guthrie

	7.4 Updates	<p>Ashley Nurmela reported to the committee that the FMNI education team is meeting student needs. She also informed the group that National Indigenous Peoples Day planning has begun for 2021 whether it will be virtual or on the mountain. IYARA will be conducting its upcoming event virtually in the new year. IYARA partnered with the United Way and had a successful event in September.</p> <p>Anika informed the committee that she and Ashley Nurmela went for a community visit to Gull Bay First Nation last week and that a teacher had been hired for that community.</p>		Ashley Nurmela
8.	Information and Inquiries			
		<p>Serena informed the committee that the annual report for AEAC would be presented at the Board's Annual Meeting on December 1, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. She asked if a member would like to assist in presenting the report. The meeting would be held virtually. Please let Michelle, Anika, or Serena know if you are interested in presenting.</p> <p>Trustee Chambers informed the committee that the Board's Strategic Planning Sessions will begin November 12, 2020. The sessions would be held virtually with small groups of participants from the community. The strong focus is on reconciliation with Niigaan Sinclair and Sheelagh Hendrick as the facilitators of our planning process.</p> <p>Trustee Chambers inquired from the committee on how Elders were coping with working in the virtual world. Elder Martin responded that he is participating in ZOOM with the college and university. Anika informed the group that guests were allowed to meet in the schools with one cohort at a time.</p>		
9.	Closing	Elder Martin closed the meeting with a prayer.		
10.	Next Meeting	Thursday, December 10, 2020		
11.	Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.		