



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

- DATE:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 – 9:30 am – 12:00pm - Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams
- CO-CHAIRS:** Anika Guthrie
Serena Essex
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Elliott Cromarty, Keira Essex, Pauline Fontaine, Sharon Kanutski, Cheryl King-Zewiec, Elder Gerry Martin, Skylene Metatawabin, Ardelle Sagutcheway, Yolanda Wanakamik, Indigenous Trustee Scottie Wemigwans
- ALTERNATES:** Trustee Ellen Chambers, Dinah Jung, Trustee Ryan Sitch, Sophie Sutherland
- RESOURCES:** Brittany Collins, Mahejabeen Ebrahim, Eric Fredrickson, Donna Flaszka, AJ Keene, Ashley Nurmela, Nick Sacevich, Fred Van Elburg
- GUESTS:** Patti Pella, Katrina Fiddler
- ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Lawrence Baxter, Kathy Beardy, Kristy Boucher, Keli Cristofaro, Mike Judge, Anna Fern Kakegamic, Emma Kaminawash, Leanna Marshall, Elder/Knowledge Keeper Rene Takenay

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	Opening Ceremonies	Anika Guthrie called the meeting to order at 9:55 a.m. and asked Elder Gerry Martin to conduct the opening.	Elder Gerry Martin
2.	2.1 Land Acknowledgement	Serena Essex acknowledged the lands and traditional territory.	Serena Essex
	2.2 Welcome and Introductions	Anika thanked members for wearing red, welcomed everyone to the meeting and had all members introduce themselves.	Anika Guthrie

3.	Agenda and Minutes		
	3.1 Approval of Agenda – Dec 10, 2020	Moved by Yolanda Wanakamik and seconded by Sharon Kanutski that the agenda for the December 10, 2020 AEAC Microsoft Teams meeting be approved. Carried	Serena Essex
	3.2 Approval of Minutes – Nov. 5, 2020	Moved by Yolanda Wanakamik and seconded by Ardelle Sagutcheway that the minutes for the November 5, 2020 AEAC meeting be approved as written. Trustee Chambers indicated that she was the member representative at the November 5, 2020 meeting in Trustee Sitch's absence. This is to be reflected in the November 5, 2020 minutes. Carried	Serena Essex
4.	Business Arising from the Minutes	No business arose from the minutes.	Serena Essex
5.	New Business		
	5.1 Indigenous Education Strategic Plan	The committee viewed a 20-minute video of the Microsoft Teams Strategic Planning Session that took place in October 2020 with stakeholders. Niigaan Sinclair and Sheelagh Hendricks, the facilitators of the Planning Session, provided a summary of the plans. AEAC members broke out into two groups to discuss and provide input to the Board on the Indigenous Education Plan that will take place for the next four years for Lakehead District School Board. The groups discussed the ten principles that Lakehead Public Schools would be committing to towards reconciliation and the priorities the Board will be following: Achieve, Reconcile, Belong, Lead and Inspire. The groups were given the opportunity to discuss Lakehead District School Board's beliefs-in and demonstration of reconciliation and making it possible for Indigenous and non-Indigenous relationships to be guided by the following principles: relationality, relevance, respect and responsibility. When the members regrouped after the breakout meetings, there was discussion about the need for land-based learning to be incorporated in the 4 R's. The committee thought that this was a great goal for the Board and that making other smaller goals towards achievement would be a move in a positive direction.	Anika Guthrie/ Serena Essex

6.	Information and Inquiries		
	6.1 COVID-19 Update	<p>Superintendent Keene provided information to the committee that no cases of COVID have transmissioned in our schools. He reported that there has been no new outbreaks and that the usage of PPE has been a great deterrent for transmission. There are some students that are currently self-isolating due to contact outside of school. He informed the committee that currently there would be no additional weeks of shutdown after the Winter Break but, if a shutdown did occur, the Board had a pivot plan ready to have all students on remote learning as soon as possible. Superintendent Keene also informed the committee that remote students have been sent home early and that learning programs have been provided to them to continue their learning from their home community.</p>	AJ Keene
	6.2 Student Trustee Update	<p>Indigenous Student Trustee Essex reported that currently Student Trustee Talpade was organizing the Student Mentorship program and Secondary Student Senate with the assistance of Eric Fredrickson.</p> <p>Indigenous Student Trustee Essex informed the committee that she was organizing medicine tables in each of the secondary schools. Currently a table was being built at Hammarskjold High School by the tech department. Her goal was to make sure that students had access to sacred medicines during COVID-19.</p> <p>Sharon Kanutski suggested that the medicine table would also be a great asset at elementary schools.</p> <p>Ardelle Sagutcheway suggested to Indigenous Student Trustee Essex that she should put a call out to the community through social media for medicines.</p>	Keira Essex
	6.3 Native Language Supports and Resources	<p>Anika reported to the committee that they are able to start PLC sessions every six weeks with the Native Language team starting in January.</p>	Anika Guthrie

	6.4 Updates	<p>Ashley Nurmela reported to the committee that the Board has provided some educational supplies to the Neskantaga First Nation community staying in Thunder Bay. Children from Neskantaga First Nation have been able to join Teams classrooms at Lakehead Public Schools.</p> <p>Ashley reported to the committee that she, Superintendent Keene and Anika were planning a road trip to visit staff at our schools in Armstrong, Gull Bay and Whitesand on December 17, 2020.</p> <p>Ashley also reported that the pod classroom was up and running in Gull Bay. The new teacher is currently teaching math and literacy to Grades 1-8. Teachers from Armstrong were providing her with learning packages. Currently, JK/SK students are learning at home with educational packages.</p> <p>It was suggested that an SSP join the road trip to help assess some of the students.</p> <p>Cheryl King-Zewiec inquired as to whether students away from home would be able to access COVID funding. Ashley is currently inquiring about eligibility.</p>	Ashley Nurmela
7.	Information and Inquiries		
		<p>Serena Essex reported to the committee that the AEAC Annual Report was presented to the Board on December 1, 2020. She commented that trustees questions were great and that there was an inquiry about plans for language immersion.</p> <p>Ardelle Sagutcheway informed the committee about an incident involving her daughter's class and the discussion about human rights issues that led to comments about missing and murdered Indigenous women. The classroom discussion was upsetting to her daughter in that she does not feel safe returning to school. She asked the Board to do better and possibly have her enter into a partnership with teachers as she does with the separate board. Serena concurred and mentioned restorative justice to move forward with dialogue. Mahejabeen thanked Ardelle for her bravery in sharing her story with the committee. Anika informed the committee that she and Ashley had recently attended a staff meeting at Westgate CVI to discuss the responsibilities of teachers concerning the Call to Action.</p>	

8.	Closing	Elder Martin closed the meeting with a prayer.
9.	Next Meeting	Thursday, February 11, 2021
10.	Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.