



**ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**



**DATE:** Thursday, February 11, 2021 – 9:30 am – 12:00pm - Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

**CO-CHAIRS:** Anika Guthrie  
Serena Essex

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kathy Beardy, Kristy Boucher, Keli Cristofaro, Elliott Cromarty, Pauline Fontaine, Anna Fern Kakegamic, Sharon Kanutski, Cheryl King-Zewiec, Leanna Marshall, Elder Gerry Martin, Ardelle Sagutcheway, Yolanda Wanakamik, Indigenous Trustee Scottie Wemigwans

**ALTERNATES:** Trustee Ellen Chambers, Dinah Jung

**RESOURCES:** Brittany Collins, Eric Fredrickson, Donna Flaszka, AJ Keene, Ashley Nurmela, Nick Sacevich, Jasmine Sgambelluri, Fred Van Elburg

**GUESTS:** Patti Pella, Lisa McLeod, Tanya Moses, Katrina Fiddler

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Lawrence Baxter, Mahejabeen Ebrahim, Keira Essex, Mike Judge, Emma Kaminawash, Trustee Ryan Sitch, Sophie Sutherland, Elder/Knowledge Keeper Rene Tookenay

	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
1.	Opening Ceremonies	Anika Guthrie called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and asked Elder Gerry Martin to conduct the opening.	Elder Gerry Martin
2.	2.1 Land Acknowledgement	Anika Guthrie acknowledged the lands and traditional territory.	Anika Guthrie
	2.2 Welcome and Introductions	Serena Essex welcomed everyone to the meeting and had all members introduce themselves	Serena Essex

3.	Agenda and Minutes		
	3.1 Approval of Agenda – Feb. 11, 2021	Moved by Indigenous Trustee Scottie Wemigwans and seconded by Cheryl King-Zewiec that the agenda for the February 11, 2021 AEAC Microsoft Teams meeting be approved.  <b>Carried</b>	Anika Guthrie
	3.2 Approval of Minutes – Nov. 5, 2020	Moved by Elliott Cromarty and seconded by Yolanda Wanakamik that the minutes for the December 10, 2020 AEAC meeting be approved as written.  <b>Carried</b>	Anika Guthrie
4.	Business Arising from the Minutes	No business arose from the minutes.	Anika Guthrie
5.	Presentation		
	5.1 KZ Lodge – HerStory Project Hammarskjold High School	<p>Serena Essex introduced Lisa MacLeod, Hammarskjold High School Teacher, and Tanya Moses, Support Worker, Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre, to present the KZ Lodge – HerStory Project that is currently happening at Hammarskjold High School.</p> <p>Lisa and Tanya presented a PowerPoint presentation that illustrated the HerStory project and all the wonderful work that the students at Hammarskjold High School and several elementary schools have contributed to the project.</p> <p>The project was established to create visibility and education related to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada. (MMIWG)</p> <p>Small wooden dolls were given to secondary and elementary students to paint and then have them displayed at Hammarskjold High School. The courtyard of Hammarskjold High School was used as a land-based learning space. Students are outside a couple days a week.</p> <p>Lisa MacLeod shared with the committee that she felt very privileged to work with such a great group of students and that attendance in the program was not an issue.</p> <p>An art tipi was built by the students participating in the project. Amy, Hammarskjold High School student, spent many hours painting the tipi. Amy was asked to write-up her reflection about the project and this was shared with the committee. Lisa MacLeod would like to nominate Amy for an award</p>	

		<p>for all her hard work with the HerStory project and Lisa also shared that Amy has a 98% average in the KZ program.</p> <p>Lisa shared a video with the committee of Elder Ira Johnson's story related to the MMIWG project. Elder Johnson works with the students in the KZ program and is a language educator. He helped in naming the kitchen at Hammarskjold High School where the KZ Program students prepare food every Friday.</p> <p>Tanya Moses shared with the committee that hearing Elder Johnson's presentation in his language speaks to your spirit and conveys a deeper meaning. She shared that working along side Lisa and through this spiritual and educational journey that hopefully it will open the doors to educating this ongoing issue. She conveyed that it has been a very beautiful ride.</p> <p>Lisa shared that elementary students participated and appreciated the extra effort that was made to make this project come together and be successful.</p> <p>Leanna Marshall inquired if the project would be available to in the French Immersion classes and offered the opportunity to partner with Confederation College and bring the project to their students.</p> <p>The project will receive media coverage when it is moved to the Thunder Bay Art Gallery.</p> <p>The co-chairs and committee thanked Lisa and Tanya for their moving presentation.</p>	
6.	New Business		
	6.1 Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Funding	<p>Anika Guthrie informed the committee that the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) has issued \$1500 to AEAC to use to engage parents and work with families. There were thoughts that there is a need for a family outreach.</p> <p>Yolanda Wanakamik shared that she thought an entertainer such as Stan Wesley would be engaging and provide some comic relief.</p> <p>Leanna Marshall shared that the committee could look for parents within our community with a skill or talent that they could share with parents and students.</p>	Anika Guthrie

		<p>Anika Guthrie agreed and will be putting a call out to our community for parents to share their strength or talent.</p> <p>Jasmine Sgambelluri shared that there could be an event with breakout rooms and have family's signup for the event that they would like to attend, for example, cooking, comedy, craft, etc.</p> <p>Trustee Chambers added that the event could be recorded and could be made into a booklet that would be welcoming and safe and shared with our community.</p> <p>Sharon Kanutski shared that the event should be a series each evening, live or pre-recorded, so that parents and students could take advantage of multiple presentations.</p> <p>Anika Guthrie mentioned that this topic will be brought forward again at the next meeting for further discussion and input.</p>	
	<p>6.2 Policy Review – 8061 Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee – March 9, 2021</p>	<p>Anika Guthrie reported to the committee that the subcommittee reviewing the 8061 Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee policy/procedures had met a couple of times to discuss the changes.</p> <p>Anika presented the changes in the policy/procedures that will be presented on March 9, 2021 to the Board.</p> <p>Where the word Aboriginal was used to describe a student or community, it was proposed to use the terminology 'First Nation, Métis and Inuit'.</p> <p>A section was added that acknowledged history and the truth and reconciliation calls to action. A proposed replacement of the word advice to be replaced with guidance and recommendations. To include content that is inclusive to all students and staff.</p> <p>Trustee Chambers inquired whether the use of the wording of guidance was stronger than using the word advice. Yolanda replied that she appreciated the word guidance more than advice.</p> <p>Anika reviewed the Guiding Principles area with the changes from the subcommittee.</p> <p>The committee agreed on all the changes.</p>	<p>Anika Guthrie/ Serena Essex</p>

		<p>Anika reviewed the procedures. Under Committee Membership she began the discussion about whether the Indigenous trustee and Indigenous student trustee should be mandated positions on the committee.</p> <p>Trustee Chambers informed the committee that the trustees were hoping that the Indigenous trustee and Indigenous student trustee would have a position on the committee. She also mentioned that other Boards in the province have had their Indigenous trustee as a chair or co-chair of these advisory committees.</p> <p>Indigenous Student Trustee Essex joined the meeting and added that the Indigenous trustee and Indigenous student trustee should not be mandated but that they are given the preference and the opportunity to be a member of the committee.</p> <p>Anika will be sending out the documents to the committee and would appreciate any feedback be sent directly to her. She also mentioned that the subcommittee would be meeting one more time before the policy is presented to the Board in March.</p>	
7.	Information and Inquiries		
	7.1 COVID-19 Update	<p>Superintendent Keene provided a COVID-19 update to the committee.</p> <p>Superintendent Keene shared that there was a confirmed case involving a staff member at Woodcrest Public School and that there was no transfer at the school. He shared that there were three confirmed cases involving students at Kingsway Park Public School and that was no transfer at the school. Both schools' outbreaks have been resolved.</p> <p>Superintendent Keene informed the committee that there were four students from one family at McKellar Park Central Public School that were positive, and this resulted in the dismissal of three cohorts. The discovery of another student connected to that family attending Westgate CVI, resulted in the closure of that class.</p> <p>Superintendent Keene reported to the committee that two more cases at McKellar Park Central Public School were discovered and another two classes were closed. No transmission had been identified at school, however, due to this transmission all students went to remote learning. Superintendent Keene informed the committee that the Board has added to</p>	AJ Keene

	<p>its protocols that if a student from Fort William First Nation (FWFN) is involved in a positive case in a classroom that the Board will notify FWFN of the situation.</p> <p>The committee inquired about what happens with close contact management, parents and children have to isolate, family members that have to isolate if they have been close, the school provides materials to the student(s) that are at home isolating. Elementary schools are not hybrid, so links and paper packages are supplied to the family. Secondary schools are hybrid and students may join virtually to continue their classes.</p> <p>Superintendent Keene informed the committee that we have staff that volunteer, in partnership with Roots to Harvest, in providing food bags to families who are virtual learning.</p> <p>The Board purchased a machine that fogs a school when an outbreak has been identified. The fogger is used on a regular basis and has a schedule to fog schools on a continuous basis.</p>	
7.2 Indigenous Student Trustee Update	<p>Indigenous Student Trustee Keira Essex joined the meeting at 11:54 and presented her update report.</p> <p>Keira reported that the student trustees are currently working on the student trustee elections that are being held at the end of March. The student trustees are not just informing the SACs about the upcoming election but are also connecting with Indigenous councils and grad coaches in the secondary schools so that Indigenous students are aware of this specialized position of Indigenous student trustee.</p> <p>Keira also reported that the student trustees are working on and with the student mentorship program and the development of the medicine tables at each of the secondary schools.</p>	Keira Essex
7.3 Native Language Supports and Resources	<p>Anika Guthrie updated the committee that the Native Language teachers will be attending a virtual session on February 12, 2021 that is being hosted by Nishnawbe Aski Nation for language speakers and cultural teachers.</p> <p>A virtual conference, hosted out of Winnipeg, is being offered to Native Language teachers on March 24 and 25, 2021.</p> <p>The one virtual class has been going very well.</p>	Anika Guthrie
7.4 Updates	Ashley Nurmela will be sending her update in an email to committee	Ashley Nurmela

		members.	
8.	Information and Inquiries		
	8.1 Diversity Thunder Bay – 15 <sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	Anika informed the committee that Diversity Thunder Bay – 15 <sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Keynote Speaker: Jesse Wenté New Understandings: Diversity, Inclusion and COVID March 24, 2021 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. (Online Event)  <a href="https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/jesse-wente-new-understandings-diversity-inclusion-and-covid-tickets-139151599179">https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/jesse-wente-new-understandings-diversity-inclusion-and-covid-tickets-139151599179</a>	Anika Guthrie
	8.2 Ontario Public School Board's Association (OPSBA) Awards 2021	The nominations are due before the next meeting for the Ontario Public School Board's Association (OPSBA) Awards for 2021. These awards recognize outstanding contributions of non-teaching staff. Trustee Chambers suggested, before she left the meeting in the chat, for the KZ Lodge to be nominated. The committee agreed to nominate Tanya Moses from the KZ Lodge and Anika Guthrie will work on the nomination.	Anika Guthrie
9.	Closing	Elder Martin had to leave the meeting before the closing but sent his remarks in the chat area which Anika Guthrie read.	
10.	Next Meeting	Thursday, March 25, 2021	
11.	Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.	