



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, March 25, 2021 – 9:30 am – 12:00pm - Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

CO-CHAIRS: Anika Guthrie
Serena Essex

MEMBERS PRESENT: Keli Cristofaro, Elliott Cromarty, Pauline Fontaine, Anna Fern Kakegamic, Sharon Kanutski, Cheryl King-Zewiec, Elder Gerry Martin, Ardelle Sagutcheway, Indigenous Trustee Scottie Wemigwans

ALTERNATES: Trustee Ellen Chambers, Elder/Knowledge Keeper Renee Tookenay

RESOURCES: Mahejabeen Ebrahim, Eric Fredrickson, Donna Flasz, Superintendent AJ Keene, Ashley Nurmela, Jasmine Sgambelluri, Fred Van Elburg

GUESTS: Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business
Angela Lee-Wiwcharyk, Manager of Financial Services
Stephanie Ryynanen, Supervisor of Financial Services
Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education
Megan Tiernan, Mental Health Lead

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Lawrence Baxter, Kathy Beardy, Kristy Boucher, Brittany Collins, Indigenous Student Trustee Keira Essex, Dinah Jung, Leanna Marshall, Mike Judge, Emma Kaminawash, Skylene Metatawabin, Patti Pella, Education Officer, Indigenous Education Office, Ministry of Education, Nick Sacevich, Trustee Ryan Sitch, Sophie Sutherland, Yolanda Wanakamik,

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	Opening Ceremonies	Anika Guthrie called the meeting to order at 9:40 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 Guthrie welcomed everyone to the meeting and had all members introduce themselves	Anika Guthrie

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
3.	Agenda and Minutes		
	3.1 Approval of Agenda - Mar. 25, 2021	Moved by Elder Gerry Martin and seconded by Sharon Kanutski that the agenda for the March 25, 2021 AEAC Microsoft Teams meeting be approved. Carried	Serena Essex
	3.2 Approval of Minutes – Feb. 11, 2021	Moved by Elder Gerry Martin and seconded by Cheryl King-Zewiec that the minutes for the February 11, 2021 AEAC meeting be approved as written. Carried	Serena Essex
4.	Business Arising from the Minutes		
	4.1 PIC Funding Update	Anika Guthrie presented to the committee a plan to invite David Bouchard, Author, to do a virtual presentation and use the \$1500 PIC funding that has been allocated to AEAC for a family event. Jasmine Sgambelluri has contacted David Bouchard's booking agent and has confirmed that David Bouchard would be available for such an event in the Spring when his new book will be released at the beginning of May 2021. Eric Fredrickson offered the support of the Program Department to assist in the planning of this event. The event will be in the evening when families can get together and enjoy the event together. Jasmine Sgambelluri informed the committee that the book is \$24.99, and it would be wonderful to purchase the book for our elementary schools. Anika suggested that the event be held in June as it is Indigenous History Month and it would be an inclusive event. The committee agreed unanimously to support this event.	Serena Essex Ashley Nurmela Jasmine Sgambelluri
	4.2 8061 AEAC Policy & Procedures Update	Anika Guthrie informed the committee that the revised 8061 Aboriginal Policy and Procedures is currently with the superintendent for finishing touches before it goes to the Board on April 20, 2021.	Anika Guthrie

5.	Presentation		
	5.1 Budget Presentation	<p>Stephanie Ryyanen, Supervisor of Financial Services, presented to the committee the Budget Presentation – Indigenous Education. The Board is wanting input from the committee on the best ways to allocate the Indigenous Education grant funds Stephanie presented the 2019/2020 and the 2020/2021 Indigenous Education grant allocation to the committee. The Indigenous grant funding is comprised of four different components: Indigenous Language, Indigenous Studies, Per Pupil Amount and the Board Action Plan allocation. She next presented the projected costs for the 2020-2021 Indigenous Education Expenses that comprised of teacher salaries, program supports, tutors in cultural environment and resources/training.</p> <p>Stephanie Ryyanen’s presentation included guiding principles and the 2021-2022 Budget Process. The guiding principles included that students come first, financial resources will be aligned to match operational goals, invest in the future of the organization, input of stakeholders will assist in setting the Board’s priorities and budget decisions will ensure strong futures.</p> <p>The AEAC committee’s 2021-2022 budget deputation will be prepared and presented to the Board on April 6, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. by Anika Guthrie and Serena Essex.</p>	<p>Superintendent Kirsti Alaksa Angela Lee-Wiwcharyk Stephanie Ryyanen</p>
	5.2 Mental Health 2020-2021 Action Plan	<p>Megan Tiernan presented the Lakehead District School Board’s Mental Health 2020-2021 Action plan to the committee. Megan outlined the three-year strategic plan that outlines the priorities in mental wellness and health. The strategic plan is aligned with School Mental Health Ontario.</p> <p>Megan presented the priorities in the plan as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working Across the Tiers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tier 1 – Foundation – School and Classroom Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome, Include, Understand, Promote and Partner Tier 2 – Notice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Identification – Prevent, Support and Bolster Tier 3 – Bridge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize Board and Community Services (social workers and community nurses) 2. Engagement and Collaboration 3. Leadership and Organizational Conditions 	<p>Megan Tiernan</p>

6.	New Business		
	6.1 Policy Review – 8072 Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity	<p>Superintendent Probizanski informed the committee that the review for the 8072 Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity policy and procedures went out to constituents on February 10, 2021. Feedback from constituents closes tomorrow, March 26, 2021. This policy and procedures were sent to additional constituents for feedback. The Board received great feedback from Thunder Pride. Mahejabeen Ebrahim, Human Rights & Equity Advisor, is revising the policy and procedures and will be presenting them to the Board on April 20, 2021. Superintendent Probizanski expressed to the committee that all communities are welcomed at Lakehead District School Board and will be treated with respect and dignity. Administrators have been trained and training is moving on to staff. Board leadership would promote safe, equitable and inclusive environments.</p>	Superintendent Michelle Probizanski
	6.2 Principal/Vice Principal Selection Process	<p>This agenda item was presented to the committee last year.</p>	Superintendent Michelle Probizanski
	6.3 Budget Deputation – April 6, 2021	<p>Anika Guthrie informed the committee that they would be presenting the Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee (AEAC) budget deputation on April 6, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. Elder Gerry Martin requested that Cree be a language offered to students. Anika informed the committee that the system is polled regarding the language that they would like to have offered. Superintendent Keene added that Indigenous language classes expand every year. For example, Sherbrooke Public School is offering a Native as a Second Language program. The Board is in a shortage of qualified instructors and is constantly recruiting. Jasmine Sgambelluri added that the Program Department attends local career fairs to recruit language instructors.</p>	Anika Guthrie

7.	Information and Inquiries		
	7.1 COVID-19 Update	Superintendent Keene informed the committee on another extension of school closures by the Thunder Bay Health Unit. The next meeting to discuss further closures is on April 6, 2021. There might be an extension of closure, in the province, after the Spring Break to deter spread. He acknowledged that the Board is aware that parents are struggling with the current state of virtual learning at home. There were 100 cases of school age children with COVID that closed five schools prior to the current shutdown. One student being confirm with COVID could have a possible 3-70 contacts. The Board supports the Thunder Bay Health Unit in keeping our students and staff safe.	AJ Keene
	7.2 Indigenous Student Trustee Update	Indigenous Student Trustee Keira Essex sent her regrets. Trustee Chambers informed the committee that Indigenous Student Trustee Essex was selected to sit at a Ministry of Education table to discuss the upcoming de-streaming of secondary courses and revamping curriculum.	Keira Essex
	7.3 Native Language Supports and Resources	Anika Guthrie updated the committee that there have been two virtual learning opportunities in March 2021. One event was on March 4, 2021 with Anishinawbek Nation Nation and the other was an Indigenous Language Symposium on March 25, 2021 through Manitoba. Anika also informed the committee that they will be allowing release time for the two Indigenous Language teachers to review the Grades 4-8 curriculum as it is currently outdated.	Anika Guthrie
	7.4 Updates	Anika Guthrie informed the committee that Ashley Nurmela had to excuse herself from the meeting for another commitment but she wanted the committee to know the National Indigenous Day was underway and that Indigenous Youth Achievement and Recognition Awards (IYARA).was organizing another 'Run the North' event with the United Way for 2021.	Ashley Nurmela
8.	Information and Inquiries		
	8.1 Jordan's Principle	Kristy Boucher sent her regrets. This agenda item will be forwarded to the May 13, 2021 meeting.	Kristy Boucher

	8.2 NAN Best Practices in First Nations Education Forum	Anika Guthrie introduced Ardelle Sagutcheway who informed the committee about her attendance at the NAN Best Practices in First Nation Education Forum. The event was attended by educators, the staff from LPS Kingfisher Outdoor Education Centre and youth who participated in the panel. She watched the student panel in Northern Ontario. The students voiced that there needs to be better support systems in the schools and at home. Serena Essex requested a summary of the meeting as it was recorded and was being shared.	Anika Guthrie
9.	Closing	Elder Martin had to leave the meeting before the closing but sent his remarks in the chat area which Serena Essex read.	
10.	Next Meeting	Thursday, May 13, 2021	
11.	Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.	