



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

- DATE:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 – 9:30 am – 12:00pm - Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams
- CO-CHAIRS:** Anika Guthrie
Serena Essex
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kathy Beardy, Kristy Boucher, Brittany Collins, Keli Cristofaro, Elliott Cromarty, Indigenous Student Trustee Keira Essex, Pauline Fontaine, Anna Fern Kakegamic, Sharon Kanutski, Cheryl King-Zewiec, Elder Gerry Martin, Skylene Metatawabin, Ardelle Sagutcheway, Indigenous Trustee Scottie Wemigwans
- ALTERNATES:** Trustee Ellen Chambers, Katrina Fiddler, Elder/Knowledge Keeper Renee Tookenay
- RESOURCES:** Mahejabeen Ebrahim, Eric Fredrickson, Donna Flasz, Superintendent AJ Keene, Ashley Nurmela, Nick Sacevich, Fred Van Elburg
- GUESTS:** Patti Pella, Education Officer, Indigenous Education Office, Ministry of Education
- ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Dinah Jung, Leanna Marshall, Mike Judge, Emma Kaminawash, Jasmine Sgambelluri, Trustee Ryan Sitch, Sophie Sutherland, Yolanda Wanakamik,

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	Opening Ceremonies	Co-chair 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	Co-chair Guthrie acknowledged the lands and traditional territory.	Anika Guthrie
	2.2 Welcome and Introductions	Co-chair Essex welcomed everyone to the meeting and had all members introduce themselves	Serena Essex

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
3.	Agenda and Minutes		
	3.1 Approval of Agenda - May 13, 2021	Moved by Elder Gerry Martin and seconded by Cheryl King-Zewiec that the agenda for the May 13, 2021 AEAC Microsoft Teams meeting be approved. Carried	Anika Guthrie
	3.2 Approval of Minutes – Mar. 25, 2021	Moved by Indigenous Trustee Scottie Wemigwans and seconded by Kathy Boucher that the minutes for the March 25, 2021 AEAC meeting be approved as written. Carried	Anika Guthrie
4.	Business Arising from the Minutes	4.3 Jordan's Principle (deferred March 25) Kristy Boucher was removed from the May 13, 2021 meeting.	Anika Guthrie
	4.1 PIC Funding Update	Ashley Nurmela updated the committee on the Live Ready event with Author David Bouchard. Families of students in Grades K – 12 will be invited to the virtual reading event on June 6, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Copies of David Bouchard's most recent book, 'Meet the Family', will be given away as prizes on the evening of the event. The link and the invitation to the virtual reading event will be sent to the AEAC members.	Ashley Nurmela
	4.2 Budget Deputation Update	Anika Guthrie presented the AEAC budget deputation on April 6, 2021. Superintendent Keene informed the committee that the Board has received their GSN from the Ministry of Education. The Board's budget is on track for budget approval at the end of June 2021. The Board is expanding the allocation of the Native Language teachers from 2.5 to 3.0 for the 2021-2022 school year. Patti Pella added that the Indigenous funding has been enveloped. Grad coaches will have continued funding for the 2021-2022 school year.	Anika Guthrie

5.	Presentation		
	5.1 NAN Youth Panel	Kathy Beardy, NAN Education Department Manager, and Katrina Fiddler, NAN Education Initiatives Coordinator, presented to the committee the video of the NAN Youth Panel – Best Practices for Indigenous Education. The panel incorporated school boards from the NAN territories. The student panel included an agenda regarding the practices. There was a separate panel that was held for teachers to participate in. There was an array of students that participated in the panel from each elementary and secondary school. The committee viewed the video and listened to the students’ voice regarding their experiences in their school.	Kathy Beardy
	5.2 Strategic Plan 2021-2024	Trustee Chambers thanked the members of AEAC that participated in the creation of the Lakehead District School Board’s (LDSB) Strategic Plan 2021-2024. The members that she recognized were Indigenous Student Trustee Keira Essex, Elder Gerry Martin and Superintendent AJ Keene. Superintendent Keene shared the plan with the committee. Trustee Chambers also thanked Sheelagh Hendricks and Niigaan Sinclair for their inspirational and holistic vision for LDSB’s Strategic Plan. Trustee Chambers reviewed the plan with the committee. Trustee Chambers pointed out that the LDSB’s values have added ‘inclusion’. She expressed LDSB’s great commitment to reconciliation as reflected in the principles: Reconcile, Belong, Achieve, Lead, Inspire. Trustee Chambers reviewed the Indigenous education framework: Relevancy, Respect, Relationality, Responsibilities. Indigenous Student Trustee Essex reflected on her first involvement with the planning was prior to her swearing in. Superintendent Keene expressed his appreciation for all of AEAC’s contribution to the Strategic Plan.	Ellen Chambers
6.	New Business		
	6.1 AEAC Meeting Dates	<p>The following are the approved dates for the 2021-2022 AEAC meetings:</p> <p>Thursday, September 16, 2021 Thursday, November 4, 2021 Thursday, December 9, 2021 Thursday, February 10, 2022 Thursday, March 24, 2022 Thursday, May 12, 2022 Thursday, June 9, 2022</p> <p>A list of the dates and appointments will be sent out to members.</p>	Anika Guthrie

	6.2 Indigenous Reads Book Club	Co-chair Guthrie informed the committee that the program department has put together an Indigenous Reads Book Club with author Alicia Elliott's book, 'A Mind Spread Out on the Ground. Over 50 educators prepare for the Indigenous Reads Book Club in a unified effort to gain understanding about the past and present in an effort to build a stronger future.	Anika Guthrie on behalf of Jasmine Sgambelluri
	6.3 PIC Member 2021-2022	Co-Chair Serena Essex informed the committee that a letter from the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) was received stating that they were receiving nominations for two representatives (one member and one alternate member) from AEAC to sit on PIC for 2021-2022 school year. Currently, Sharon Kanutski is the member and Serena Essex is the alternate member. PIC meets a minimum of four times a year. The AEAC representatives for PIC need to be selected by September 24, 2021.	Serena Essex
	6.4 Summer Programs	<p>Eric Fredrickson, Principal of Program and Early Years, confirmed that the summer programs have Ministry funding. He informed the committee that they are waiting for confirmation on whether the camps will be running in person or whether they will be full virtual again like last summer due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Planning is being done for both virtual and in person programs.</p> <p>Nick Sacevich updated the committee on the planning for the secondary summer programs. A Bridge for Success program is being launched next week for those students in Grade 8 transitioning into Grade 9. Students were recommended by their Grade 8 teacher for this particular program. This program is specific to those students that have gaps in math. The program offers tutoring and extra help to bridge them into Grade 9 math and to be more successful. The program will be running virtually on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout May and June. A week of activities for a half day in the morning is being planned for these students in the first week of summer. Currently it is not known if the program will run virtually or in person.</p> <p>The programs that typically run during the summer, like Credit Recovery, will be running through July. This course allows students that almost passed their course the opportunity to complete the failed course.</p> <p>Academic Upgrading program will be offered to those students that were not happy with their marks in the summer</p> <p>Grade 8 Reach Ahead program for Indigenous students is being offered again this summer. It is an opportunity for the Grade 8 students to obtain a Grade 9 credit prior to them starting secondary school in September. Each secondary school has the opportunity this summer to each have a section of</p>	Nick Sacevich Eric Fredrickson

		<p>this course to offer. This allows more team building and connection to their secondary school.</p> <p>Focus on Youth is a program partnered with Roots to Harvest, funded by the Ministry, and will be offered again this summer. Secondary schools are recommending and putting applications forward for the eight students that can work and get paid with Roots to Harvest.</p>	
7.	Information and Inquiries		
	7.1 COVID-19 Update	<p>Superintendent Keene updated the committee that LDSB is relying on provincial decisions around reopening or not. The Thunder Bay District Health Unit is in favour of reopening before the end of this school year.</p> <p>The window for remote learning for the 2021-2022 school year was opened and closed. Requests by families for remote learning will still be accepted on a day to day basis.</p> <p>Currently, we are up in the air but hopeful that we will be in person, safe and everyone back in the fall.</p>	AJ Keene
	7.2 Indigenous Student Trustee Update	<p>Indigenous Student Trustee Essex announced that the selection for the new student trustees have been completed and that Annika Finlayson is the new Indigenous Student Trustee and Mehar Mago is the new Student Trustee. Indigenous Student Trustee Essex also attended a provincial round table about de-streaming with a focus on student success and that she was able to advocate for community wellness and student belonging and uses of Indigenous resources in the classroom.</p>	Keira Essex
	7.3 Native Language Supports and Resources	<p>Co-chair Guthrie will give a more holistic update at the June 2021 meeting on Native Language Supports and Resources.</p>	Anika Guthrie
	7.4 Updates	<p>Ashley put her updates in the chat. National Indigenous Peoples Day is still working on a final plan and IYARA awards' nominations are open now. IYARA, in partnership with the United Way, are holding a fundraising run called Run the North.</p>	Ashley Nurmela

8.	Information and Inquiries	
		<p>Kathy Beardy announced that NAN is planning an online land-based language and learning gathering on June 2 and 3, 2021. They are calling for presenters. She will share the information with Anika. The deadline for calling for presenters is May 14, 2021. The gathering is a two-day event to open conversation between educators and anyone to share their experience and knowledge within the provincial education system. The theme is 'Inspiring Connection and Culture'.</p> <p>Mahejabeen Ebrahim, Human Rights & Equity Advisor, shared with the committee that LDSB has two brand new policies and procedures; Teacher Hiring and Conflict of Interest. Feedback from AEAC is greatly appreciated and can be sent to Executive Secretary Sarah Schoales sarah_schoales@lakeheadschoools.ca.</p>
9.	Closing	Elder Martin closed the meeting with a very insightful and inspirational view.
10.	Next Meeting	Thursday, June 10, 2021
11.	Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.