



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018, Board Room, Education Centre

MEMBERS PRESENT: Trustee Ellen Chambers, Pauline Fontaine, Sharon Kanutski, Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Dolores Wawia, Brandon Moonias, Skylene Metatawabin, Kathleen Andrews, Brittany Collins, Mike Judge, Chris Larocque, Donica LeBlanc, Jane Lower, Elder Isabelle Mercier, Ashley Nurmela, Jasmine Sgambelluri, Lawrence Baxter, Angela Benedict

ABSENT WITH REGRET: Selena Baxter, Kathy Beardy, Elliott Cromarty, Rita Fenton, Donna Flaszka, Elder Gerry Martin, Serena Essex, Nicole Walter Rowan, Trustee Marg Arnone, Kristy Boucher

GUESTS: Dr. John Hodson & Nadine Hedican, Cheryl Zewiec – Gull Bay First Nation, Bruce Nugent, Kirsti Alaksa, Angela Lee-Wiwcharyk, Brooklyn DelPino, Daniel Griffin and Barry Smith (Generator); Bruce Nugent

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	Opening Ceremonies	Sherri-Lynne Pharand called 9:30 a.m. and asked Elder Isabelle Mercier to conduct the opening. Following the opening, a moment of silence was held to honour Senator Bob McKay who recently passed away.	
2.	Welcome and Introductions	2.1 Sherri-Lynne Pharand thanked Elder Mercier for the opening. She welcomed everyone, including our guests and introductions were made. Regrets and substitutions were noted and the attendance sheet was circulated.	
3.	Agenda / Minutes		
	3.1 Approval of Agenda – Feb. 15, 2018	Moved by Pauline Fontaine and seconded by Sharon Knutski that the agenda for the February 15 th , 2018 meeting be approved. Carried.	

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	3.2 Approval of Minutes – Dec. 14, 2017	Moved by Pauline Fontaine and seconded by Ellen Chambers that the minutes for the December 14 th , 2017 AEAC meeting be approved as written. Carried.	
4.	Correspondence	The correspondence file was circulated.	
5.	Presentations		
	5.1 2018 – 2019 Budget Presentation	<p>Angela Lee-Wiwcharyk thanked AEAC for the opportunity to present the 2018 – 2019 Budget. She noted that it is extremely important to Trustees and Board Administration to receive input from AEAC as discussions begin on how to best allocate the Indigenous Education funds (formerly the First Nations, Metis and Inuit Education Supplement or FNMI).</p> <p>The allocation is comprised of four different components. Indigenous Language – calculated based on elementary and secondary enrolment; Indigenous Studies - calculated based on secondary enrolment; Per Pupil Amount – calculated using board enrolment and 2006 census data and 2011 national household survey; and Board Action Plan Allocation – calculated using combination of total board enrolment and aboriginal student self id data.</p> <p>This funding supports implementation of programs and initiatives aligned with the strategies and actions identified in the Ontario FNMI Education Policy Framework.</p> <p>She noted that the Ministry of Education funding announcements and grant regulations have not yet been released – but are expected by the end of March. Regardless of what comes from the funding announcements - grant reductions from the province or from declining enrolment, the Mission of Lakehead Public Schools will not change, we will remain committed to the success and well-being of every student. This mission is the focal point in the budget development and resources will be aligned with the priorities in the strategic plan.</p>	Kirsti Alaksa, Angela-Lee Wiwcharyk, Brooklyn DelPino

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
		<p>All questions were answered.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne thanked the Trustees and finance department for their continued support of FNMI learners.</p> <p>The AEAC Budget Deputation must be submitted to Robin Orr by March 23. Ashley will work on the deputation and AEAC will review the draft deputation at the next meeting.</p>	
	<p>5.2 Biwaase'aa Maamaawisiwin Research and Education Innovation Project – Final Report</p>	<p>Dr. Hodson gave a brief overview of the Biwaase'aa Maamaawisiwin Research and Education Innovation Project that works in partnership with the school board. This project has worked with children in McKellar, Ogden, Sherbrooke, Churchill, St. James, Vance Chapman and Westgate.</p> <p>Dr. Hodson shared a list of 5 recommendations from the 2016-2017 Final Report. He is asking for support from AEAC. Sherri-Lynne Pharand noted that the document is lengthy and before AEAC votes on the recommendations, we would like to take some time to review it carefully. She did note that LDSB has always supported Biwaase'aa and agrees that it is an excellent project.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne Pharand expressed concern for the use of Mino Bimaadiziwin as the name of the 'dynamic vision' as this is the name of the summer camp we run each year. She had a number of other comments which Dr. Hodson will take under advisement.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne Pharand agreed that this was a <i>good news story!</i></p> <p>Dr. Hodson gave a 'semma' – a gift of tobacco to the board and chair – if we agree to the recommendations, it's up to us what we do with the tobacco (as per Isabelle). AEAC will contact Dr. Hodson once we have fully reviewed the document and discussed the recommendations.</p> <p>All questions were answered.</p>	<p>Dr. John Hodson</p>

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	5.3 Inclusion Campaign Update	<p>Daniel Griffin and Barry Smith prefaced their presentation on the Inclusion Campaign saying that they have learned a lot but still have a lot to learn.</p> <p>The presentation they gave today is just an update. They still have to speak with ONWA, FWFN and Biwaase'aa.</p> <p>Today's presentation focused on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project background; 2. Research process; 3. What did we hear; 4. Research findings; and 5. Summary and next steps. <p>Sherri-Lynne Pharand noted that we all know what is happening in our community but to see the evidence that Generator presented today, it is heavy on our hearts. There is a lot of work to do within all areas. AEAC takes one step at a time, which will lead to better hope for our youth in the future and then for our community.</p> <p>It was suggested that a sub-committee task force be set up to work on specific strategies/key actions. All were in favour of this idea. Ashley Nurmela will be the lead with help from Chris Larocque. Barry Smith and Daniel Griffin will work with the sub-committee. Others will be asked to join the committee as well once they begin strategizing.</p> <p>All questions were answered.</p>	Daniel Griffin Barry Smith (Generator);-
6.	Business Arising from the Minutes		
	6.1 Letter re 2017 – 2018 BAP on FMNI Education	deferred	Sherri-Lynne Pharand
7.	New Business		
	7.1 Naming of the New School	There is a link on the website for people to submit their suggestions for the name of the new school (Agnew H. Johnston / Edgewater Park). Brenda will email the link to all members.	Sherri-Lynne Pharand

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	7.2 Diversity Breakfast	If any members are interested in attending the Diversity Breakfast on March 21, please see Brenda. She will purchase tickets for those interested.	
8.	Updates	Due to time constraints, Ashley handed out information regarding her updates as noted below. These updates are included with the minutes.	
	8.1 Kindergarten Registration Night	Due to time constraints, each member was given a handout outlining her updates.	Ashley Nurmela
	8.2 Harmony Movement		
	8.3 FNMI Presence in our Schools Books		
	8.4 AYARA		
9.	Information and Inquiries		
	9.1 Lunch & Learn	A Lunch and Learn presentation re Absenteeism in LDSB will be held at Victoria Park on February 29 th . If you are interested in attending, please see Brenda and she will contact Robin Orr with names of those who wish to attend.	
10.	Closing	Elder Isabelle Mercier closed the meeting with a prayer.	
11.	Next Meeting	March 29, 2018	
12.	Adjournment	11:25 pm	

Updates: Ashley Nurmela – February 15, 2018

Kindergarten Registration Night-

I attended and shared a table with the Indigenous Friendship Centre and while it was my pleasure to enjoy the company of the two wonderful women they sent, it was also very difficult to speak of each of our own areas. i.e. most people who approached our table had no idea that we (AEAC) were also present at the booth.

I handed out Aboriginal Presence In Our Schools booklet and spoke of the update headed to print and self-id and its importance. I shared that I transferred my own children from the other system and that I was very pleased. I also handed out puzzles, playdough and dinosaurs. I would say the evening was a success.

Harmony Movement

I participated in a two day Social Changemakers Leadership program which works towards enhancing student knowledge of intersectionality and social privilege, increasing awareness of stereotypes, prejudice and different types of discrimination; applies an equity lens to the media; utilizes different tools to analyze school communities through an equity lens and creates student led initiatives that foster inclusion and/or celebrate diversity.

I recently joined the equity committee and had my first ever experience with the Elementary School Senate. I was with a group of young individuals who gave me nothing but hope and pride in our schools and also in our community. I took part in the stereotype exercises, and was blown away with the students' dedication and drive to make our schools and community better.

The Aboriginal Presence In Our Schools booklet is scheduled to go to print soon. We had a delay in printing due to uncertainty surrounding some of the language. We also added Senator Bob McKay to the dedication page.

AYARA

On April 20th a "Paint Night" will be held at Beau Daddy's in support of the Aboriginal Youth Achievement and Recognition Awards. For more information, contact Ashley Nurmela at ashley_nurmela@lakeheadschoools.ca