



**MIINIWEWINAN  
INDIGENOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DATE:** Thursday, March 27, 2025 – 9:00 am – 12:00pm – Boardroom/Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

**CO-CHAIR:** Heather Harris

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Shelby Ch'ng, Elliott Cromarty, Eryn Genno, Indigenous Student Trustee, Trustee Pat Johansen, Cheryl King-Zewiec, Grant Robbins, Elder Melissa Roberts, Indigenous Trustee Scottie Wemigwans

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

**RESOURCES:** Kali Bernst, Anika Guthrie, Tanya Moses, Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education, Jasmine Sgambelluri

**GUESTS:** Julia Gray, Shai Loyie, Patti Pella, Education Officer, Indigenous Education Office, Ministry of Education, Stephanie Ryyananen, Supervisor of Finance

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Kathleen Andrews, Myra Bannon, Kathy Beardy, Kristy Boucher, Sheri Boucher, Elder Sheila DeCorte, Serena Essex, Anthony Jeethan, Anna Fern Kakegamic, Michelle Kakegamic, Akansha Kaur, Miranda Lesperance, Jane Lower, Dave Paddington, Brett Parres, Angelina Tassone, Morning Star Tom Trustee Trudy Tuchenhausen (Alternate)

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	Opening	Elder Melissa Roberts opened the meeting.	Elder Melissa Roberts
2.	2.1 Land Acknowledgement	Co-chair Serena Essex acknowledged the lands and traditional territory.	Serena Essex
	2.2 Welcome and Introductions	Co-Chair Heather Harris welcomed everyone to the meeting and had all members introduce themselves.	Heather Harris

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
3.	Agenda and Minutes		
	3.1 Approval of Agenda - March 27, 2025	Moved by Trustee Pat Johansen and seconded by Shelby Ch'ng, that the agenda for the March 27, 2025 Miiniwewinan meeting be approved as written.  <b>Carried</b>	Serena Essex
	3.2 Approval of Minutes – February 6, 2024	Moved by Shelby Ch'ng and seconded by Grant Robbins, that the minutes for the February 6, 2024 Miiniwewinan meeting be approved as written.  <b>Carried</b>	Serena Essex
4.	Presentations		
	4.1 Budget 2025-2026	Stephanie Ryynanen, Supervisor of Finance shared information outlining the 2025-2026 budget process and development.  All members' questions were addressed.	Stephanie Ryynanen
	4.2 Learning Continuum: Grade 6 Book Club	Jasmine Sgambelluri, FNMI Resource Teacher and Coordinator shared a presentation highlighting the positive feedback from students and teachers who have participated in The Barren Grounds Book Club.  All members' questions were addressed.	Jasmine Sgambelluri
	4.3 Role of the Indigenous Student Wellness and Engagement Coordinator	Shai Loyie, Indigenous Student Wellness and Engagement Coordinator shared a presentation highlighting her role as the Indigenous Student Wellness and Engagement Coordinator and the activities that have taken place throughout the school year.  All members' questions were addressed.	Shai Loyie
5.	Business Arising from the Minutes		
	OBSBA Award Nomination	Co-chair Serena Essex shared that it was decided to nominate Elliott Cromarty for an OBSBA award.  All members' questions were addressed.	Serena Essex

6.	New Business		
	6.1 2025-2026 Budget Deputation	Co-chair Heather Harris shared priorities to be included in our budget deputation that will be presented to the Budget Committee in April.  All members questions were addressed.	Heather Harris
	6.2 Orange Shirt Design	Jasmine Sgambelluri, FNMI Resource Teacher and Coordinator shared the designs from students who have entered the Orange Shirt Day competition. The winning t-shirt design will be announced at a later date.	Jasmine Sgambelluri
	6.3 Matawa MOU Signing	Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education and member Shelby Ch'ng shared information about the Memorandum of Understanding between Lakehead District School Board and Matawa First Nations.	Heather Harris
	6.4 National Indigenous People's Day	Tanya Moses shared information about Education Day activities that will occur on June 5, 2025, and the National Indigenous People's Day Pow-wow on June 21, 2025.  All members' questions were addressed.	Serena Essex
	6.5 Mino Bimaadiziwin Mid-Year Check-In	Co-chair Serena Essex shared that additional funding for the Mino Bimaadiziwin program was secured through the Indigenous Friendship Centre as well as a grant that was applied for.  Shai Loyie, Indigenous Student Wellness and Engagement Coordinator shared information about a two-day event at the Nor'wester Conference Centre that will focus on guns and gangs, violence awareness and prevention.  All members' questions were addressed.	Serena Essex
7.	Ongoing Business		
	7.1 Indigenous Student Trustee Update	Eryn Genno, Indigenous Student Trustee shared an update on some of the meaningful projects she has been working on to help promote Indigenous awareness and representation.  All members' questions were addressed.	Eryn Genno
	7.2 FNMI Partnerships Coordinator Update	Tanya Moses, shared that the tentative date for the Fall Harvest is September 24, 2025 and other initiatives she has been involved with.	Tanya Moses

8.	Information and Inquiries	<p>Co-chair Heather Harris shared that Lakehead District School Board had a table at the Diversity Thunder Bay lunch with Dr. Roshan Danesh speaking about reconciling history and the challenge of building community.</p> <p>Co-chair Serena Essex shared that the Indigenous Friendship Centre hosted its volunteer appreciation event that included the Young Thunder Group drumming.</p>
9.	Closing	Elder Melissa Roberts closed the meeting.
10.	Next Meeting	Thursday, May 8, 2025
11.	Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.