



**MIINIWEWINAN
INDIGENOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- DATE:** Thursday, October 2, 2025 – 9:00 am – 12:00pm – Boardroom/Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams
- CO-CHAIR:** Heather Harris
Serena Essex
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kathleen Andrews, Kathy Beardy, Shelby Ch’ng, Elliott Cromarty, Eryn Genno, Indigenous Student Trustee, Trustee Pat Johansen, Anna Fern Kakegamic, Angellina Tassone, Indigenous Trustee Scottie Wemigwans
- ALTERNATES:** Dinah Jung
- RESOURCES:** Jane Lower
- GUESTS:** Rachel Bayes Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU), Alina Cameron, TBDHU, Patti Pella, Education Officer, Indigenous Education Office, Ministry of Education, Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education, Megan Semeniuk, LDSB Mental Health Lead, Marianne Stewart, TBDHU
- ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Myra Bannon, Kali Bernst, Sheri Boucher, Trustee, Ellen Chambers, Elder Sheila DeCorte, Anika Guthrie, Anthony Jeethan, Akansha Kaur, Cheryl King-Zewiec, Elder Gerry Martin, Dave Paddington, Elder Melissa Roberts, Grant Robbins, Jasmine Sgambelluri, Morning Star Tom, Trustee Trudy Tuchenhagen (Alternate)

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	Opening	Co-chair Serena Essex opened the meeting.	Serena Essex
2.	2.1 Land Acknowledgement	Co-chair Serena Essex acknowledged the lands and traditional territory.	Serena Essex

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	2.2 Welcome and Introductions	Co-chair Heather Harris welcomed everyone to the meeting and had all members introduce themselves.	Heather Harris
3.	Agenda and Minutes		
	3.1 Approval of Agenda October 2, 2025	Moved by Trustee Pat Johansen and seconded by Elliott Cromarty, that the agenda for the October 2, 2025 Miiniwewinan meeting be approved as written. Carried	Serena Essex
	3.2 Approval of Minutes June 19, 2025	Moved by Shelby Ch'ng and seconded by Trustee Pat Johansen, that the minutes for the June 19, 2025 Miiniwewinan meeting be approved as written. Carried	Serena Essex
4.	Presentations		
	4.1 Thunder Bay District Health Unit / Lakehead District School Board School Climate Survey	Megan Semeniuk, LDSB Mental Health Lead, Rachel Bayes, Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU), Alina Cameron, TBDHU, and Marianne Stewart, TBDHU shared a draft Climate Survey with the committee and asked for feedback. All members' questions were addressed.	Megan Semeniuk Rachel Bayes Alina Cameron Marianne Stewart
	4.2 Summer Programs	Kathleen Andrews, Student Success Lead, shared a presentation outlining the summer learning programs that operated during July and August 2025. All members' questions were addressed.	Kathleen Andrews
5.	Business Arising from the Minutes		
	5.1 Indigenous Cultural Safety Strategy	Co-chair Heather Harris presented the Indigenous Cultural Safety Strategy priorities that were identified and asked the committee for feedback. All members' questions were addressed.	Heather Harris

	5.2 Pow-wow Prep Event	Co-chair Heather Harris shared a CBC News video highlighting the pow-wow preparation event held at Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute in June 2025, which was supported by funds from the committee's Parent Involvement Committee.	Heather Harris
6.	New Business		
	6.1 Indigenous Education Priorities	Co-chair Heather Harris split the committee into groups to discuss and record Indigenous Education Priorities.	Heather Harris
	6.2 LPS Ceremony Protocol	Co-chair Serena Essex shared that discussions are underway regarding the creation of a Lakehead Public Schools Ceremony Protocol, focusing on ways to support all participants while providing learning opportunities for students.	Serena Essex
	6.3 Secondary Staffing and Program Update	Jane Lower, Superintendent of Education, shared that all three high schools now have a KZ Lodge program. Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute launched the program in September 2025. She also noted that each high school now has its own graduation coach.	Jane Lower
7.	Ongoing Business		
	Indigenous Student Trustee Update	Eryn Genno, Indigenous Student Trustee updated the committee on projects she is currently working on and goals she has for the school year. All members questions were addressed.	Eryn Genno
8.	Information and Inquiries	Co-chair Heather Harris congratulated Elliott Cromarty on receiving an OPSBA Achievement Award. Co-chair Heather Harris informed the committee that the Board of Trustees submitted a letter to the Ministry of Education regarding potential changes to the structure of Trustees. Trustees Pat Johansen and Indigenous Trustee Scottie Wemigwans expressed their concerns and emphasized the need for community support to help voice these concerns to the Ministry. Co-chair Serena Essex asked the committee if they would endorse a letter of support from the committee. There were no objections.	
9.	Closing	Co-chair Serena Essex closed the meeting.	
10.	Next Meeting	Thursday, November 6, 2025	
11.	Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.	