



**MIINIWEWINAN
INDIGENOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

DATE: Thursday, February 26, 2026 – 9:30 am – 12:00pm – Boardroom/Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

CO-CHAIR: Heather Harris
Serena Essex

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elliott Cromarty, Trustee Ellen Chambers, Trustee Pat Johansen, Eryn Genno, Indigenous Student Trustee, Elder Gerry Martin

ALTERNATES:

RESOURCES: Kali Bernst, Katie Boryssewicz, Anika Guthrie, Jasmine Sgambelluri, Kyra Visitor, Student Representative

GUESTS: Bluewater District School Board, Eilidh Childs, Darren Lentz, Stephanie Ryyanen

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Kathleen Andrews, Kathy Beardy, Sheri Boucher, Shelby Ch'ng, Anthony Jeethan, Anna Fern Kakegamic, Akansha Kaur, Cheryl King-Zewiec, Jane Lower, Dave Paddington, Trustee Trudy Tuchenhagen (Alternate), Patti Pella, Education Officer, Indigenous Education Office, Ministry of Education, Indigenous Trustee Scottie Wemigwans

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	Opening	Elder Gerry Martin opened the meeting.	Elder Gerry Martin
2.	2.1 Land Acknowledgement	Co-chair Heather Harris 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 February 26, 2026	Moved by Trustee Pat Johansen and seconded by Trustee Ellen Chambers that the agenda for the February 26, 2026, Miiniwewinan meeting be confirmed with the addition of 5.2 Indigenous Cultural Safety Strategy Plan.” Confirmed	Heather Harris
	3.2 Approval of Minutes November 27, 2025	Lack of quorum.	Heather Harris
4.	Presentations		
	4.1 Annual Budget Presentation	Stephanie Ryynanen, Supervisor of Finance shared the 2026-2027 Indigenous Education budget development, guiding principles, budget process, as well as 2025-2026 revised estimates and expenses.	Stephanie Ryynanen
	4.2 Map Presentation	Jasmine Sgambelluri, FNMI Education Resource Teacher, shared a presentation highlighting the collaborative learning session using the Indigenous Peoples Floor Map that was held with 28 Grade 5 educators. The session modelled learning the educators could bring back to their students and was meant to strengthen teacher confidence. All members’ questions were addressed.	Jasmine Sgambelluri
	4.3 Urban Land-based Learning	Eilidh Child, Elementary Teacher and Darren Lentz, Elementary Principal, shared a presentation highlighting the Connected North interactive, virtual learning happening at Algonquin Avenue Public School. All members’ questions were addressed.	Eilidh Childs Darren Lentz
5.	Business Arising from the Minutes		
	5.1 Response from Minister of Education	Co-chair Heather Harris shared a letter received from the Minister of Education responding to the committee’s correspondence in support of the role of the trustee.	Heather Harris

		The committee discussed responding with another letter voicing their support.	
	5.2 Indigenous Cultural Safety Strategy Plan	Kali Bernst, Principal of Indigenous Education and Program shared the completed Indigenous Cultural Safety Strategy Plan document. All members' questions were addressed.	Kali Bernst
6.	New Business		
	6.1 Budget Submission Input	Co-chair Heather Harris asked the committee for their input to support the preparation of the annual budget submission.	Heather Harris
	6.2 Youth Leadership Conference	This agenda item was deferred.	Kali Bernst
	6.3 Family Event Discussion/Planning	This agenda item was deferred.	Serena Essex
	6.4 New FNMI Staff Positions	This agenda item was deferred.	Kali Bernst
7.	Ongoing Business		
	7.1 Indigenous Student Trustee Update	Eryn Genno, Indigenous Student Trustee shared information about a workshop she attended, helping with the Kindergarten open house, and her work with other student trustees in the region.	Eryn Genno
	7.2 Anishinaabemowin Revitalization	Anika Guthrie, Anishnaabemowin Revitalization Coordinator shared information on the Anishinaabemowin Educators Book Club she has been participating in and the Family Anishinaabemowin Learning Weekend that took place in January. Information about language conference that was attended by four secondary students.	Anika Guthrie
8.	Information and Inquiries	Information about the Diversity Thunder Bay Presents luncheon happening on March 26, 2026 was shared with the committee.	
9.	Closing	Co-chair Serena Essex closed the meeting.	
10.	Next Meeting	Thursday, April 9, 2026	
11.	Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.	