

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



Mission Statement

*In partnership with the students, the home and the community,
Superior-Greystone District School Board will address individual students' needs by providing:*

- ❖ a diverse education that prepares for and honours their chosen path for success,
- ❖ avenues that foster a love of learning, and
- ❖ the means to honour varied learning styles.



Native Education Advisory Committee

Friday, March 12, 2010 — 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Designated Site: Nipigon-Red Rock District High School – Red Rock, ON

Chair: Cindy Fisher

Director: Patti Pella

1.0 Roll Call

| <i>Attendance Mode: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|---|---|------------------------------------|----|----|----|---|---|
| First Nation Members | OS | TC | VC | A | R | Trustees | OS | TC | VC | A | R |
| <i>(Aroland)</i> Mary Atlookan | | | | X | | Bartlett, Bette | X | | | | |
| <i>(Lake Nipigon)</i> Belleau, Celine | | | | X | | Fisher, Cindy <i>(Chair)</i> | X | | | | |
| <i>(Lake Nipigon)</i> Graham, Priscilla | X | | | | | Notwell, Kathryn | | | | | X |
| <i>(Long Lake # 58/ Ginnoogaming)</i> Claire O'Nabigon | | | | X | | Sparrow, Julie <i>(Ex-Officio)</i> | | | | | X |
| <i>(Pays Plat)</i> Auger, Valerie | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>(Pays Plat)</i> Thompson, Xavier (Chief) | | | | | X | Board Administration | OS | TC | VC | A | R |
| <i>(Pic Moberg)</i> Shaganash Gerald | X | | | | | Linda Browning-Morrow | X | | | | |
| <i>(Red Rock Band)</i> Christina Lindstrom | X | | | | | Pella, Patti | X | | | | |
| <i>(Rocky Bay)</i> Panamick, Edna | | | | X | | Newton, Valerie | | | | | X |
| <i>(Rocky Bay)</i> Lesperance, Velda | X | | | X | | Willcocks, Barb | | | | | X |
| <i>(White Sands)</i> Gustafson, Allen (Chief) | | | | X | | Rousseau, Bruce | X | | | | |

1.0 Blessing and Welcome

Chair, Cindy Fisher welcomed the group and provided the blessing.

2.0 Minutes

The minutes were approved as attached.

3.0 Discussion Topics

3.1 Travel Expenses for First Nation NEAC Representatives

C. Fisher suggested that travel expenses for representative attending NEAC meetings be covered for all in attendance in the same manner as board trustees who have their costs reimbursed.

Action: Director, Patti Pella will look at developing ideas to share with NEAC regarding this matter.

3.2 Rotation of NEAC Meeting Sites

C. Fisher suggested that rotating the NEAC meeting be considered as a means for the First Nation representatives to meet the community committees. The opportunity to occasionally attend NEAC meetings in their home communities may encourage attendance of the public. With some public in

attendance, the function of the NEAC itself could be explained and garner other interested persons from First Nation partners. NEAC dates are on the school year calendar. A consideration on this topic is how do we rotate meetings.

3.2.1 Process for Selection of First Nation Trustee

This needs to be identified. Any process developed must be endorsed by band chiefs, whatever the manner, i.e., election or rotation.

3.3 Aboriginal Education

3.3.1 3-Day Road

As relates to Aboriginal education, C. Fisher shared story of Auntie's Last Medicine Woman. The story carries a message about the confidence of Aboriginal youth, comparable to the six needs of people according to Maslow's theory, i.e., every person has value; a person's existence has value and self-actualization can build a people's confidence.

Velda Lesperance offered that Aboriginal youth do possess enough knowledge of their roots to know who they are and as adults and teachers it is our duty to find ways to let them know they are valued and heard. Among the suggestions:

- counseling/teaching and finding out the students' strengths
- examine the effectiveness of staff
- what connects to the students
- can we stretch their comfort zone
- role modeling through NEAC, tap into a successful Aboriginal student as a representative on the committee
- also suggested representation by a elementary student

3.3.2 Aboriginal Initiatives at SGDSB

P. Pella presented a summary of the board initiatives ([see attached information](#))

C. Fisher put out two challenges to NEAC

- a) Encourage students to apply to be student trustees
- b) Participate in a board meeting

3.3.3 Sound Foundations for the Road Ahead

C. Fisher asked the group to review this report and respond to it

- C. Fisher suggested a major challenge is the stop/start nature of programs and getting a commitment for a long time period in order to build trust
- Need to focus on Ojibway culture and take ideas for curriculum connection through stories and resources
- NEAC connection to Student Effectiveness Framework Lead
- Sweat lodge teachings
- Professional development sessions...our children need to know about other tribes
- Students' need to get grounded in who they are

3.3.4 Update: SGDSB Sound Foundations Reporting

Bruce Rousseau, Superintendent of Business provided an overview of the budget summary, advising that the ministry takes the board's grant allocation to determine the tuition costs.

- We have nine First Nation Tuition Agreements
- INAC – buildings and busses do not count
- Bussing goes through the separate board
- Post-secondary is an issue now as well
- Differences/impacts:
 - If you do not have a school and children go through the system, are they more or are they less successful?
- Accountability of First Nations:
 - 167 reports to INAC on accountability measures for boards.

4.0 **Future Meeting Agenda Items**

- Propose dates and rotation for NEAC meetings for 2010-2011 (P. Pella)
- Prepare NEAC expense recommendation for review (P. Pella)
- Delineate procedure for selection of First Nation Board Trustee (P. Pella)
- Breakdown of Tuition Agreement costs (P. Pella)

5.0 **Next Meeting**

To be held at Pic River Heron Bay on Thursday, April 23, 2010

6.0 **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

Summary of our Aboriginal Initiatives SGDSB March 9, 2010

David Bouchard Presentations: Visits planned through March in all SGDSB schools. In addition, he is presenting @ Pic River Elementary. He has done a community presentation at the Thunderbird Friendship Centre and will have done three presentations to teachers (PLC's) about incorporating his Aboriginal stories into their literacy programs with a specific focus on higher order thinking skills. (March 8-11)

PLC'S: Money was allocated from our Awareness Initiative for teachers to work in their PLC's with a focus on improving outcomes for our Aboriginal students by exploring strategies to generate higher order thinking skills. David Bouchard's presentations to our teachers in our after school sessions is designed to provide additional strategies for our teachers to support this focus.

Supported the Northern Ontario Aboriginal Film/Video Tour at Geraldton Composite High School January 1010. (This event supported current programming at the high school)

Pimootewin: The Journey— This is the first opera written in the Cree Language. It is collaboration between Cree playwright Tomson Highway and the Chinese Canadian composer Melissa Hui, and the Cree choreographer and stage director Michael Greyeyes. Marathon High School, Nipigon Red Rock, and Red Rock Public School will be the focus of the tour. It encompasses two parts; education and performance. Workshops will be offered to students at both the high school and elementary and topics will include creative movement and dance, stage management, storytelling etc. An evening community presentation will occur on May 7th in the RR area. (Student workshops April 8th Marathon area, April 9th NRRDHS and RRPS)

Student Leadership/Turtles: The Turtles will be coming back from April 19th-21 to work with our high school students to plan school-based activities for our incoming 7 and 8's. Dave Jones will do 3 presentations; one in the Geraldton area, Terrace Bay region and in Marathon. The three teachers who attended the Circle of Light conference will be involved with their students in the planning of their school activity. We are hoping to have the students who were involved with the Turtles last year to be once again involved. The focus of the student workshops will be developing a **skill set** for students to present a workshop and the second half to **create** an activity for Grade 8 students transitioning to high school.

Regional Symposium: Superior Greenstone is on the planning committee for this major Aboriginal student conference that is being hosted at Old Fort William. We will be sending 10 Aboriginal students Grade 7 to 10 from our Board along with their teachers on April 14 to 16th. I will forward you the final agenda once it is completed. (Teleconference scheduled later this week)