



SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Our Mission:

“In SGDSB we are learners. Everything we do is designed to help all students succeed and make a difference. We build positive places for learning and working... together”

Our Motto:

“Small schools make a difference”

Our Vision:

“Inspiring our students to succeed and make a difference”

Our Values:

“Character, Citizenship, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity and Critical Thinking”

Indigenous Education Advisory Committee

Tuesday, October 27, 2020 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams
Teleconference Dial-In Information: 1 – 8 4 4 – 6 1 3 – 3 1 2 0; Conference ID No.: 906 660 896 #

Agenda Review Notes

1.0 Roll Call

<i>Attendance: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)</i>											
First Nation Tuition Agreements	OS	TC	VC	A	R	Representatives	OS	TC	VC	A	R
(Aroland) Annamarie Majiskon					x	Tamara Vernier, Native Language Teacher					x
(Biigtigong Nishnabeg) Lisa Michano					x	Bernadine O'Brien, Grad Coach			x		
<i>Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinabek (Rocky Bay)</i> Yvonne Kowtish		x				Sarah Park, Grad Coach			x		
<i>Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinabek (Rocky Bay)</i> Christine Hardy					x	Student Representative Erin Couture			x		
<i>Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinabek (Rocky Bay)</i> Gabrielle Swerdlyk					x	Nancy O'Donnell, Regional Education Council Coordinator			x		
(Ginoogaming #77) Victor Chapais					x	Tim Robbins, Metis Representative			x		
(Ginoogaming #77) Sheri Taylor					x	Patti Pella, Education Officer, Ministry of Education					x
(Marten Falls FN) Sandy Moonias		x				Debra Grebenc, Metis Representative			x		
(Pays Plat) Valerie Auger			x			Trustees					
(Pic Mobert) Nicole Simpson					x	Dr. Paul Cormier (<i>IEAC Chair</i>)			x		
(Pic Mobert) Stan Sabourin				x		Mark Mannisto					x
(Red Rock) Judy Wawia			x			Christine Major			x		
(Red Rock) Marilynn Netemegestic			x			Pinky McRae (<i>Ex-officio</i>)			x		
(Bingijiwi Neyaashi Anishnaabek) Tracey Gibson					x	Board Administration					
(White Sands) Barbara Ann Wynn					x	Nicole Morden Cormier, <i>Director of Education</i>			x		
First Nation (Other)						Shy-Anne Bartlett, <i>Interim Indigenous Education Lead</i>			x		
<i>Animgiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinabek</i> Denise Bottle			x			Charlie Bishop, <i>Superintendent of Education</i>			x		
(Longlac 58 First Nation) Veronica Waboose (Chief)						Will Goodman, <i>Superintendent of Education</i>					x
Randi Ray, Wabun Education Partnership Program.						Bev Vachon, <i>Principal, Marjorie Mills Public School</i>			x		
Angela McLeod (<i>Flying Post First Nation</i>)					x	Stephen Wilson, <i>Principal, Marathon High School</i>			x		
(<i>CEP Program Liaison</i>) Skylene Metatawabin			x			Tom Rivers, <i>Vice-Principal, Geraldton Composite High School</i>					x
Maggie Hill			x			Jennifer Rissanen, <i>Principal, Nipigon-Red Rock District High School</i>					x
						Erik Leroux, <i>Vice-Principal, George O'Neill Public School</i>			x		
Presenter						Leslie Blackwood, <i>Vice-Principal, Schreiber Public School</i>			x		
Mahejabeen Ebrahim, <i>Human Rights and Equity Advisor for SGDSB</i>			x			Christopher Martin, <i>Principal, Lake Superior High School</i>					x



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2.0 Opening Prayer

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Marilyn Netemegestic.

3.0 Welcome and Introductions

Committee Chair Paul Cormier welcomed Debra Grebenc, Senator of the Metis Nation of Ontario to the Committee.

4.0 Approval of the Minutes

Quorum could not be established; therefore, the draft meeting minutes will carry over to the next meeting for approval.

5.0 Celebrations: Newsletter

Shy-Anne Bartlett, Interim Indigenous Education Lead presented the most recent edition of the newsletter. The newsletter was attached to the meeting agenda and included information the Indigenous Youth Council, honouring of Orange Shirt Day and highlighted the partnership with Ginnogaming First Nation and Marjorie Mills Public School. Communities are welcome to share news items in the newsletter to help share best practices and ideas for sharing and learning of values.

6.0 Indigenous Grad Coaches – Updates

Indigenous Grad Coaches Bernadine O'Brien and Sarah Park provided an update of the first quadmester. Their work has included supporting the grade 9 students, helping those students at risk, supporting the food security and health snack program. They discussed the free guitar and drum lessons provided by Shy-Anne at GCHS. They advised that the second semester will feature virtual workshops and teachings.

7.0 Student Census Discussion

Human Rights and Equity Advisor Mahejabeen Ebrahim provided a review of the upcoming Student Census Project. This is a pilot project developed to help honour and respect students and identity. Encouraging and supporting students to be confident, cultural, strong and unique. The project goal is to establish who students are, promote their well-being and achievement. The project will pilot at Geraldton Composite High School and will promote racial equality, equal access, opportunity and help understand student identity to give them voice. Participation in the survey is voluntary and data collected will be secure and only for the use of authorized personnel. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation will be distributed to the IEAC members.

8.0 Indigenous Youth Council

The Interim Indigenous Education Lead reviewed the success of the first Indigenous Youth Council meeting recently held. A total of 32 students participated. The meeting featured a guest speaker and opportunity to encourage student voice.

9.0 Board Action Plan

At the September IEAC meeting, members were asked to contact the Interim Education Lead to participate in the development of the Board Action Plan. If you would like to assist, please contact Shy-Anne Bartlett as soon as possible.



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10.0 Plan for Pivot to Virtual Learning

Superintendents of Education Charlie Bishop and Will Goodman provided a presentation on the planning and preparations for a pivot to Virtual Learning. All students will have access to a device, those families that require “hot spots”, to access the internet, will be provided with a device and staff are prepared to help students transition to this learning platform within 24 hours when required. The Director and IT Committee are continuing to advocate for the expansion of internet access across the district to remote areas.

11.0 Mental Health Awareness

Mental Health Manager Deana Renaud discussed how the School Board is incorporating cultural pedagogy and support for learners. She discussed the initiatives taking place and the connection between well-being and culture. She reviewed the professional development initiatives that are taking place across the school district that includes helping staff understand the shared responsibility of promoting the wellbeing of all students, celebrating our diversity and the importance of relationship building.

She discussed the work that is taking place to help students through challenges and the availability of support at school or from a distance virtually.

12.0 REA Update

An update was provided regarding the REA. The Committee discussed the memo that the Ministry of Education recently provided clarification of and apologized for mixed communications.

13.0 Indigenous Education Lead Position Discussions

The Director of Education and Committee Chair discussed the development of a subcommittee to oversee the hiring of a permanent Indigenous Education Lead. The subcommittee will feature 3 members of IEAC along with 3 members of SGDSB who will work collaboratively to provide advice to the interview team. The IEAC policy can be enhanced to reflect the developed process. Those interested in participating in the subcommittee are encouraged to send a written letter to identify that they are willing to participate. The hiring process is scheduled for March to allow for 3 months of mentorship for this important role.

14.0 FNAC Meeting Scheduling

The Committee discussed the importance of FNAC meetings. Principals are asked to please keep the Interim Education Lead part of ongoing discussions as much as possible. Meetings are attended by two Senior Administrators for the Board. Trustee Paul Cormier can attend if requested by the community as an advisor.

15.0 Open Discussion of Areas of Need

Committee Chair Paul Cormier introduced the new standing agenda item titled “Open Discussion of Areas of Need”. This time will be designated at each meeting to encourage sharing and opportunity to bring anything forward.

As part of the open discussion, the Committee requested the current enrollment numbers for students attending school for in-person learning and those attending virtually.

Shy-Anne and Skylene will connect regarding Indigenous focused initiatives.

16.0 Open Discussion and Suggestions for Discussions for Next Meeting

A suggestion was made to restructure the meeting style so that it is less agenda based and more of an opportunity to share. The Committee discussed the possibility of engaging in regular



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sharing circles with the First Nation partners that are face to face. Having the feather there and each person can speak and taking the time to share without an agenda.

Shy-Anne has been invited to attend IEAC meetings held at other school boards to learn of new ways to share and opportunities to enhance our meetings. If anyone has any ideas on opportunities to strengthen the relationships built at these meetings, they are encouraged to connect with Shy-Anne or Paul.

17.0 Schedule of Meeting Dates for IEAC to be determined:

The meeting dates have tentatively been scheduled for February 2, 2021, April 27, 2021 and June 1, 2021. The dates will be finalized and approved at the November 30, 2020 Board meeting.

19.0 Adjournment:

The meeting ended at 12:10 p.m. and Marilyn Netemegesic Honoured the committee with a closing song.