



## 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 Vision:**

"Inspiring our students to succeed and make a difference"

**Our Motto:**

Gikino'amaadiwigamigoonsan ezhi-gichi-apitendaagwag "Small schools make a difference"

**Our Values:**

"Character, Citizenship, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity and Critical Thinking"

### Anishinaabe Gikino'amaagewin Gaa-anokaadamowid (Indigenous Education Advisory Committee)

**Tuesday, April 18, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

SGDSB Learning Centre & Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams

Teleconference Dial-In Information: 1 – 8 4 4 – 6 1 3 – 3 1 2 0; Conference ID No.: 244 789 934#

### Maawanji'idiwin Wiindamaagewi-Ozhibii'igewinan (Meeting Minutes)

#### 1.0 Roll Call

<i>Attendance: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)</i>											
<b>First Nations Communities</b>	OS	TC	VC	A	R	<b>Tribal Councils &amp; Representatives</b>	OS	TC	VC	A	R
(Aroland) Robinson Meshake					X	EOP Program Liaison - Matawa, Shelby Chng				X	
(Biigtigong Nishnabeg) Lisa Michano					X	Randi Ray and/or Marlo Beaucage, Wabun Education Partnership Program.				X	
Bijnjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinabek (Rocky Bay) Yvonne Kowtiash					X	Joshua LeClair, Regional Education Council Coordinator, KEB			X		
Bijnjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinabek (Rocky Bay) Christine Hardy			X			Tim Robbins, Metis Nation of Ontario - Senator			X		
Bijnjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinabek (Rocky Bay) Cheryl Checkley			X			Nokiiwin Education Advisor – Loretta Sky			X		
(Ginoogaming #77) Victor Chapais			X			<b>Representatives</b>					
(Ginoogaming #77) Martha Taylor				X		Tamara Vernier, Native Language Teacher					X
(Ginoogaming #77) Dallas Fisher				X		Sara Carlson, Grad Coach - GCHS			X		
(Ginoogaming #77) Malcolm Charles			X			Sarah Park, Grad Coach - NRHS			X		
						Jaime Keay, Indigenous Student Success Advocate			X		
(Marten Falls FN) Louise Coaster		X				Patti Pella, Education Officer, Ministry of Education			X		
(Pays Plat) Valerie Auger			X			<b>Trustees</b>					
(Netmizaaggamik) Joe Moses			X			Dr. Paul Cormier (IEAC Chair)					X
(Netmizaaggamik) Amber Deveraux					X	Julie Michano			X		
(Netmizaaggamik) Stan Sabourin				X		Dan Fairservice					X
(Red Rock) Tymara Ruth			X			Pinky McRae (Ex-officio)					X
(Red Rock) Norma Lesperance			X			<b>Board Administration</b>					
(Red Rock) Marilynn Netemegestic					X	Nicole Morden Cormier, Director of Education			X		
(White Sands) Sue Taylor				X		Shy-Anne Bartlett, Manager of Indigenous Education			X		
Animgiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinabek Denise Bottle				X		Eric Fredrickson, Superintendent of Education			X		
Animgiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinabek Claudette Rody / Mary Blakely			X			Will Goodman, Superintendent of Education			X		
Wabun (Flying Post First Nation) Angela McLeod				X		Alex Marton, Superintendent of Business					X
(Bingiwi Neyaashi Anishnaabek) Leah Deans			X			Anthony Jeethan, Human Rights & Equity Advisor			X		
(Longlac 58 First Nation)						Annick Brewster, FSL and Special Education System Principal			X		
						Kathleen Schram, MISA Lead and Numeracy System Principal			X		
						Candice Dumonski, Secretary			X		



## **2.0 Opening Prayer**

Manager of Indigenous Education, Shy-Anne Bartlett shared a land acknowledgement with the IEAC group followed by an opening prayer kindly offered by Mary Blakely from Animigiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinabek (AZA).

## **3.0 Welcome and Introductions**

S. Bartlett welcomed and introduced Tymara Ruth to the IEAC. T. Ruth is replacing newly retired Judy Wawia as Director of Education for Red Rock Indian Band (RRIB). M. Blakely from AZA, Susanna Baxter from Marten Falls and Joe Moses from Netmizaaggamik were also welcomed as new Community Representatives to IEAC.

## **4.0 Approval of the Maawanji'idiwin Wiindamaagewi-Ozhibii'igewinan (Meeting Minutes)**

*Moved by: Joe Moses      Second: Leah Deans  
That the minutes for the Superior-Greenstone DSB Indigenous Education  
Advisory Committee meeting, March 22, 2023 be accepted and approved.*

Carried

## **5.0 Apane go Dazhindamowaad (Standing Agenda Items)**

### **5.1 Celebrations/Updates: Newsletter Highlights ESA Signing**

S. Bartlett provided highlights from the latest Indigenous Newsletter which included the signing of an Education Service Agreement (ESA) with RRIB. This agreement has been in the works for many years and represents not only a legal agreement, but also represents the relationship between the SGDSB and RRIB. The Director, Nicole Morden Cormier added that traditionally ESAs were essentially a tuition agreement, but today they are more representative of the partnership and commitment between the school board and the Community. The Board is looking forward to signing two more ESAs this year and currently have thirteen ESAs on the table that are being actively worked through. If anyone is interested in setting up meetings in this regard can reach out to S. Bartlett.

### **5.2 Updates RE: March 22, 2023 IEAC Meeting Follow-up**

Manager of Mental Health, Deana Renaud provided an update to the group regarding the vacant Indigenous Mental Health Worker position. They are actively seeking candidates by reaching out to potential graduates of the Indigenous Social Work Programs and through networking with qualified therapists in the region. There is a possible qualified candidate in the Greenstone region that they will be interviewing this week. Housing continues to be a barrier to individuals who would need to relocate for this employment opportunity.

S. Bartlett updated the group on school Powwows. Students very much want Powwows in school but the demand on community supports and resources must be honoured. S. Bartlett reached out to community members in order to arrange a Special IEAC meeting to discuss school Powwows but was unable to accommodate enough schedules and therefore spoke individually with community members. There were 12 schools interested in hosting Powwows and through those conversations they anticipate having three regional Powwows that will include multiple schools and communities to participate. Ginoogaming First Nation will host one Powwow and will invite schools into the community. The second Powwow will either be held at LSHS or NRHS and the third Powwow will be hosted by Netmizaaggamik at the Marathon High School. S. Bartlett is meeting at Ginoogaming tomorrow to discuss the Powwow in community. L. Deans added they are very excited for the school Powwows and will be catering food at Ginoogaming. Josh LeClair offered their support to these events; in addition, M. Blakely offered her knowledge to these events if it could be used in any way. Senator Tim Robbins would like to participate in any Powwow or Rendezvous that are planned in the school board region.



### 5.3 Indigenous Student Voice Deferred

### 5.4 Community Updates (and FNAC)

The Director updated the group on a recent FNAC meeting with Pays Plat First Nation. Members of Senior Management and Principals, Chris Martin and Amy Buchan as well as Jamie Keay met with Chief and Council to connect through active listening and covered discussion items important to the Community. The Director added that the Senior Team has committed to attend as many FNAC meetings as possible. Val Auger agreed that the meeting went really well, and it was important for Chief and Council to connect with school board members and to be a part of the FNAC meeting process.

## **6.0 Nonde-ayaan ji-gaagiigidoyaang (Open Discussion of Areas of Need):**

### 6.1 Anti-Racism Framework Development

Anthony Jeethan, Human Rights & Equity Advisor addressed the group regarding an anti-racism framework. The Director reached out to them as SGDSB does not currently have an anti-racism framework for policy development. A. Jeethan researched other school boards' anti-racism policies and found no standard consistency for development and what it covers across school boards. The context for racism is different for various groups and for different regions. To develop a framework, we should ask the following: What do we want from an anti-racism framework for the school board? Do we want this framework to address how students respond to racism that they get from other students? Do we want this to address how staff respond to incidents of racism? Or do we want just policy? A. Jeethan suggested a combination of all three aspects to reflect meaningful change rather than just having a policy on paper. What would the Communities like the board to know about our experiences around racism? What should the Board be addressing in terms of the racism framework. A. Jeethan shared that we want to move past just talking about racism and to move forward to do something about it.

It was decided that a Special IEAC meeting for the racism framework discussion will be planned in the future as more time will be needed to start this conversation and to share suggestions. Senator Robbins would be interested in participating in this Special meeting to provide input.

### 6.2 In-Person IEAC Meeting – May 2023

S. Bartlett inquired whether there is a desire from the Communities to have an in-person meeting and lunch at the Learning Centre in Red Rock on May 30<sup>th</sup> from 10 am-2 pm. This would be a longer meeting due to the lunch break. Contact S. Bartlett with feedback. L. Deans agreed that an in-person meeting would work for them.

### 6.3 Other Discussion Items

Nil

## **7.0 Anishinaabe Gikino'amaagewini-Dazhindamowaad (Indigenous Education Updates)**

### 7.1 Metis Learning Conference

Brandy Robbin and Malorey McGrath presented a slide show showcasing their professional development learning from the Metis Nation of Ontario 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Early Learning and Language Conference held in Niagara Falls. S. Bartlett explained that this professional development stems from the school board recognizing that providing accurate, relevant, and culturally appropriate learning on First Nation, Metis and Inuit is important for Truth and Reconciliation. The current demographics from our school board population is 39% FNMI, 4% Metis and 35% First Nation.

Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has provided many learning opportunities to a variety of teachers in the board including this in-person conference attended by B. Robbins and M. McGrath. This presentation included an informative video on what it means to be Metis. This



video can be presented to any age group and is a great resource for classrooms. Various links and resources that are available through MNO were presented and can be found on their website at no cost. MNO also offers a Metis 101 session where they will come into the classroom to present this learning in person and is available to all schools interested in providing this to their students. Various ways of how to teach Metis culture and language in the classroom were presented and included, pairing and elder with a classroom teacher. The school board is attached to Metis Officer Anne Trudel, who can help with this process. Other suggestions for bringing the Metis culture into schools are bringing back the Voyager Games, Metis food, fiddle music, jig dancing, Rendezvous Celebrations, and Culture Camps. Current programs and camps for registered Metis students and parents can be found on the MNO website and could be sent out by teachers as well. Ma Lawng LMichif card game, spoons, feats of strength games and birch bark basket making, were also highlighted as additional ideas for Metis activities in the classroom. SGDSB has two Education Kits available for use in the classroom and MNO will be offering training on these kits as well.

B. Robbins and M. McGrath will be presenting this to all SGDSB principals in the future to get this information out to all schools and classroom teachers. Metis Nation of Ontario is eager to get these resources and information and out. Senator Robbins added that there were many edits to the information and content to ensure its accuracy. MNO worked closely with the Ministry to ensure that the Metis culture, history, and voice are represented.

The Director inquired about content that could be shared on the SGDSB website to get information out around programs and resources. Senator Robbins suggested to follow the MNO website and Thunder Bay and District Metis Council for social media posts that can be shared.

## 7.2 Graduation Coach Update

### 7.2.1 Graduation Coach Update - GCHS

Sara Carlson, Graduation Coach from GCHS shared their Graduation Coach Update report. The report included data from the students served by the Grad Coach at GCHS. It was explained that the Elders in Residence program has started with an initial visit by Mary Ann Nord from AZA. It was a successful start with many students visiting throughout the day. Cecile Menowegan from Ginoogaming has been lined up for this program as the next Elder to visit. This program is a result of the Board Action Plan in consultation with Community and they are looking forward to welcoming Elders from all communities in the future.

M. Blakely inquired about the time commitment that is needed to be a part of the Elders in Residence program. S. Bartlett informed the group that it varies based on the Elder's schedule and the amount of time they can offer to the program.

### 7.2.2 Graduation Coach Update - NRHS

Sara Park, Graduation Coach from NRHS presented their report which included data on RRIB students, both on and off reserve, that are supported by the Graduation Coach. They shared that student check ins are very important and happen before, during school, and at end of the day. Transition visits are continuing with grade 8 students transitioning to the high school in the next school year and with students that are transition out of high school. The Elders in Residence program has begun with, Marilyn and Joe Netemegestic from RRIB visiting the NRHS at the end of March. Two more visits are planned in the near future.

It was explained that the Grad Coach position at Nip Rock is funded through the RRIB, but any student is welcome and would be supported. Rose Tuck supports students from BZA. S. Bartlett and J. Keay are also available for any student or parent to reach out if needed. D. Renaud would be the contact for mental health



related issues. The Director added that FNAC meetings are a great place to have important discussions.

### 7.3 Indigenous Youth Council Update

J. Keay, Student Success Advocate, provided an IYC update to the group. IYC meets on the first Wednesday of every month and is a platform for student voice. The Youth Gathering on June 8<sup>th</sup> will be focus of remaining meetings for this school year. Next steps for the 2023-2024 school year will be around “Our Bundles.” Each IYC meeting will provide a lesson from an Indigenous Knowledge Keeper/Mentor, students will be able to take a teaching from each lesson to add to their bundle and will carry them throughout their journey. Students will be involved in the planning process to ensure their voices are being heard.

C. Checkley shared that they are pleased with the Our Bundles concept and getting students to think about what they would like to have in their bundle.

## **8.0 Ginkino-amaagewini-Odaakewigimaa Oshkichigaadewinan (Director of Education Updates)**

### 8.1 Director's Quarterly Report

The Director highlighted, from their Director's Quarterly Report, the PA Day this Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. The focus of this PA Day is key concepts and skills in reading instruction and assessing reading instruction in the classroom. The Director tied this to the Minister's announcement around the recent proposals in the legislature. If this act is passed it will give Minister greater control over professional activities/learning within school boards. The Minister is committed to reading instruction and our school board is committed to these priorities set out by the Minister. Any questions about this report can be brought to S. Bartlett.

## **9.0 Awashime Dazhindamowaad (Additional Agenda Items)**

### 9.1 Summer Learning Engagement

Carole Leroux, Student Success System Principal, shared her presentation on the Summer Learning Engagement Program and outlined some of the different courses and programs offered last year and ideas for this coming summer break. The program has evolved over the last few years, several new programs have been added and others have undergone enhancements based on student, teacher, community, and parental feedback. If anyone has feedback, ideas or challenges experienced around summer learning, please bring forward to C. Leroux.

Last year's summer program included K-6 Literacy/Numeracy Boost and Reach Ahead. All schools are welcomed to register students in these programs. Students can join in person (if there are enough students in one area that are interested) or online. Learning kits are sent to each family so they have all the supports and tools to learn effectively from home. All of these programs will be offered again if there are enough interest and students that register. The Reach Ahead program allows students to get an additional high school course credit in Family Studies which includes financial planning, social justice, and nutrition. This a virtual opportunity available to all grade eight students graduating into high school in the district. They do not have to going to a SGDSB high school to register. Bundles of manipulatives are sent out to support an interactive learning experience. This is a great opportunity for students to meet other students from across the district. Alternative and Co-operative Education courses are offered for grades 11 and 12 students to get extra credits. This is an opportunity for some students to get back on track for graduation. Special education transition opportunities are also available to help students with transition to their plan for the next year. Any concerns with communication, the registration process, barriers to accessing these programs or suggestions to enhance our program please reach out to C. Leroux at [cleroux@sgdsb.on.ca](mailto:cleroux@sgdsb.on.ca) with any feedback. S. Bartlett to send out this presentation as well as the Metis Learning Conference presentation to all community partners.



### 9.2 Truth & Reconciliation Policy

S. Bartlett presented their report on the Truth and Reconciliation Policy. SGDSB is taking steps to create a Truth and Reconciliation Policy. S. Bartlett would like to establish a committee comprised of IEAC members to discuss and create this policy. The Director added that there is a protocol to follow when developing a new policy and stakeholder review is part of that process and includes gathering feedback. This will take a number of months, but the hope is to have a draft for the Policy Review Committee meeting happening around December or January of the next school year. If you are interested in joining this committee and developing this policy, please reach out to S. Bartlett.

### 9.3 Self-Identification Campaign

J. Keay shared their report on the Self-Identification Program. The purpose of this program is to bring a better understanding of the importance of self-id to communities, families, and students. Self-id allows for a more accurate picture of FNMI demographics within the school board and allows for enhancing resources and services to those students in order to break down barriers that prevent Indigenous students from reaching their full potential. J. Keay and a photographer will be travelling to schools in April and May to speak with students who self-id, with consent, about this topic. Pictures and video clips will be taken to be used for campaign material and will be shared out in the month of June and again in August. Feedback can be directed to J. Keay or S. Bartlett.

### 9.4 Indigenous Education:

#### Learning with and from Community Partners

The Director provided a summary of The Indigenous Education: Learning with and from Community Partners Board Report prepared by S. Bartlett that was included in the agenda package. Various learning opportunities for staff and students around Indigenous perspectives, understandings and learning opportunities were highlighted including updates on EKAN, Kairos Blanket Exercise, KEB learning opportunities, Community Visits and Indigenous Grad Coach data. These are examples of the work that is being done in the school board with a focus on learning with and from community partners. This report will be presented to the Board of Trustees as well. Please email S. Bartlett with questions.

## 10.0 Special Meetings

### 10.1 Future Special Meeting Topics – Meeting Date Scheduling

Suggestions for future special IEAC meetings include the following:

- Racism -Anthony Jeethan. Shy Anne Will reach out to members for dates that might work for this one.
- Building relationships through inviting community school staff to participate in the School Board staff professional development learning opportunities.
- Progressive discipline and racism in schools.
- Catching students up who have been away from learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- How the school board could increase support of Indigenous language.
- Special Education (New Item)
- Powwow (New Item)

Please contact S. Bartlett if there is a need before the end of June for a Special IEAC meeting or to give your input on what you are wanting as far as topics for Special meetings.

## 11.0 Gaagiiqidowin gawe wawiindamowinan aanie-maanwinji'idiwin ge-dazhindamoyaang (Open Discussion and Suggestions for Next Meeting Dates):

### 11.1 Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting Dates

Two remaining meetings for 2023 are:

- May 30, 2023



- November 7, 2023 which is later due to fall traditions and to leave space for those events in community.

L. Deans requested confirmation of the dates for the school Powwows. S. Bartlett indicated that the Marathon Powwow will be June 8th. S. Bartlett will be meeting with Ginoogaming tomorrow so should have a date after that meeting. S. Bartlett attending an ABC meeting this week and will have a date for either NRHS or LSHS at end of this next week at the latest.

**12.0 Adjournment:**

*Moved by: Christine Hardy      Second: Cheryl Checkley  
That, the IEAC Meeting on April 18, 2023, adjourn at 12:00 p.m.*

Carried