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'amaadiiwigamigoonsan ezhi-gichi-apiitendaagwag "Small schools make a difference"

Our Values:
"Character, Citizenship, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity and Critical Thinking"

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

Wednesday, March 22nd, 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.: 189 098 370#

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

1.0 *Roll Call*

Attendance: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)											
First Nations Communities	OS	TC	VC	A	R	***Tribal Councils & Representatives***	OS	TC	VC	A	R
(Aroland) Robinson Meshake					X	*EEP Program Liaison - Matawa, Shelby Chng*			X		
(Biigtigong Nishnabeg) Lisa Michano			X			Randi Ray and/or Marlo Beaucage, *Wabun Education Partnership Program.*			X		
Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinabek (Rocky Bay) Yvonne Kowtiash					X	Joshua LeClair, *Regional Education Council Coordinator, KEB*			X		
Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinabek (Rocky Bay) Christine Hardy			X			Tim Robbins, *Metis Nation of Ontario - Senator*					X
Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinabek (Rocky Bay) Cheryl Checkley					X	*Nokiiwin Education Advisor* – Scott Baker / Robyn O'Laughlin					X
(Ginoogaming #77) Victor Chapais					X	***Representatives***					
(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		
						Jamie 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			***Trustees***					
(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) Judy Wawia			X			Pinky McRae *(Ex-officio)*					X
(Red Rock) Norma Lesperance				X		***Board Administration***					
(Red Rock) Marilynn Netemegesic			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 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			X		
Brad Netamagesic			X			Kathleen Schram			X		
						Candice Dumonski			X		

2.0 Opening Prayer

Manager of Indigenous Education, Shy-Anne Bartlett introduced and thanked Marilyn Netemegesic for continuing to offer the opening prayer to our committee.

3.0 Welcome and Introductions

3.1 New Trustees: Julie Michano and Dan Fairservice

S. Bartlett welcomed new Trustees, Julie Michano and Dan Fairservice, to the IEAC.

3.2 Human Rights and Equity Advisor, Anthony Jeethan

S. Bartlett acknowledged and welcomed Anthony Jeethan to the committee. A. Jeethan shared that they are originally from Trinidad and Tobago, moved to Toronto and then has been in Thunder Bay for the past 15 years. There are many projects that they are looking forward to sharing with this committee and is currently working with Director, Nicole Morden Cormier in developing these projects. A. Jeethan expressed their excitement in joining and working with this committee.

S. Bartlett introduced Jamie Keay, the newly hired Indigenous Student Success Advocate. J. Keay explained that they are excited to start in this new position and to be a part of the IEAC. They have been working closely with S. Bartlett for the last two weeks and is looking forward to meeting everyone in person.

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

Moved by: Marlo Beaucage Second: Denise Bottle
That the minutes for the Superior-Greenstone DSB Indigenous Education Advisory Committee meeting, November 15, 2022, be accepted and approved.

Carried

5.0 Apane go Dazhindamowaad (Standing Agenda Items)

5.1 Celebrations/Updates on Topics from Nov 15th IEAC Mtg.

S. Bartlett provided an overview of her written report to the committee which included, the Special IEAC meeting regarding de-streaming, please review the meeting minutes attached to the agenda for more information on this topic. S. Bartlett asked the group to provide feedback on what type of PD session they are looking for on data so they can better understand this ask moving forward. The IEAC Policy and Terms of Reference were open for stakeholder review until March 8th, this policy can be found on the SGDSB website in the Board section, under Policies Under Review. Feedback was reviewed and recommendations will be presented at the subsequent policy review meeting on May 2nd, the next stage in the review process. An update on the Board Action Plan consultation process was given and the BAP has now been submitted to the Ministry of Education. S. Bartlett explained that Self-ID letters and Data Sharing letters were shared with Principals and Vice-Principals. If it is the desire of the Community, these letters can be signed and added to ESAs as an addition. Recruitment efforts continue for the Indigenous Mental Health Worker position as this position remains unfilled. Upcoming IEAC meeting dates were shared, and Communities were encouraged to provide feedback if they can foresee any significant conflicts with these proposed meeting dates.

Trustee and Committee Chair, Paul Cormier voiced that the Indigenous Mental Health Worker position is very important to the communities and asked if an update can be provided to IEAC of the staffing process as perhaps, this Committee might be able to strategize a better way of promoting and collaborating to get this position filled.

The Director will bring this bring back to the Mental Health Manager, Deana Renaud to see how she wants to facilitate, and they will reach out to the committee to see if a special meeting is needed on this topic.

5.2 Newsletter Highlights: Transitions, Indigenous Youth Council (IYC) and Ribbon Skirts

S. Bartlett provided highlights from the latest Indigenous Newsletter. January 4th, National Ribbon Skirt Day was the focus for the IYC meeting this month. Special thanks to M. Netemegesic and Lisa Michano of Biigtigong Nishnabeg for reaching out to community members at short notice to do this in a good way and providing guidance on how to care for and respect the skirt. AES protocol work was also highlighted. If you did not get the newsletter or if you have anything to include, please reach out to S. Bartlett.

M. Netemegesic shared that Edge Arts in Nipigon has offered a Ribbon Skirt making class on Monday mornings. They will be offering an evening class as well. She shared a diagram with the group that she created for students; it explains what the different ribbons on the skirt represent. M. Netemegesic added that she is available to come into schools to teach about ribbon skirts. L. Michano gave appreciation to Dayna Sworchinski for helping to set this up for students. It was a healthy environment and positive opportunity. L. Michano expressed the importance of going into community for learning opportunities.

P. Cormier thanked the communities for their assistance and explained that Indigenous ways of learning are not just for Indigenous students but are for everyone.

5.3 Indigenous Student Voice

Deferred

5.4 Community Updates (and FNAC)

Judy Wawia shared that they are retiring as of March 31st and will be replaced by Tymara Ruth. They expressed that it has been a pleasure to work with the committee and to keep up the good work and to continue to make people feel welcome. Chair Cormier expressed their gratitude for J. Wawia's contributions and support for our community and our school board.

Leah Deans introduced themselves to the committee. They are a new family on Sand Point First Nation, which includes three children, two attend NRHS and one attends BEPS. Currently there are six kids in total on the land at Sand Point. They moved to help rebuild the community. They would like to work toward an ESA as they don't currently have one.

L. Michano shared semester one data with the group and expressed appreciation for the reports and their relationship with Marathon High School. L. Michano noted that it was a successful first semester with 59 of their 68 credits achieved, we are working toward good places and are always looking for opportunities to examine data.

Cheryl Checkley wanted to update IEAC that they have signed up for Mathify and appreciates this opportunity.

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

6.1 Special Education

Annick Brewster shared their written report on Special Education Parent Documents with the group. These documents are available for families and students when they begin to engage in Special Education services. The Multi-Disciplinary team has committed to review Spec Ed communication practices and documents that are shared. More specifically, how we are supporting the communication between home, community, and school regarding the supports available for Indigenous students within special education. They expressed that feedback is welcomed from the group and any questions can be directed to A. Brewster or Superintendent of Education, Will Goodman.

L. Deans inquired if there are resources for parents as well? W. Goodman shared that we do have some resources for supporting students at home and community. It's more of an engagement piece. What do we need to know about the learners from their communities and home to support them in a culturally appropriate way for their special education needs?

Many of the programs we use can be used at home and school. L. Deans asked if there are supports specifically for parents/caregivers for themselves at home? W. Goodman explained that there are different types of services that we can seek out and can help bring those connections to parents/caregivers.

L. Michano mentioned that AES did some work around Spec Ed materials and those are available to all Anishinabek families regardless if the community falls under AES. They added that they believe that Colleen heads that portfolio and encourages people to access the material and information.

P. Cormier noted that they sit on the Special Education Advisory Committee, and they work to bring community voice to the Committee. The SEAC is very receptive to feedback. Regarding the communication material feedback, what is the timeline and steps? Do we need a special IEAC meeting? W. Goodman agreed if there is a desire, we can plan a special meeting. A. Brewster added that this is a starting point, and a special meeting would be beneficial to engage the communities. We would like to have some drafts for enhancements for September. J. Wawia and L. Deans also agreed that a Special IEAC meeting would benefit the group. If there are no objections, we will add this discussion as a Special meeting.

6.2 Other Discussion Items — *IEAC Committee Members*

Nil.

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

7.1 Graduation Coach Update

7.1.1 Graduation Coach Update - GCHS

Sarah Carlson, GCHS Graduation Coach shared their report with the group. The report included statistics on the students being supported at GCHS by the Graduation Coach. GCHS is launching their Elders in Residence program. D. Bottle added that AZA does not have an ESA and inquired about the new Mental Health Worker at GCHS. S. Carlson replied that Ashley Northam started in this position in November.

7.1.2 Graduation Coach Update - NRHS

Sara Park, Graduation Coach from NRHS presented their written report with the group. This report highlighted their work with RRIB students both on and off reserve. Data was shared and reflects the current population supported by the Graduation Coach. Work continues with transitions from grade 8 to high school and with graduates transitioning into the various avenues after secondary school.

L. Deans is looking forward to connecting with S. Park in the future to help in with post-secondary transition.

P. Cormier expressed appreciation for the charts shared as it gives a good snapshot of supports that are offered and suggested this could potentially be shared at a board meeting.

7.2 Indigenous Student Advocate

J. Keay was introduced at the beginning of the meeting to the group.

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

8.1 Director's Quarterly Report

The Director highlighted two items from the Director's Quarterly Report attached to the agenda package. At the request of Chair Cormier, we will bring some data in terms of the

mandate of the IEAC so if we are missing anything we can attend to it in a timely manner. Also highlighted, was the partnership between Marathon High School and the AES, in recruitment of a Native Language teacher. Through this collaboration, we have a Native Language Teacher from the KEB that is providing Native language in an online format. Thank you to AES for this partnership.

9.0 Awashime Dazhindamowaad (Additional Agenda Items)

9.1 Data Sharing

MISA Lead/Numeracy System Principal, Kathleen Schram, shared their written report on Data Sharing with the committee. Using the student information system, PowerSchool, they are working at creating tools and procedures for system level data reporting. This data can then be provided to IEAC to "review performance out comes for First Nations, Metis, and Inuit students and make recommendations to the Board toward a goal to continually improve outcomes for students" (SGDSB Policy 539; Indigenous Education Advisory Committee) in keeping with the IEAC mandate. This year they are working specifically to collect and disaggregate demographic and student achievement data with attention to the groups of students who self-identify and students who receive spec ed services. Important to note that the Ministry of Education requires them to use non-identifiable student data. A chart was provided to demonstrate the options of types of data and timelines of when this data could be provided to the IEAC. It was asked of the group to provide feedback on what concerns you might have at IEAC with this data sharing? What timelines and data sets would you like brought forward to IEAC meetings?

The Director added that L. Michano mentioned earlier about the sharing of data between herself and S. Wilson at MRHS. The data sharing, we are speaking of here is holistic data for all students who identify as FNMI, for the school board as a whole. We'd like to regularly bring clear and present data on those students to IEAC which are full data sets not community specific data, once or twice per year. Community specific data would be provided at the community level during FNAC meetings. This is the beginning of the conversation on new routines and how we could start. For example, at the first meeting of year we could provide enrollment data and the number of students receiving special education. We can evolve these timelines as we go along this is just a starting point. Please review and provide feedback.

Collecting an accurate picture of Indigenous students within the school board is difficult without accurate data. Making sure to protect personal data is important. We can continue to have a dialogue on this, and issues can be brought forward throughout the year. It doesn't have to be a certain date or time.

Chair Cormier added that your voice is important and if we don't get through the agenda that is ok. We can circle back to this at next meeting.

9.2 Anishinaabemowin Boodawe Committee

S. Bartlett presented on behalf of Erin Roxborough, Anishinaabemowin Program Manager. The presentation outlined the role of Program Manager, the Teacher Support Programs they provide and introduced two program facilitators, Martina Wigwas (Ojibwe Language Specialist) and Sonya Belisle (Early Years Coordinator). It was explained that this started as a grassroots group to revitalize the Indigenous language and is now funded by the Ministry of Education. If you know of anyone who has the language and would like to be a part of the Teacher and Learner Support Program, please reach out to E. Roxborough.

10.0 Special Meetings

10.1 School Powwows

S. Bartlett shared that there have been many requests by various schools to host a powwow. We'd like to reach out to the communities to have this discussion. She added that we might be limited by resources, drumming groups and elders needed to support these requests. Perhaps instead of each school hosting individual powwows we could look at having three regional powwows with communities and schools involved. We could possibly plan them around the Transition Program for timing. This is a big ask of community and it must be done in a good way. What does everyone think of schools hosting powwows and does it make more sense to have them regionally? Consultation with the community first is important and we won't move ahead on this until we receive this feedback.

J. Moses shared that they have invited the schools to their community for these events and having it in community is important. He suggested that schools could work with communities and collaborate that way.

Chair Cormier explained that he is working with a master's student and perhaps they can look at the appropriateness of doing powwows in school. This student is working with community and elders on the appropriateness of what to share and she will be giving some recommendations on that. They are also working on a project regarding giving students credit as a course to participate in the Powwow Trail and this was presented to Carole Leroux.

J. Moses added that this is a great conversation, and will defer to community leaders on this and will reach out to them to get their feedback. I have been told before that there is no wrong way to go about this as it's about celebration and it's ok to step away from tradition.

Chair Cormier agreed that we should be reaching out to community leaders for their feedback on this. J. Moses asked if we should make this actionable?

Joshua LeClair reminded the group that the Regional Education Council 1 meets on March 30th, and they can bring this to that meeting for discussion.

S. Bartlett asked, if we should go ahead, and have a Special meeting on this with community leaders in attendance to discuss this topic? It was agreed to have a Special meeting for further discussion.

10.2 Special IEAC Meeting Minutes February 9, 2023

10.3 Future Special Meeting Topics – Meeting Date Scheduling

Suggestions for future special IEAC meetings include the following:

- Racism.
- 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)
- School Powwows (New Item)

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

11.1 Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting Dates

- April 18, 2023
- May 30, 2023
- November 7, 2023

12.0 Adjournment:

Moved by: Denise Bottle Second: Christine Hardy
That, the IEAC Meeting on February 21, 2023, adjourn at 12:08 p.m.

Carried