



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:

Gikino'amaadiwigamigoonsan ezhi-gichi-apiitendaagwag
"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"

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

Thursday, May 26, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams

Teleconference Dial-In Information: 1 – 8 4 4 – 6 1 3 – 3 1 2 0; Conference ID No.: 949 372 617#

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	Representatives	OS	TC	VC	A	R
(Aroland)						Tamara Vernier, Native Language Teacher					X
(Biigtigong Nishnabeg) Lisa Michano					X	Sara Carlson, Grad Coach - GCHS			X		
Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinabek (Rocky Bay) Yvonne Kowtish	X					Sarah Park, Grad Coach			X		
Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinabek (Rocky Bay) Christine Hardy			X			Sonya Belisle, Indigenous Student Success Advocate	X				
Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinabek (Rocky Bay) Cheryl Checkley	X					Patti Pella, Education Officer, Ministry of Education			X		
(Ginoogaming #77) Victor Chapais					X	Bev Vachon, Indigenous Student Transitions	X				
(Ginoogaming #77) Martha Taylor	X					Student Representative Erin Couture					X
(Marten Falls FN) Roger Fobister	X										
(Pays Plat) Valerie Auger	X					Trustees					
(Pic Mobert) Stan Sabourin			X			Dr. Paul Cormier (IEAC Chair)	X				
(Red Rock) Judy Wawia			X			Mark Mannisto			X		
(Red Rock) Norma Lesperance			X			Christine Major					X
(Red Rock) Marilyn Netemegesic					X	Pinky McRae (Ex-officio)					X
(White Sands) Barbara Ann Wynn					X	Board Administration					
Animgiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinabek Denise Bottle			X			Nicole Morden Cormier, Director of Education	X				
Animgiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinabek Yvette Metasinine					X	Shy-Anne Bartlett, Manager of Indigenous Education	X				
(Flying Post First Nation) Angela McLeod	X					Eric Fredrickson, Superintendent of Education	X				
(Bingiwi Neyaashi Anishnaabek) Camilee Borysewicz				X		Will Goodman, Superintendent of Education	X				
(Longlac 58 First Nation)						Alex Marton, Superintendent of Business			X		
Tribal Councils & Representatives						Mahejabeen Ebrahim, Human Rights and Equity Advisor for SGDSB			X		
EEP Program Liaison - Matawa, Shelby Chng					X	Kellie Wrigley	X				
Randi Ray, Wabun Education Partnership Program.					X	Annick Brewster			X		
Joshua LeClair, Regional Education Council Coordinator, KEB			X			Deana Renaud, Mental Health Manager	X				
Tim Robbins, Metis Nation of Ontario - Senator	X					Carole Leroux	X				
Nokiiwin Education Advisor – Scott Baker / Robyn O'Laughlin			X			Hillary Freeburn, Early Years System Principal	X				



2.0 **Opening Prayer**

Elder, Claudette of Pays Plat First Nation, honored the Committee by opening the meeting with a morning prayer and rattle song.

3.0 **Welcome and Introductions**

Committee Chair Paul Cormier welcomed the Committee to the meeting and provided an opportunity for introductions for new members. School Board Secretary Candice Dumonski was welcomed to her first meeting, as she will now be assisting with taking the Committee meeting minutes.

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

*Moved by: Yvonne Kowtiash Second: Mark Mannisto
That the minutes for the Superior-Greenstone DSB Indigenous Education Advisory Committee meeting, January 18, 2022, be accepted and approved.*

Carried

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

5.1 **Celebrations**

Manager of Indigenous Education Shy-Anne Bartlett provided an update regarding the newsletter. She expressed gratitude for Sonya Belisle's work with the Indigenous Youth Council and the work to bring culture, traditions and to build understanding around Indigenous education

5.2 **Indigenous Student Voice**

Student Zoey Eshkakogan is from the Aroland First Nation and member of the Indigenous Youth Council (IYC). She advised that the IYC meetings have been very positive, and a safe place to share and learn Ojibway language. Inspired by the IYC, planning initiatives are underway for gardening activities, ribbon skirt making for graduation, and the planting of sage, cedar and sweet grass. Orange flowers will be planted outside Geraldton Composite High School in honour of Indigenous History Month.

5.3 **Non-Indigenous Student Voice**

Student Juliana Speziale from Lake Superior High School shared her perspective regarding the NVC course she is currently enrolled in. She expressed gratitude for the opportunity to learn the truth of residential schools and the 60s scoop, as the true history was not taught in the past. The course has helped her to strive to be an ally and understand the historical truths. She also shared the cultural awareness and teachings she has experienced through activities in the community that have been organized by Teacher Chris Dube. Trustee Paul Cormier expressed gratitude for the student voices shared at the meeting and the collaboration work between community and teachers across the school district.

5.4 **SGDSB Substance Use Strategy Video Presentation**

Mental Health Manager Deana Renaud provided an introduction to the video presentation regarding the newly created SGDSB Substance Use Strategy. The strategy was suggested to help support students impacted by substance use and marginalized students. The strategy includes messaging, communication and resources that will support students, families and staff to ensure that schools are safe places that are supportive and substance free. The strategy messaging focuses on encouraging healthy bodies and clear minds. Resources will be distributed to families through various methods including report cards. The procedural guideline will include a trauma informed, culturally appropriate, strength-based approach. Trustee Paul Cormier requested that the information be shared in a report to the School Board as well as the Special Education Advisory Committee.



Note: Mark Mannisto. left the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

5.5 Community Updates

Committee members were asked to provide updates and discussed community concerns regarding COVID-19 safety and impact on student success.

Committee member Stan Sabourin discussed his concerns regarding student attendance and some of the strategies his community uses at the elementary school level to support improving student attendance. He also encouraged increased presence of Elders within schools so that students have regular access to a community elder for support. Mr. Sabourin also announced his upcoming retirement from his career in education. The committee expressed their deep gratitude for his dedication and years of work to improve education and support students.

Committee member Rob Forbiture discussed the many ways that COVID-19 Pandemic has impacted the education of Martin Falls students. He explained that the community has faced many staffing challenges and has been unable to secure teaching staff. Trustee Paul Cormier discussed the Teach for Canada partnerships available and teacher training initiatives through Lakehead University that encourage their students to seek employment in Northern communities. Trustee Paul and the Superintendent will reach out to meet and discuss the supports with the community.

The Committee discussed the concerns for the 2022-2023 school year and the potential for increased COVID-19 cases in the fall. Trustee Cormier discussed the importance of meeting students where they are at and supportive messaging instead of pushing students to “catch up” to the learning objectives and timelines. The Director Nicole Morden Cormier advised that the Minister of Education has loudly heard the concerns and impacts of online learning. The Ministry has not made any formal announcements with proposed plans, but the objective is to welcome students back to a normal school year in the fall. The Director noted that the board will focus on supporting students in their return to school and beginning of a fresh school year and determining student needs to meet them where they are at and to not take a “catch-up” approach.

6.0 Special Meetings Report Back – Minutes for Information

6.1 Special Meeting Minutes

6.1.1 Data - February 16, 2022 – Data

The minutes of the February 16, 2022 Special IEAC meeting were included in the agenda package for information.

6.1.2 Progressive Discipline and School Safety – March 22, 2022

The minutes of the March 22, 2022 Special IEAC meeting were included in the agenda package for information.

Note: The Committee temporarily paused the meeting for lunch at 11:58 a.m. The meeting resumed at 12:30 p.m.

6.2 Special Meeting: Discussion/ Action Item

6.2.1 Draft Data Sharing Letter of Agreement for FNAC

Superintendent Will Goodman presented the draft data sharing letter of agreement for FNAC. The idea for the document was suggested at a special IEAC meeting as a commitment to data sharing and transparency with individual communities. The committee members are asked to review the document and forward any questions or



suggested edits to either the Director or Indigenous Education Manager. The proposed agreement would be for each community who wishes to sign an agreement and could be part of the Education Service Agreement process.

6.2.2 Draft Voluntary Self-Identification Letter of Understanding

Superintendent of Education Will Goodman presented the draft letter of understanding for voluntary self-identification. He explained that parents have the ability to self ID their child and that the community Education Managers have the ability to provide that info if needed. Voluntary Self-identification is a complex issue and community wishes must be respected while trying to ensure the school board has the most accurate data to reflect the student population for funding support. Increased communication regarding data protection is required. The Anishinabek Education System is currently working towards data collection.

6.3 Future Special Meeting Topic Suggestions

Manager Shy-Anne Bartlett advised that the Terms of Reference is currently being updated to include definition for Special IEAC meetings. She noted that the Special IEAC meetings will not be for decision making but will provide an opportunity for deep conversation on specific topics. The minutes and any matters for decision will be brought forward to IEAC. The terms of reference will be brought forward for committee review.

Suggestions for future special IEAC meetings included the following:

- Building relationships through inviting community school staff to participate in the School Board staff professional development learning opportunities.
- Plan an informal meeting to talk about the special meetings and the topics. The conversation has come from that info provided.
- Data sharing.
- 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.

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

7.1 Graduation Coach Update

Graduation Coach Sara Park from Nipigon-Red Rock District High School and Graduation Coach Sara Carlson of Geraldton Composite High School provided an update of the upcoming activities and ongoing work of supporting students. Grade 8 students will be attending the Nipigon-Red Rock District High School on June 2nd for transition activities and school tour. Graduation Coaches have conducted several school visits to meet and greet incoming students. A drop-in session is being planned for students and their families to help them become familiar with the school, and to talk about courses and the available supports. Work is ongoing with supporting students with Post-Secondary School applications and summer employment applications. Staff have been helping prepare students for graduation ceremonies and helping to coordinate cultural components such as drum groups and community representatives to participate in graduation ceremonies.

7.2 Transitions Update

Superior-Greenstone District School Board system leaders Hillary Freeburn, Carole Leroux, Bev Vachon and Shy-Anne Bartlett provided updates regarding the work happening to support student transitions. Schools have been meeting with new kindergarten students and their families, helping them prepare for the transition to school in the fall. They discussed the programs created to support students from grade 7-12 to prepare for Secondary and Post-Secondary school transitions. The activities are organized to respect the needs of the students and communities through parent nights, welcoming grade 8 students to high school



tours, and virtual meetings where former students were available for questions and could discuss their school experience. The committee discussed the importance of this work in supporting students as they transition to new schools. Through culturally imbedded activities, community collaboration and new initiatives like the Indigenous Youth Council, students are receiving increased support transitioning to new learning spaces. The work is ongoing and will continue to evolve to meet student needs.

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

8.1 Director's Quarterly Reports for January and May

The reports were included in the agenda package for information.

8.2 Presentation: Indigenous Trustee Appointment – Written Document

Director Nicole Morden Cormier presented the report that outlined the request for the appointment of an Indigenous Trustee for the new term beginning November 2022. As outlined in the Education Act, First Nation communities are to determine/elect the Indigenous Trustee to represent communities who have an Education Service Agreement with the school board. The role of an Indigenous Trustee is to support and honour the rights and privileges of Indigenous people in relation to education. The Indigenous Trustee role is a significant role for the school board. Elected by the First Nations communities within the school district, the Indigenous Trustee represents and shares the voice of communities, Indigenous perspectives and supports collaboration for the enhancement of education. Indigenous Trustee Paul Cormier indicated to the Committee that he would be honoured to continue in the position should the communities wish to reappoint/elect him. The term is 4 years in length and begins November 2022.

The Director requested that communities contact her with any questions regarding the appointment process or the Indigenous Trustee role. The communities are requested to provide the report to their community leadership and respond by September or October with the name of who they have collectively elected to appoint to the School Board.

9.0 Awashime Dazhindamowaad (Additional Agenda Items)

9.1 Online Learning Graduation Requirement

Defer.

Annick Brewster

9.2 De-Streaming and Working with Community Around De-Streaming

Defer.

Kellie Wrigley

9.3 EKAN and KAIROS Blanket Exercise Sharing

Defer.

Shy-Anne Bartlett

10.0 Nonde-ayaan ji-gaagiiqidoyaang (Open Discussion of Areas of Need):

10.1 National Indigenous History Month

Defer.

Shy-Anne Bartlett

10.2 Summer Learning Programs

Defer.

Carole Leroux

10.3 September 30th, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Defer.

Shy-Anne Bartlett

10.4 FNAC Principal Guidelines Draft



The draft FNAC Principal Guidelines were included in the agenda package. Discussions regarding the document are deferred due to meeting time constraints.

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

- October 4, 2022

12.0 Adjournment:

*Moved by: Roger Fobister Second: Yvonne Kowtish
That, the IEAC Meeting on May 26, 2022 adjourn at 2:14 p.m.*

Carried