



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 26, 2021 – 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.: 151 695 76#

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) Annamarie Majiskon					X	Sarah Labonte, Nookiwin Education Navigator					X
(Biigtigong Nishnabeg) Lisa Michano			X			Scott Baker, Nookiwin Education Manager					X
(Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinabek (Rocky Bay) Yvonne Kowtish			X			Sarah Park, Grad Coach			X		
(Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinabek (Rocky Bay) Christine Hardy			X			Student Representative Erin Couture					X
(Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinabek (Rocky Bay) Gabrielle Swerdlyk					X	Patti Pella, Education Officer, Ministry of Education			X		
(Ginoogaming #77) Victor Chapais					X	Tamara Vernier, Native Language Teacher					X
(Ginoogaming #77) Martha Taylor					X	Bernadine O'Brien, Grad Coach			X		
(Marten Falls FN) Wanda Coaster					X	Trustees					
(Pays Plat) Valerie Auger			X			Dr. Paul Cormier (IEAC Chair)			X		
(Pic Mobert) Nicole Simpson					X	Mark Mannisto					X
(Pic Mobert) Stan Sabourin					X	Christine Major					X
(Red Rock) Judy Wawia			X			Pinky McRae (Ex-officio)			X		
(Red Rock) Norma Lesperance			X								
(Red Rock) Marilyn Netemegesic			X			Board Administration					
(White Sands) Barbara Ann Wynn					X	Nicole Morden Cormier, Director of Education			X		
(Animgiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinabek Denise Bottle			X			Shy-Anne Bartlett, Interim Indigenous Education Lead			X		
(Animgiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinabek Yvette Metasinine					X	Charlie Bishop, Superintendent of Education			X		
(Flying Post First Nation) Angela McLeod			X			Will Goodman, Superintendent of Education			X		
(Longlac 58 First Nation)					X	Alex Marton, Superintendent of Business			X		
(Bingiji Neyaashi Anishnaabek) Camilee Borysewicz			X			Mahejabeen Ebrahim, Human Rights and Equity Advisor for SGDSB			X		
Representatives						Bev Vachon, Principal			X		
CEP Program Liaison, Matawa, Skylene Metatawabin					X	Kathleen Schram, System Principal			X		
Randi Ray, Wabun Education Partnership Program.					X						
Nancy O'Donnell, Regional Education Council Coordinator, KEB					X						
Tim Robbins, Metis Representative		X									
Debra Grebenc, Metis Representative			X								



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2.0 Opening Prayer

Elder Marilyn Netemegestic honored the Committee by opening the meeting with a prayer.

3.0 Welcome and Introductions

Manager of Indigenous Education Shy-Anne Bartlett welcomed the committee to the first meeting of the school year and provided an opportunity for introductions for new members.

4.0 Approval of the Minutes

*Moved by: Marilyn Netemegestic Second: Yvonne Kowtish
That the minutes for the Superior-Greenstone DSB Indigenous Education Advisory Committee meeting, June 24, 2021 be accepted and approved.*

Carried

5.0 Celebrations: Newsletter

S. Bartlett issued a reminder to please send her any additions you wish to have included in the next edition of the newsletter.

6.0 Community Updates

IEAC Committee Members

As a way to encourage information sharing and the voice of the community, this section will be a standing item on the agenda to allow for community updates from committee members.

- Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinabek advised of an upcoming family learning day from 12-3 p.m. that will be filled with language activities with children and families.
- Pay Plat advised that the Lake Superior High School Students applied for funding to build new bleachers for the Pays Plat Powwow grounds. The students helped clean up the grounds and engaged in learning about traditional medicines and cultural teachings.
- Red Rock First Nations reported that students have been learning about the fall harvest, moose skinning and participated in costume parties, and small gatherings.
- Bingiwi Neyaashi Anishnaabek reported that the community was successful in securing computer devices for school age children and hope to encourage children to participate more actively in online schooling. The community has hosted a variety of cultural activities, mental wellness nights, family nights and have organized a “haunted hotel” event for families taking place Thursday, October 28th.
- Chair Paul Cormier provided an exciting announcement that the Lakehead University Anishinabek department and program have both been honored with a spirit name received through a shake tent ceremony. The SGDSB Plant Services Manager has assisted the University with capitol project designs for ventilation to support the use of smudging within the building. A special teacher training program has been developed through community based partnerships, to identify staff working within the school that are interested in becoming a teacher. He expressed his gratitude to Lisa Michano who has been a visionary that has helped in the creation of this project.

7.0 Student Census

Human Rights and Equity Advisor Mahejabeen Ebrahim presented the Student Census project. The presentation provided an overview of the project goals, timelines and discussed how the data will be used to help the board meet the current and future needs of the students. The voluntary student census was conducted in the Geraldton Composite High School in 2020. The census received an excellent response rate and was well received. The census will now be launched across the district this school year. A review was provided of the visual communication tools that will be used to help communicate the availability of the survey. The Committee discussed the importance of information sharing with the communities of the data regarding the students from



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their communities. The group discussed the importance of the circle of care that needs to be available to students within the school and community at the time of conducting the survey as it may trigger deeper questions and emotions. A recommendation was made to include a section within the survey to encourage stories as this may provide a richer context to the information being shared and areas where additional supports may be needed within the school system. The Director advised that a more definitive process is coming forward through the partnership with KEB to help track incidents of racism and how it is being tracked.

8.0 Student Voice: Remembrance Day and Drum Group

S. Bartlett provided introduction of the George O'Neill Public School Drum Group performing as well as the School Choir performing a song written by the group. The link to the presentation was shared with the committee and is available at

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/tqt64gr8i7rhib5/Veteran%20Song%20edit%202.mp4?dl=0>

The Committee discussed the joy of hearing the students and the gratitude for these opportunities being available within school.

9.0 Relationship Building with Ginoogaming First Nations

Principal Bev Vachon provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the relationship building with Marjorie Mills Public School and Ginoogaming First Nations. The presentation highlighted the importance of working on relationships with communities, understanding the truth of the past and working together on the future. She spoke of the trust that has been built through many moments when school and community come together. Activities highlighted in the presentation include harvesting, writing of a land acknowledgment, community gathering, student led conferences and transition project for teachers and students.

10. Updates

10.1 Graduation Coach Update

Graduation Coaches Bernadine O'Brien and Sara Park provided a review of the activities of the first Quadmester. They advised that they have been working with students on academic achievement, participated in National Day of Truth and Reconciliation activities that took place during the last week in September, attended the Ginoogaming Wellness Camp and learned teachings about traditional medicine, personal healing journeys and held a moose calling competition. Bernadine noted the activities of the craft club, bannock Mondays, making moccasins, Indigenous Youth Council and the spring powwow planning that has begun.

Sarah Park advised that Nipigon-Red Rock High School has been engaged in learning about cultural practices of the fall harvest and had an opportunity to dissect a moose heart. She reported that AETS is offering funding for G1 and G2 drivers education training. She is also working with Lake Helen Mental Health Team on a 4-week mental health program.

10.2 Cultural Sensitivity Training

S. Bartlett discussed the cultural sensitivity training opportunity that system leadership will engage in across the school district. The first of three sessions will be hosted by the community of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg where the school board will learn from and with the community, engaging in training through ECON. The other sessions will be held in BZA and Longlac 58. The board is actively seeking opportunities to engage in further learning.



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10.3 Indigenous Student Success Advocate

S. Bartlett advised that the Board is currently in the final stages of hiring for the position of Indigenous Student Success Advocate. Hiring will be completed before the next IEAC meeting. The Committee will be informed as soon as the hiring has been completed.

11.0 Director of Education Updates

Nicole Morden Cormier

11.1 Quarterly Report

The Director of Education Nicole Morden Cormier provided a written quarterly report that was included in the agenda package. The report connects information items to the work and mandate of IEAC. The Committee is encouraged to reach out to the Director if they have any questions or would like to discuss any items within the report.

11.2 Quadmester Discussion

The Director discussed the current Quadmester learning model that has been introduced during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Quadmester schedule is currently in place for the first semester of the school year, however, the system will transition to the traditional schedule during the second semester beginning on January 31 depending on the status of the Pandemic. The Director advised that the Board would like to engage in further discussions and data review to determine what learning model has been most beneficial for the students. Some members noted the benefits seen by students who previously struggled through the previous model and how students enjoyed opportunities for longer classes, allowing an increase in outdoor learning opportunities.

It was also requested to consider allowing parents back in to the schools so that they can see the learning environments of the students.

Further discussion will be had regarding this item at a special meeting.

11.3 School Year Calendar – September 30th Discussion

The Director introduced the discussion regarding September 30th the National Day of Reconciliation. She advised that at this time, the date is currently a federal holiday and not a provincial holiday. Planning for the 2022/2023 School Year Calendar has begun. During this planning process, school holidays are identified. The Director welcomes feedback from the Committee to determine if this date should be made a school holiday or if it is preferred for students to remain in school but participate in ceremony and reconciliation work. Members are encouraged to contact the Director with feedback or participate in the Special meeting where a virtual sharing circle could be held. The date and time will be proposed in the near future.

11.4 Communication (Special Meetings for Operational Topics/Engagement Meetings)

The Director presented the idea to hold Special IEAC meetings with optional attendance to discuss specific operational topics or opportunities to seek engagement. The meetings would be approximately 1 hour in length. The first meeting invitation will be sent to the group will be for the discussion of the school year calendar and the second half of the meeting will be to discuss Quadmester, along with FNMI Data presentation that will be provided by Kathleen Schram. The invitation will be sent out to the Committee in the coming weeks.

A recommendation was made to structure the meeting agenda in a similar format as the reports, according to mandate. The agenda items would be grouped together and items where engagement is required and items of celebration and information are grouped in sections of the agenda.



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12.0 FNMI Data

Deferred to special meeting. Date to be determined.

13.0 Board Action Plan

S. Bartlett advised that she will be beginning the process to seek community assistance in the development of the Board Action Plan. A separate message will be sent to the Committee requesting for volunteers to assist in the process. Please contact Shy-Anne if you would like to participate.

14.0 Open Discussion of Areas of Need

Nil.

15.0 Open Discussion and Suggestions for Discussions for Next Meeting

Nil.

16.0 Next Meeting Dates (Tentative):

The next meeting date is tentatively set for January 18, 2022. An email will be sent to the committee the first week of December to provide the confirmed meeting dates for 2022. The tentative dates are;

- April 5, 2022
- May 26, 2022
- October 4, 2022

17.0 Adjournment:

Elder Marilyn Netemegestic honored the committee by ending the meeting with a closing prayer.

*Moved by: Christine Hardy Second: Yvonne Kowtish
That, the IEAC Meeting on October 26, 2021 adjourn at 12:18 p.m.*

Carried