

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



Our Mission: "Inspiring our students to succeed and make a difference"
Our Vision: "We are leaders in providing quality learning experiences in our small school communities"
Our Values: "Caring, Fairness, Empathy, Responsibility, Honesty, Resilience, Respect, Perseverance and Innovation"
Our Motto: "Small schools make a difference"

Native Education Advisory Committee

Friday, January 18, 2013 – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Designated Site: George O'Neill Public School, 124 Bell Street, Nipigon, ON

Chair: To be determined

Director: David Tamblyn

1.0 Roll Call

Attendance: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)											
First Nation Members	OS	TC	VC	A	R	First Nation Members	OS	TC	VC	A	R
(Aroland) Sonny Gagnon (Chief)						(Rocky Bay) Malvina Echum	X				
(Aroland) Iris Daca						(Red Rock) Arlene Wawia (Chief)					
(Ginoogaming) Cecilia Echum (Chief)						(Red Rock) Judy Wawia	X				
(Ginoogaming) Georgette O'Nabigon						(Red Rock) Emily Thompson					
(Ginoogaming) Joanne Ferris						(White Sands) Allen Gustafson (Chief)					
(Long Lake #58) Veronica Wabooshe (Chief)											
(Lake Nipigon) Yvette Metansinine (Chief)	X					Trustees					
(Lake Nipigon) Judy Manning		X				Fred Simonaitis					
(Pic Mobert) Johanna Desmoulin (Chief)						Angel Santerre (Alternate)					
(Pic Mobert) Jackie Craig						Cindy Brown (Alternate)					
(Pic Mobert) Chris Bananish, Sr.						Pinky McRae (Ex Officio)		X			
(Pic Mobert) Marlene Sabourin											
(Pays Plat) Xavier Thompson (Chief)						Board Administration					
(Pays Plat) Valerie Auger	X					Dave Tamblyn	X				
(Pic Heron Bay) Roy Michano (Chief)						Nancy Petrick	X				
(Pic Heron Bay) Liz Michano					X	Barbara Willcocks	X				
(Pic Heron Bay) Duncan Michano	X					Guest					
(Pic Heron Bay) Cindy Fisher						Yvonne Morrison: Aboriginal					X
(Rocky Bay) Velda Lesperance (Chief)	x					Education Officer (MOET)					

2.0 Welcome

(B Willcocks)

- Welcome to School
- Just a reminder to all committee members George O'Neill is a nut safe building

3.0 Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Moved by: Yvette Metansinine Second by: Melvina Echum

Resolved that, the NEAC Meeting minutes of October 29, 2012 be approved. (Attached)

- Changes to the order of the agenda were approved to accommodate discussion prior to some members having to leave.

4.0 Business Arising from Minutes

5.0 Discussion Topics

5.1 Policy 527: Voluntary Aboriginal Student Self-Identification (B. Willcocks- Attached)

- Barb outlined our process that took place in delivering Self – Identification policy changes to our communities.
- Policy now goes to policy review committee (process was outlined)
- There continues to be an issue of trust in our communities.
- Once policy is in place the parents will still have the choice to Self-Identify
- Board needs to continue to communicate to parents & communities the benefits of Self – Identifying their children
- There is a perception in some communities that by self-identifying, it may have a negative impact on the student. Discussion as to how can we change this perception took place.
- Increase awareness amongst our school staff and frontline workers regarding the policy,
- There was also discussion regarding attendance at special events, further communication is required as to who attends these events.
- March – career exploration (mining etc.) taking place in Thunder Bay, will let Principals aware of increasing the number of first nation students taking part in these areas.
- Can there be consideration for FN children in every school regardless of what class they are in? (Barb provided a scenario that explained why sometimes the student who is not in the class may not be available for them to attend).
- Can we ensure programs are distributed among all of our schools that have FN students?
- Funding for FN education is changing both provincially and federally, how can self – id benefit this change
- Explanation of what Tuition agreements pay for and how self – id can assist in increasing “special funding”.
- Can a Q & A be put together to explain the benefits of Voluntary Self-ID? SGDSB will update pamphlet
- GCHS – can we bring all FN students into the gym along with parents for a presentation, chief in council, (can this occur prior to the end of June)
- Shannon Thunder Bird will be visiting all schools in the spring (reflect each communities values), First Nation schools are also invited to come.
- Barb to be in contact with each educational lead of the community to ensure Shannon Thunder Bird’s presentation will align with values and beliefs of the community.
- Dave, indicated he would like members to bring forth suggestions to this committee.
- Regional meeting to take part(Robinson Superior area)

5.2 Aboriginal Programs Proposals 2012-13 (B. Willcocks)

- Barb updated group with 2012 – 2013 funding
- Self-identification
- Pamphlet, resources, money allocated staff release (Elders, etc.)
- \$8,700.00 has been provided to SGDSB through Self-Identification initiative
- To be spent by May
- Attendance and Student Achievement
- Research – Principals and teachers (\$22,000.00) understanding component
- NOEL compass for success, compare attendance data (Robert Dunn and Steven Katz)
- Data will be used and studied for SIPSA/BIPSA
- Achievement and attendance and how it correlates to achievement success
- Strategies and monitoring cycles
- Teachers and principals will be trained on how to use this data
- NRRHDS - \$13,400 Pilot project

- 5.3 Aboriginal Tool Kit
- \$8,7000.00
 - Did not receive \$ for project build for our summer coop students.
- 5.4 River of Life: Youth at Risk Program *(B. Willcocks)*
<http://www.riveroflifeprogram.ca/>
- First National Online Suicide Prevention Certificate Course
 - designed by FN communities
 - small cost - \$400.00 (cost of course per person – train one or two people within the community).
 - Would like to explore this program further with administrators.
- 5.5 Request for Discussion re Outdoor Education in High School *(B. Willcocks)*
- Like to see outdoor ed program in all of our high schools with a focus both FN students and none FN students
 - One avenue would be Natural Resource Dual Credit
 - Can bring this to Principal program for further discussion
 - Dual credit was explained
 - Manitouswage program is a (specialist high skilled major – SHSM)
 - \$20,000.00 for Outdoor program – as been used to cover cost of those who are not able to afford to go.
- 5.6 Request for Update on Board Amalgamation *(D. Tamblyn)*
- Dave gave update
 - Board Amalgamation has been “postponed” until further notice from the Ministry.
 - Concern – with amalgamation what would the
- 5.7 First Nation Board Trustee Vacancy *(D. Tamblyn)*
- Letter went to all chiefs in council letting them know of the vacancy
 - Many calls but nothing concrete
 - Treating meeting with all Robinson Superior Area – will speak about this at this time as they will have all 13 Chiefs together (January 29th)
 - Large area to be represented by only one trustee?
 - Concern – trustee on the board representing First Nation must be from an area that has Tuition agreements with SGDSB
 - Focus will now be:
 - high school level education
 - trustee to be representative on board
 - Invitation was extended by Pinky to have concerns/questions sent to Pinky by any First Nations
 - Education at the federal level - crisis
- 5.8 Terms of Reference
- Item to be deferred
 - Came from NEAC planning session in the spring
 - This information was also included in SGDSB
- 5.9 Metis Aboriginal Kits
- Purchased kits, they have arrived will be distributed shortly.

6.0 Open Forum / Q & A

7.0 Future Meeting Agenda Items

8.0 Next Meeting Dates (2013)

Friday, Feb 15

Friday, April 19

Friday, May 17

9.0 Adjournment

Moved by: Judy Wawia

Second by: Val Auger

Resolved that, the NEAC Meeting on January 18, 2013 adjourn at 12:15 p.m.