



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:

“Small schools make a difference”

Our Values:

“Character, Citizenship, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity and Critical Thinking”

Indigenous Education Advisory Committee

Tuesday, January 7, 2020 - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Superior-Greenstone District School Board Learning Centre, Red Rock, Ontario

Teleconference Dial-In Information: 1 – 8 0 7 – 7 0 1 – 5 9 8 0;

Access Code/Conference ID #: 8 1 3 4 0 6 9 9 9

Videoconference Site Locations

Superior-Greenstone District School Board(SGDSB)12 Hemlo Drive, Marathon, ON Superior-Greenstone DSB Learning Centre (SGDSBLC)46 Salls Street, Red Rock, ON Geraldton Composite High School(GCHS)500 Second Street West, Geraldton, ON Manitouwadge High School(MNHS)200 Manitou Road W., Manitouwadge, ON

MINUTES

1.0 Roll Call

<i>Attendance: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)</i>											
First Nation Tuition Agreements	OS	TC	VC	A	R	Representatives	OS	TC	VC	A	R
(Aroland) Margaret Matasawagon						Tamara Vernier			x		
(Biigtigong Nishnabeg) Lisa Michano					x	Shy-Anne Bartlett	x				
Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinabek (Rocky Bay) Yvonne Kowtish	x					Student Representative Keira Mannisto					
Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinabek (Rocky Bay) Christine Hardy		x				Bernadine O'Brien			x		
Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinabek (Rocky Bay) Gabrielle Swerdlyk		x				Cindy Fisher, Regional Education Council Coordinator			x		
(Ginoogaming #77) Victor Chapais					x						
(Marten Falls FN) Sandy Moonias	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) Marilyn Netemegesic	x										
First Nation (Other)						Board Administration					
Animjiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinabek Denise Bottle	x					Nicole Morden Cormier, Director of Education	x				
(Longlac 58 First Nation) Veronica Waboose (Chief)				x		Nancy O'Donnell, Indigenous Education Lead	x				
Randi Ray, Wabun Education Partnership Prgm.	x					Charlie Bishop, Superintendent of Education	x				
(White Sands) Allen Gustafson (Chief)				x		Will Goodman, Superintendent of Education	x				
(CEP Program Liaison) Skylene Metatawabin		x									
Angela McLeod (Flying Post First Nation)	x										



SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

2.0 Welcome and Introductions for Dr. Paul Cormier, Indigenous Trustee

Committee Chair and Indigenous Trustee Paul Cormier provided an introduction and welcomed the members to the meeting.

3.0 Approval of the Minutes

The meeting minutes from September 10, 2019 are to be amended to correct the name of Andrea Crawford, acting Director of KEB.

Moved by: M. Netemegesic

Second: M. Mannisto

That the minutes for the Superior-Greenstone DSB Indigenous Education Advisory Committee meeting, September 10, 2019 be accepted and approved as amended.

Carried

4.0 Celebrating Success

Indigenous Education Lead Nancy O'Donnell highlighted the celebrations of success across the Superior-Greenstone District School Board. The highlights shared by Nancy and other committee members included the following;

- Land based learning with Great Lakes Cultural Camp – Nipigon and Red Rock staff, students and community members participated in 4 days of learning.
- Youth gathering in Biigtigong – A rotation of learning centers that was open for all students.
- Leadership day with students from grade 7 and 8.
- Education Service Agreements – SGDSB teams have been travelling the district and working on creating service agreements with each partner.
- The introduction of the Reciprocal Education Agreement (REA).
- The completion of CRRP work and creating land acknowledgements in our schools as well as included Indigenous ways of knowing and learning embedded in curriculum, including smudging in all of our schools.
- Expansion of language program at GCHS in semester 2.
- Nancy and Denise Bottle Shared celebration at Beardmore with language and drumming.
- Paul Cormier – celebrates the learning thus far and challenges everyone about more that can be done as we have begun to do traditional land based learning.
- The Director Nicole Morden Cormier shared her appreciation for the work that has been done to change our service agreements from documents about funding to documents that outline the relationships that we create in order to best serve students.

5.0 Honorarium Guidelines

The Committee reviewed the draft document for the honorarium guidelines. Changes were proposed to the guideline for the honorarium amounts. It was recommended to increase the half day rate to \$150 and increase the full day rate to \$300 a day. Nancy will bring this change forward to the Principal group and finalize the honorarium guideline.

6.0 Protocol for Inviting Knowledge Keepers/Elders into Schools

The Committee reviewed the Protocol for inviting Knowledge Keepers/Elders into the schools. N. O'Donnell advised that the document is to serve as a resource for school Principals and Teachers when inviting Knowledge Keepers and Elders to the schools. The following suggested revisions were provided;

- Offering of tobacco to be a practice with the schools and the offering is to be able to fit into a pipe.



- Nancy has seeds and would like to have the schools grow tobacco at the schools to harvest traditional tobacco. Nancy was seeking consultation of what a good practice would be to implement this practice.
 - Yvonne shared how she creates the old tobacco that is not fabricated but from the inner parts of the willow bark.
 - Paul suggested a medicine garden for students to grow tobacco and other items.
 - Charlie recommended that learning needs to occur and we need to consult with the communities of how to go about growing tobacco. Need for us to do this process correctly in order to honour the meaning behind the exchange of resources.
 - It was advised that the Geraldton Friendship Center's Cheryl Chuckly has knowledge of how to grow tobacco. It was suggested that the Geraldton Friendship Center may have land and offers regular land based activities that would be a good partnership for these purposes.
 - The Chair discussed the many community opportunities that can occur outside of the school that do not have to happen during the school day. He suggested that some of this learning can occur on snow days and staying in the communities.

Next steps will be focusing on education regarding the protocols and involving the communities in the process. Nancy will provide an update at the next meeting.

7.0 Board Action Plan – Update

N. O'Donnell provided an update regarding the Board Action Plan and how the funds are being utilized across the district in support of Indigenous Education. She advised that funds are currently supporting successful transitions from grade 8 to 9 (some activities have occurred and further will be happening in other areas in order to provide opportunities for all. The second activity in the plan is to continue to facilitate and provide professional development opportunities for teaching staff to assist them in incorporating culturally appropriate pedagogy into practice. The third initiative is to identify resources and supports that will help improve engagement, achievement, well-being.

8.0 Indigenous Youth Council – Update

N. O'Donnell provided an update on the status of the development of an Indigenous Youth Council. She advised that the Council has not yet been formed as consultation is required with Principals. She noted that the Youth Council will include all 15 schools and that she is aiming to have a list of interested student by March 2020 and hold a face to face meeting this year for the students. The purpose of the Indigenous Youth Council is to create a space for students to have voice and space to connect across the district as leaders. The goal is to also have the Youth Council become a stepping stone for students interested in becoming a Student Trustee. The plan is to have the Student Senate and Youth Council to spend time together to build leadership skills. N. O'Donnell requested feedback from the group regarding recruitment ideas. The Committee shared the following suggestions;

- Students from Federally funded schools to have representation on the Council.
- Sports are always an interest and can lead to the Indigenous games.
- Propose a half day think tank meeting.
- A committee member suggested a man by the name of Randall who is a singer and preacher role model for youth.
- Look for opportunities to breakdown the negative perception and that the selection of students not be narrowed to the selection of only "A" students.

9.0 Indspire Youth Gathering SOARING – March 5-6, 2020

A video presentation was provided to introduce the "Indspire Youth Gathering – Soaring" that will be taking place in Montreal on March 5-6, 2020. N. O'Donnell would like to invite 4 students to attend the 2-day career workshop. She will share the video link with the Committee members.



10.0 Native Language (NL) in SGDSB - Update Regarding PD Session with NL Teachers

The Geraldton Composite High School currently has two sections of Native Language classes this semester. N. O'Donnell provided an update regarding the professional development session with Native Language Teachers. The sessions provided an opportunity for the sharing of resources and supported new teachers. Nancy discussed some of the challenges Senior Administration is looking in to the possibility of having Native Language provided to elementary students however reviewed the challenges such as low enrollment numbers and access to funding. Partnership opportunities will be explored with communities and work will continue to overcome the challenge of recruiting qualified Native Language Teachers.

11.0 Indigenous Self-Identification – Update

N. O'Donnell provided an update regarding Indigenous Self-Identification. She advised that there has been a drop in the self-identification numbers and reviewed the current statistics of each school. She noted that the school board is required by the Ministry of Education to collect this data and it helps with designing school programming, inform policy, and to support improvement planning. The Committee discussed the need for support from the communities to help communicate this with parents and the development of a communication strategy to parents about the need for self-identification. Communication methods were suggested such as the creation of a video and the suggestion that data collection take place before the start of each school year.

12.0 Additional Items

A Committee member requested recommendations for conference presenters.

13.0 Schedule of Meeting Dates:

March 3, 2020
June 16, 2020
October 27, 2020

14.0 Adjournment:

Moved by: J. Wawia

Second: Y. Kowtish

That, the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee meeting on January 7, 2020 adjourn at 12:23 p.m.

Carried