

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



Mission Statement

*In partnership with the students, the home and the community,
Superior-Greenstone District School Board will address
individual students' needs by providing:*

- ❖ *a diverse education that prepares for and honours their chosen path for success,*
- ❖ *avenues that foster a love of learning, and*
- ❖ *the means to honour varied learning styles.*

First Nation's Advisory Committee

Monday April 7, 2008 — 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Informational Notes

Designated Site: Red Rock Inn, Fireside Meeting Room, Red Rock ON

Chair: Cindy Fisher

Director: Patti Pella

Note: A light lunch will be served at approximately 11:30 a.m.

1.0 Roll Call

<i>Attendance Mode: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)</i>											
First Nation Members	OS	TC	VC	A	R	Trustees	OS	TC	VC	A	R
Auger, Valerie	X					Bartlett, Bette					X
Lake Nipigon Ojibway First Nation				X		Fisher, Cindy	X				
Belleau, Celine	X					Mannisto, Mark					X
Desmoulin, Jeff				X		Notwell, Kathryn					X
Ferris, Joanne				X							
Lesperance Valda				X							
Misner, Robert				X		Board Administration	OS	TC	VC	A	R
Millard, Judy				X		Chaboyer, Melanie	X				
Panamick, Edna				X		Kappel, Colleen	X				
Sabourin, Faye				X		Morden-Cormier, Nicole	X				
Taggart, Rachel	X					Newton, Valerie					X
Thompson, Xavier	X					Pella, Patti	X				
Wilson Earl				X		Simonaitis, Fred				X	

1.0 Welcome & Introductions

Chair Cindy Fisher welcomed the group. It was noted that without a quorum the meeting would proceed for discussion and informational purposes only.

2.0 Minutes: October 15, 2008

2.1 Review and Adopt NEAC Minutes

Minutes could not be adopted without a quorum.

3.0 Discussion

3.1 Tuition Agreements

- Tuition Agreements: This will be an ongoing Agenda item
- Robert Boden from the Rainbow District School Board area has a really different Tuition Agreement
- Cindy would like to see a template for Tuition Agreements

- Funding available through INAC: “New Paths” funding through INAC, this funding is for “New Paths”, “Parental Engagement” and “Teacher Recruitment and Retention” Each First Nation is eligible to apply for funding and we can look at partnering with boards
- Indian Affairs is also looking at “aggregation” which means bringing everyone together.

3.2 Update: Turtle Concepts

- Colleen gave an update on the Aboriginal Funding the board has received
- SGDSB brought in Turtle Concepts to the high schools. Colleen is also in touch with Neganawon College to find out how to forge a partnership and support our educators.
- We are also looking at a Leadership program for students that are tied into the curriculum where the students would get credit for participating in this activity.
- Discussion about Turtle Concepts included comments like: “kids are still talking about it” and “it was just amazing” and “it was frank, it was just out there, he didn’t sugar coat it, we were faced with clear messages”
- Celine shared that a student she worked with actually worked with Dave from Turtle Concepts.
- Nicki asked “where do we go from here” and Colleen followed up with board plans about engaging students better everyday through college partnerships, teaching everyone who works with students and participating in the Aboriginal Awards ceremony and participation in the Aboriginal Music Awards

3.3 Sharing PD Opportunities: First Nations Schools and SGDSB

- Colleen commented on the funding that has been applied for by SGDSB
- There is \$10 000 to look at shared PD opportunities.
- Class visits between schools close by to look at environmental scans and we need to know if our schools welcoming to First Nations/moderated marking, shared understanding
- First Nation could invoice us for release time for teachers
- Oral Language: Nicki and Melanie would be willing to visit the communities
- Nicki and Melanie will take the lead on this project, they will have a planning meeting to do pd session with Pic River and by the end of this year will each visit the other school
- Cindy asked about a parental e scan...maybe this parental e scan could be the shared project culmination
- Parental engagement INAC dollars could potentially be applied for as the next step of this project
- Transitioning to the Secondary Schools
 - \$18 000 to have our Secondary Schools to visit First Nations

3.4 Student Achievement OLA Project

- Nicki reported on the Oral Language PD session in Thunder Bay
- Teachers have developed an action plan for Oral Language with a focus on Kindergarten
- Nicki explained a “read to” approach where beginning books are used with the students to engage them in the book, you don’t show the pictures, they are just listening, and you keep reading over and over
- Another approach is “generating a discussion” teacher sits with two or three students around the book, you prompt them to have a discussion, tell me about what you see, this develops self esteem and the ability to ask questions
- Another approach is “let’s sing about it” this is where you do a shared read but sing instead of read
- Nicki is talked about how we are beginning to hone in on specific, strategic teaching, we are gathering data for our aboriginal learners
- A struggle is that we do not have enough self identification data for our First Nation students in SGDSB to make any conclusions on the impact of this program for FN students
- Baseline data was collected in October and follow up data will be collected later on in the spring.
- Cindy asked about Fair Start dates and the idea of explaining to parents why the board was asking for voluntary self identification and then Cindy was asking about the piece that fits with this which is how we can teach parents what to do with pre school children to support them in becoming readers...for example how do you help establish routines/bedtimes
- Community and families reading together/scrapbooks, writing a family book, pajama book party
- If you come into Kindergarten classrooms you would see a different program

- Melanie talked about the power of teacher coaches and release time to dialogue as teachers about the craft of teaching

3.5 Aboriginal Education Forum

- The group discussed the forum and the importance of ensuring that accurate history is portrayed in our high schools, especially in the history class. Partnerships with Negoyan College

3.6 SGDSB Parent Involvement Committee

- Patti advised the group that the purpose of this group is to advise on Aboriginal Issues and provide input/feedback to board activity. Ojibway signs are being designed for the high schools.

4.0 Open Forum: Q & A

Cindy Fisher invited the group to the Pic River POW WOW on June 20, 2008 beginning at 9:30am. There will be Inuit Trout Singers, A Young Hoop Dancer and more!

5.0 Items for the Next Meeting

6.0 Next Meeting Date

To be determined

7.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.