



Minutes

THE MINUTES OF THE FIRST NATION, MÉTIS, AND INUIT EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING held on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in person.

PRESENT: Trustee/Members: Kerri-Lee Langer, Lisa Heitzner, Josh Charpentier, Jeanette HunDayter, Karrie MacMurray, Ashley Wynee, Della Stewart-Figueira, Patricia (Trixie) Taylor, Beth Needham, Rachel Rochon, Rachel Logan, Kristy Davidson, John Connolly, Anne Taylor, Cydney Habraken

Regrets: April Smoke, Katelynn Brennan, Julie Brown, Kayla Benoit

Administration: Julie Selby, Mike Mooney, Jacqueline Gorveatt

Recorder: Shannon Carr

Guest: Trustee Glover

A. Call to Order:

1. Welcome

Superintendent and Chair of the committee, Julie Selby, welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to proceed outside for a ceremonial smudge.

2. Sharing Circle - Introductions/reflection

Following the ceremonial smudge, committee members went back inside to participate in a sharing circle to introduce themselves to one another.

3. Land Acknowledgement - Beth Needham

Julie asked Beth to lead with the Land Acknowledgement.

4. Opening Prayer – Lisa Heitzner

Julie asked Lisa to lead with an Opening Prayer.

5. Additions to the Agenda

Item C.5 [Indigenous Reconciliation Fund - Julie](#)

6. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Moved by Cydney Habraken, seconded by John Connolly, that the Agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

7. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

None.

8. Approval of the [Minutes](#) of the Meeting held on Tuesday, June 6, 2023

MOTION: Moved by Lisa Hitzner, seconded by Trixie Taylor, that the Minutes be approved.

Carried

9. Business Arising from the Minutes
None.

B. Presentations:

1. Introduction of new Indigenous Education Team - Julie Selby

Julie stated that the team members had the opportunity to introduce themselves during the sharing circle. Julie expressed her appreciation and admiration for the whole Indigenous Education Team. Julie feels blessed to have the team together and she is excited to see the amazing work that will be done this year within the Board.

2. [2023-2024 DRAFT Budget Overview](#) - Julie Selby

Julie provided a high level overview of the 2023-2024 draft budget to the committee. Julie expressed that these numbers are a close estimate. Julie stated that she will have more accurate numbers at our next meeting. The overview highlighted the following items:

- i. **Indigenous Language and FNMI Studies Allocation** - \$192,625. This money has been allocated to support and implement the secondary language program in two of our six secondary schools. Shannon Kimewon, who has extensive experience and has worked with PVNCCDSB previously, has been hired to teach this course.
- ii. **Indigenous Per Pupil Amount and BAP Table Amount** - \$36,941 and \$66,488. This amount is based on students that have self identified as Indigenous within our board. The BAP table amount comes directly from the Ministry of Education as general funds for Indigenous Education.
- iii. **Supplemental Amount** - \$680,995. This money has been allocated to fund the new Indigenous Education positions of our Indigenous Advisor, Indigenous Coach, part of Shannon Kimewon position, Indigenous Educational Assistants as well as two Indigenous Social Workers. All positions have been created based on committee ideas and discussions from last year.
- iv. **Deferred Revenue** - \$200,000. Julie advised this money is historical, dating back to covid time where grant money was not able to be spent due to in person learning shut down. Funds from covid years have carried over and are currently being used to fund a second Indigenous Education consultant. Julie further explained that the Ministry funds the Indigenous Education Consultant Lead (being Jacqueline Gorveatt) but the board is using the deferred revenue to support the second Indigenous Education consultant (Mike Mooney).

C. Updates, Discussion and Input

1. Community Partner Sharing

Alderville First Nation - April Smoke

April Smoke was not able to make the meeting and did not provide an

update.

Curve Lake First Nation - Jeanette Hunter

Curve Lake is settling into a busy school year with buses and organizing the start up of school. The biggest transition is the Grade 4's going to Lakefield District Public School (LDPS). Jeanette stated it was a small group but all students got placed in the same classroom which was great for the students.

Victor Lethbridge (from Alberta) is coming to Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School in October to do a workshop with students from Curve Lake and Hiawatha. The event is free to attend and will focus on career building, how to build a resume, how to integrate into the workforce and many other life skills.

Curve Lake Community celebrated their 70th annual Pow Wow during the weekend of September 16th-17th. This event was well attended and a great success.

On September 23rd and 24th from 7:00am-9:00pm Curve Lake will be hosting a Mnoominkewin Wild Rice Gathering. This gathering is a celebration of wild rice and Indigenous food sovereignty and cultural resurgence. The weekend will include sunrise ceremonies, teaching on wild rice as well as wild rice cultivation, storytelling, hand drumming, performances and much more.

Trustee Glover asked Jeannette if Curve Lake is doing anything for Truth & Reconciliation Day? Jeannette stated on Saturday, September 30th Curve Lake will be hosting a Sunrise ceremony at 6:00am at the Lime Kiln Park followed by a quiet walk, guest speakers, a provided lunch and prayer. Jeannette mentioned all are welcome.

Hiawatha First Nation - Karrie MacMurray

The 2023-2024 school year has 57 students from Hiawatha in the system. Karrie believes there is 1 student from Hiawatha that attends a school within PVNCCDSB while the rest of the students attend schools within Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPR). Karrie stated 16 students are currently in college and university. Karrie is busy preparing the post secondary files and post secondary policies.

Rowan Tree is a school within Peterborough that is now recognized as a school within Hiawatha First Nation (HFN). The process has officially been approved by Indigenous Services Canada and Karrie is thrilled to be able to register students at that school moving forward.

Within the newsletter in Hiawatha First Nation, it was mentioned that there will be a signing ceremony by the end of October with PVNCCDSB regarding the Education Agreement between the two parties.

This is the third year that HFN has received land based learning funding. Karrie is very humbled by their language based learning department that took this program on. The theme is “Duck Hunting” which is allowing HFN students and families to go out to the island on Rice Lake to watch and be a part of that experience. The event will take place over a weekend but the dates have not been confirmed yet. Karrie will be helping facilitate this event and believes it will be a great turn out.

HFN staff will be receiving training at the end of October 2023. Staff will travel to Vaughne to receive the training over a three day retreat to learn more about kindness, well-being, personal burnout and much more.

Nogojwanong Friendship Centre - Ashley Wynne

Ashley has only been in this position for eight days. Ashley has been busy meeting with families and Principals to understand their needs and how she can best support them.

Currently there are 11 students in St. John's Catholic Elementary School in Peterborough from the centre which is the highest school attendance.

The Friendship Centre is having an Orange Shirt Day on Friday, September 29th. The event will be held within Northumberland in the morning. The event will then take place in Peterborough from 3:00-6:00 pm. Ashley stated everyone is welcome to attend.

Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council - Josh Charpentier

Today (September 19) is an important day for Métis because it is the 20th anniversary since the Powley vs. Crown case was settled by the Supreme Court of Canada which recognized Métis people in the constitution.

Métis created a documentary called “The Hunt for Justice” which was released today (September 19) at 6:00 pm on Youtube which gives an overview of the Powley vs. Crown case.

This coming Saturday (September 23, 2023) the local Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council is having a celebration for Truth & Reconciliation and participants are encouraged to wear orange shirts. In addition, Métis fiddlers and jiggers will be there for the celebration and gathering so people can celebrate Powley day. It will be at council hall from 11:00am until 2:00pm.

Early Learning and Child Care Program (ELCC) but has been quiet as of late according to Josh. The Council has cultural camps that are going on and each season will have a camp (fall, winter, spring and summer). Registration for the fall camp took place over the summer. ELCC will have a conference in February during a weekend for teachers to attend and gain knowledge.

Nijkiwendidaa - Katelynn Brennan

Katelynn was not able to make the meeting and did not provide an update.

2. Terms of Reference Update - Julie

Julie reviewed the First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Advisory Committee meeting Terms of Reference with the committee. Julie mentioned that this is to be reviewed yearly with the committee.

Julie reviewed the current language as stated in the terms of reference under the "Membership" section. The language within the terms of reference currently states "Principals/Vice-principals - Elementary and Secondary" are to be on the committee. Julie put forth a Motion to change the wording to the following "Principals/Vice-Principals (2)".

Della voiced her concern that this is a policy change and it could be an issue going forward. She also asked if we were concerned that Secondary voice wouldn't be represented and Julie clarified that there are current members on the FNMI Committee who are in Secondary, and who could provide that perspective. Julie also clarified that this motion is for this year only and it would be reviewed again next year. Anne asked if the Principal or Vice-Principal could be from the same school? Julie stated that in theory they could be from the same school but that it would be very rare.

MOTION: Moved by John Connolly, seconded by Rachel Rochon, that the committee membership regarding administrators' membership be changed to "Principals/Vice-Principals (2)

Carried

Julie reviewed the current language as stated in the terms of reference under the "Membership" section. The language within the terms of reference currently does not include the Indigenous Education Advisor position nor does it include the Indigenous Education Coach position. Julie put forth a suggested motion to state "That the committee membership be amended to include the following roles: Indigenous Education Advisor and Indigenous Education Coach"

MOTION: Moved by Della Stewart-Figueira, seconded by Karrie MacMurray, that the committee membership be amended to include the following roles: Indigenous Education Advisor and Indigenous Education Coach

Carried

3. First Nation Trustee Update - Julie

Julie reminded committee members that a motion was brought forward to the Board Meeting in June, as a result of ongoing discussions and culminating in the June 2023 First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Advisory Committee meeting. Julie provided an update to the committee stating that a new motion was passed at the Committee of the Whole meeting on September 11, 2023, asking that the report instead be brought to the Committee of the Whole on October 10, 2023. During the Committee of the Whole meeting, Julie will

provide a report that will outline Education Act provisions for the establishment of such a trustee. More specifically it will outline eligibility criteria; Education Act language, legal opinion; Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action; connections to PVNC Catholic AP 705 and DP 700; First Nation community process of appointing member etc.

Julie reminded the committee that PVNC Catholic District School Board currently has an Education Agreement with Curve Lake First Nation. Additionally, PVNC Catholic District School Board is currently in the process of finalizing an Education Agreement with Hiawatha First Nation. Julie stated having an Education Agreement with community partner(s) is a criteria in order to have a First Nation Trustee sit on the Board of Trustee. If the Board of Trustees wish to proceed with the motion, the individual appointed as the First Nation Trustee would come from a community that we have an Education Agreement with. For further clarification, if/when we have an Education Agreement with both Curve Lake and Hiawatha First Nation, the trustee would be rotated between the two communities, the duration of the term to be confirmed with the First Nation communities.

Trustee Glover would implore community representatives to reach out to the board as their perspectives are very important on this motion. Trustee Glover feels it is unfortunate as the previous Trustee has stepped down after the last meeting. Julie clarified that the motion did emanate with the FNMI Committee whose perspective is that this motion is supported, and whose members are appointed from First Nation and Métis communities. There was extensive discussion at the June FNMI Committee meeting as reflected in the Minutes. Jacqueline responded further by clarifying that the chiefs were in the know, have discussed this among themselves and with their communities and are supportive of the motion. Trustee Glover is happy to hear the motion started within this committee and has been brought forward.

Trustee Connolly stated he was not present during the June meeting when the motion got put forward. Trustee Connolly asked Trustee Glover if he was comfortable and satisfied with how the motion was brought forward by the previous Trustee of the committee. Trustee Glover expressed his disappointment and stated he was not happy with how the motion was approached by the previous Trustee. Trustee Glover feels the motion was rushed and he would have provided a notice of motion a week before the Trustee meeting. Trustee Glover felt the presentation was more of an "inquiry" as the presentation was only 15 minutes long and not "thought out". Trustee Glover stated he has supporting documents from his own research that illustrates the Education Act point of view. Many Trustees are going to see it for the first time, he argued. Trustee Glover felt the motion presentation could have been longer and the significance of what to consider could have been articulated more clearly in the motion itself brought forward by the former Trustee. He also stated that the FNMI Committee should have been referenced in the Motion and that attachments articulating information should have been included in the Motion.

4. Indigenous Education Team Updates

2022-2023 Board Action Plan Reporting

Mike Mooney reviewed the observations made last year by himself and Jacqueline regarding medicine wheel, sharing circle, medicines, smudge, positionality, papal visit etc. and the way those teachings were taught and learned by staff and students last year.

Mike provided an overview of Indigenous Education plan for the 2023-2024 school year. Mike focused on five main things:

1. Indigenous Education Plans and CSIPSAW;
2. Indigenous Education and Faith Day;
3. Expansion - Walking The Path;
4. Expansion - Supports for Indigenous Students; and
5. Expansion - Language programming.

Indigenous Education Plan Overview 2023–2024

Mike reviewed the six main focuses for this year. The six focuses are:

1. Embed Indigenous Education plans within Catholic School Improvement Planning Student Achievement Well-Being (CBIPSAW);
2. Support Indigenous Ed teams as needed with release time and consultation;
3. Continue to root planning in: Positionality, use of sharing circles and Medicine Wheel Pedagogy;
4. Funding issued based upon CSIPSAW's;
5. Removes a planning cycle at the school level; and
6. Encourages the involvement of the Indigenous Education team in school planning.

Mike advised the committee that almost all schools have implemented Indigenous Education into their Catholic School Improvement Plans for Student Achievement and Well-Being. (CSIPSAW). Mike acknowledged the significance of this because monitoring meetings give the Principal an opportunity to meet with their Family of Schools Superintendent and therefore the Superintendent's thoughts and opinions are now influenced in their school plans. Principals also meet with their staff and therefore the Indigenous Education plan is reaching a larger audience from all levels of the board.

Josh Charpentier asked if the steps taken are reflective of Métis and Inuit people as well? Josh expressed his observation that a lot of steps are taken from the First Nations point of view which is fantastic but it is not the same as a Métis or Inuit. Josh is wondering if there is a more holistic approach as we are using the term “Indigenous” as an umbrella term?

Julie acknowledged that the Indigenous Education team has identified this as a gap in their work and we are working toward reconciling that.

Trustee Glover asked if Josh thinks people celebrate Louis Riel Day? Josh clarified that the staff he has talked to do not know that there is a Louis Riel Day or Powley Day. Josh believes many staff within the board are under the impression that feel that Métis are a “mixed blood” which is not correct. Josh believes there is no one at a board level that can speak to the Métis ways of living, significant days etc.

Cydney advised that Anne Taylor and herself have incorporated other elements of Walking The Path to include more Inuit and Métis history in the Walking The Path program. Cydney also advised that where herself and Anne do not have the knowledge, they are inviting people in to offer those teachings. Cydney also stated that Powley day is part of a bigger plan and the team are actively looking to add it to the catholic school calendar. Jacqueline highlighted that teachers can teach about the day “beyond the day itself” meaning the teaching can be throughout the year and not just the day of significance.

5. [Indigenous Reconciliation Fund](#) - Julie

Julie reminded all committee members there is an opportunity for Indigenous communities to apply for funding from the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF) from the Diocese of Peterborough. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, September 27th at 12:00pm. In order to qualify, individuals applying must identify and be from a First Nations, Métis, or Inuit group, organization, institution, or community within the region served by the Diocese of Peterborough

If committee members want more information, Julie asked that they reach out to Shannon and Julie will give the individual a call to discuss further. Julie stated the application is a simplified process as the Dioceses did not want to make it complicated. Julie instructed that Shannon will share the poster and more information after the meeting and will include the information in the minutes.

D. Next Committee Meeting:

1. Next meeting is on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 6:30-8:30pm. in person at the CEC
2. Agenda items for the next meeting, please contact, Shannon Carr
3. Selection of committee member for Land Acknowledgement
 - a. Rachel Rochon
4. Selection of committee member for Opening Prayer
 - a. John Connolly
5. Selection of committee member for Closing Prayer
 - a. Kristy Davidson

E. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer – Trixie Taylor
Trixie led in closing prayer

2. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Della Stewart-Figueira, seconded by Cydney Habraken
The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.