



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

MINUTES

FIRST NATION, MÉTIS, INUIT COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, December 2, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.
Ursuline College Chatham, Library

Chair: Deb Crawford, Superintendent of Education

Present: John Van Heck (Trustee), Brenda Courey, Steve DeGurse, Margaret Palmer-McCann, Ray Power, Luana Sfalcin, Caroline VanRoestel-Seward, John Snake, Connie Pare (Diocese of London), Tina Greenbird, Neecey Greenbird, Danny Sfalcin, Alicia Hart Jacobs, Jenet Altiman, Janeva Altiman, Natalia Sands, Kaid Hart, Colton Hart, Huro Avina, Amber Vanderdoe, Cassia Grenbird, Georgina Altiman, Krystal Colwell, Tyler White

Regrets: Beverly Bresette (Kettle Stoney Point First Nation), Vicky Ware (Aamjiwnaang First Nation), Brenda Rumble

Recording Secretary: Cathy Calvert

1. *Opening Prayer- All*
Deb Crawford, Chair of the meeting, opened the meeting with prayer.
2. *Welcome and Introductions*
Deb Crawford welcomed and thanked those in attendance, and introductions were made.
3. *Approval of Minutes*
Motion: (John Van Heck) That the Minutes for the First Nation, Métis, Inuit Communities Committee Meeting of April 22, 2013 be approved as presented. Carried.
4. *Approval of Agenda*
Motion: (Ray Power) That the Agenda for the First Nations, Métis, Inuit Communities Committee Meeting of Monday, December 2, 2013 be approved as presented. Carried.

5. *Ministry Focus – FNMI Education Framework* – Caroline Van Roestel-Seward
A handout on the Performance Measures from Second Progress Report on Framework Implementation was given to the group.

The Key priorities were discussed and explained.

Feedback from the group was requested.

Question from the floor:

What is the formula used to determine the funding the schools receive?

- Board makes application for project funding to Ministry of Education.
- Funding approval given by Ministry of Education.
- John Snake said that the money should also be used for educating the staff and students in schools which do not have a significant aboriginal community; he suggested that the Birds of Prey demonstration has been a way of doing this.
- Krystal Colwell suggested the need for greater awareness about the history of the Residential Schools.

6. *Reports from Schools*

Margaret Palmer – UCC

- Introduced Connie Pare as a representative of Bishop Fabbro from the Diocese of London.
- Connie Pare read a letter, from Bishop Fabbro, congratulating the students of UCC on their participation in the Leadership camp at the Environmental Education Center in Moraviantown.
- The letter also stated that the Diocese will provide, to UCC, an additional \$20,000 for the 2014 year through the Moving Forward Together project in support of this program.
- Presentation re: UCC Aboriginal Leadership Camp. Outcomes of the Leadership Camp have been leadership skills, teamwork, learning about oneself, realized how respected women are in the culture i.e. football game when females are allowed to tackle and the males are not.
- Mother of student who attended the Leadership camp shared that this was a great experience for the students.
- Suggestion made that UCC students share knowledge they have gained with elementary schools.
- Funding used to provide CYW support to Aboriginal Students by Tiffany Vermast during lunch hours at UCC.
- “Moving Forward Together” has endowed a scholarship for an FNMI student who wants to attend the University of Windsor.

Luana Sfalcin – St. Elizabeth

- Funding was available last year to have a day of Language Learning with teachers from Walpole Island and the Ojibwa language was incorporated into the morning prayer service.

- This year that Language Learning session has been extended on a bi-monthly session with the teachers from Walpole Island, beginning in January and culminating with a Pow Wow in June utilizing the language they have learned.
- Literature with First Nations Culture has been made available to all students.
- School goal is to incorporate First Nations Culture into the everyday life of the school.

7. *Report from the First Nation Communities*

Tyler White, from Walpole Island, will be at UCC on December 3, 2013 to meet with the students along with Krystal Colwell and Suzette Jacobs. They will be making sure that graduates know about post-secondary funding which is available and how to apply.

Volunteer hours are available on Walpole Island.

8. *Report from the Board*

Proposals for current year FNMI Funding:

- Proposals were submitted to the Ministry at the end of October.
- Response by January and if successful then the money will need to be spent by the end of June.

Two collaborative proposals

- LKDSB Multi-media resource development in support of Native Language and Native Studies Courses
- Greater Essex County DSB, St. Elizabeth, Waterloo Catholic DSB for Collaborative Native Language Integration Project

Other proposals:

- Embedding FNMI in Social Science, History and Geography Curriculum
- Building our Cultural Awareness – Joanne Jackson “Anishinaabe cultural competency”
- Improving our FNMI Self-Identification Response
- Native Games in Elementary Schools - Lacrosse
- Super FNMI readers

Environment Funding was used for:

- 118 Students from St. Anne in Blenheim to attend the reenactment of the War of 1812

New Social Sciences, History, Geography documents:

- New Curriculum has FNMI inclusion – Social Science, History, Geography, Civics. New Resources in our schools now: books, DVDs.

Next Steps:

- Compile a list of speakers, presenters of Aboriginal language and culture for schools.
- Create Resource Page on our Board Website.

9. *Next Meeting Date*

Monday, May 12, 2014

Deb Crawford, Superintendent of Education offered a heartfelt thank you to:

The parents for attending and contributing to this meeting;

The students and Margaret Palmer from UCC for sharing their trip;

Bishop Fabbro for his support;

Caroline Van Roestel-Seward for all her work with this committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.