



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

MINUTES

FIRST NATION, MÉTIS, INUIT COMMUNITITES COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, October 28, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.
Walpole Island Elementary School Library
521 Tecumseh Road
Walpole Island First Nation

Present: Deb Crawford, Carol Bryden, Steve DeGurse, Margaret Palmer, Ray Power, Luana Sfalcin, Caroline VanRoestel-Seward, Annette Houle, Tyler White, Tiffany Vermast Colleen Rice, Linda Lou Classens, Anne Fournier, Anika Altman, Trisha Bown

Regrets:

Recording Secretary: Cathy Calvert

1. *Opening Prayer- All*
The meeting was opened with *Prayer of Thanksgiving*.
2. *Welcome and Introductions*
Caroline VanRoestel-Seward welcomed and thanked those in attendance, and introductions were made.
3. *Review and Approval of Minutes*
Motion: (Tiffany Vermast and Carol Bryden) that the Minutes for the First Nation, Métis, Inuit Communities Committee Meeting of June 4, 2015 be approved. Carried.
4. *Agenda Setting and Approval of Agenda*
Ministry News and EQAO report from Caroline be presented prior to the reports of the schools.
Motion: That the Agenda, as revised for the First Nations, Métis, Inuit Communities Committee Meeting of Wednesday, October 28, 2015 was approved by consensus.
5. *Ministry News and EQAO Report* - Caroline VanRoestel-Seward
 - EQAO Data for 2013-2014 for Self-Identified FNMI Students in 2014: 176 wrote the exam.



**ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

- EQAO grade 9 applied math achieving level 3 or more 34% above the Provincial Rate
- OSSLT Literacy test 58% above the Provincial Rate
- Ministry Website now has all their aboriginal materials in one location
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/aboriginal/>

6. *Reports from Schools*

Ursuline College Chatham – *Tiffany Vermast, CYW*

- Tiffany is back at UCC for a full day on Fridays
- Educational excursions are being planned
- Volunteer Opportunities are being made available to the students
- Post-Secondary Support/Planning with the Grade 12 students
- Lunch Program, Homework Support, Bridging the gap between the students and teachers are programs which Tiffany is working with the students.

St. John Fisher - *Luana Sfalcin*

- Grant money has been received and so they are considering bringing Brenda Collins to work with Intermediate students and make mosaic medicine wheel and medicine belts with the students.
- Also looking at purchasing resources for junior students.

St. Elizabeth – *Luana Sfalcin*

- Ann Fournier and Linda Lou Classens brought in Ojibway language to JK to Grade 8 students.
- Drums were made with Brian and senior students as part of the day and he taught the students what an honour and blessing it was to make the drums, Father Chris came in and blessed the event and the drums. There was a prayer service at the beginning and at the end of the event.
- Regalia was discussed and explained to staff and students.
- Press was in the teepee and told many stories and teachings that day to the students

7. *Report from the First Nation Communities*

Tyler White – Walpole Island

- So pleased that Tiffany is still involved at UCC
- He has a lot of things in place for Post-Secondary at the Harry Jacob's Centre



**ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

- December 3rd at DSS the Indigenous groups from Colleges and Universities will be in Wallaceburg and he would like to give the students from Grade 12 UCC the opportunity to attend.
- College and University application assistance is available and he would like to get UCC students involved – advisors will be available to go to UCC and meet with senior students regarding requirements and funding.
- For St. Pat's we are building relationships with Beverly Bressette, Dallas Sinopol.
- Funding is available for First Nations Students, who have membership in a community, and are Grade 12 graduates, for Post-Secondary for application fee (once accepted), Tuition completely paid, \$875.00 monthly allowance (if they get dorm amount goes down), \$500.00 for books. Marks need to be submitted to the Band for funding to continue.
- Ray Power, Principal UCC, asked how can we facilitate getting the information which Tyler needs for his work and incentives which are available i.e. Report Cards, Attendance Reports, Credit Counselling Reports etc. Walpole Island students get cash incentives for credits received attendance etc. Could a release form be created to be used by LKDSB, SCCDSB, using the Walpole Island form to further enhance the communication?

Anika Altman– Parent of St. Elizabeth

- Positive reports from her children
- Always pleased to see people from their community in the school
- I would like to see a collaborative relationship between the FNMI communities and the SCCDSB and LKDSB to increase Student Success

Linda Lou Classens – Walpole Island Board of Directors

- Portfolio with the Board is high school level
- 2 daughters graduated from UCC
- First Nation peoples have a lot to offer the world
- First Nation peoples need to have their rights respected

Annette Houle – Parent of Gregory Hogan

- Nice to hear that FNMI information is in the schools and that children are receiving it in the schools.

8. *Report from the Board – Caroline VanRoestel-Seward*

This year the schools involved with individual projects are:



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

- St. Elizabeth – develop language and have a celebration;
- Holy Family, St. John Fisher, and St. Anne – Sarnia – cultural teachings with different First Nations people and Metis people,
- UCC and St. Patrick’s – make connections with Lambton College and their FNMI connection and planning on taking students there and letting them know what supports are available.
- All Grade 3
- All schools have a Lego kit to make wampum belts
- JK-3 Inquiry using FNMI cultural artifacts: 3 schools in Wallaceburg and St. John Fisher, in Forest, bring in FNMI artifacts.
- Lacrosse tournament will be in Wallaceburg and will include all 3 Wallaceburg schools.
- Cultural awareness training for all Principals and Vice Principals this year.
- Tyler White has a contact who will teach cultural teachings for lacrosse to students.

9. *Other Business*

Mental Wellness – Deb Crawford

- Be Safe App was discussed. It has been designed because when young people were consulted and they felt they didn’t have the language to express themselves to the support agency/people to get the supports they need.
- This app is available for download from our Board’s website under Mental Health.
- **Family Connections** is being considered by Chris Preece and this information is needed to be passed along to as many parents as possible.

Books that are going into all of our elementary classrooms this year are recommended by Good Minds these were purchased with monies left from last year’s funding.

Self-Identification pamphlet – needs to be revamped for next year. This pamphlet goes out to all parents at the beginning of each school year. Feedback can be sent or given to Caroline. New pamphlets will be going to print by Christmas.

Item for next meeting from Ann Fournier – End of September 30th is “Wear an Orange T-Shirt Day” to honour the Residential Schools – could this be used as a pathway to healing for our Board next year. Our Board is asked to recognize this day and to take a leadership role in recognizing the day. Ann Fournier will send information to Caroline VanRoestel-Seward.



**ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

Caroline asked attendees to provide feedback to the group i.e. something we got right and next steps.

Deb Crawford thanked Caroline for all her work with the proposals. The report back from the Ministry was: “Thank you Carline it was an honor and a joy to read these applications and all are approved.”

10. *Next Meeting Date*

Spring of 2016 – *TBD*

Motion: (Margaret Palmer and Ray Power) to adjourn the First Nation, Métis, Inuit Communities Committee Meeting at 7:05 p.m. *Approved by Consensus.*

The meeting was adjourned.