



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

MINUTES

FIRST NATION, METIS, INUIT COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, November 16, 2012 at 12:30 p.m.
CEC Boardroom

- Chair: Dr. Frank Leddy, Superintendent of Education
- Representative: Harriet Jacobs, Walpole Island First Nation
- Present: Gerri Brown, Principal – Ursuline College Chatham
Steve DeGurse, Principal – St. John Fisher Catholic School
Margaret Palmer-McCann, Chaplain – Ursuline College Chatham
Caroline VanRoestel-Seward, Board Aboriginal Lead
- Regrets: Chris Kehoe, Principal – St. Elizabeth Catholic School
Michelle Parks, Trustee
John VanHeck, Trustee

Recording Secretary: Brenda Courey

1. *Opening Prayer - All*

Dr. Frank Leddy, chair of the meeting, opened the meeting with prayer.

2. *Welcome and Introductions*

Dr. Leddy welcomed and thanked those in attendance, and introductions were made.

3. *Approval of Minutes*

Motion: (Gerri Brown, Caroline VanRoestel-Seward) That the Minutes for the First Nation, Métis, Inuit Communities Committee Meeting of Monday, June 18, 2012 be approved as presented. Carried.

4. *Approval of Agenda*

Motion: (Caroline VanRoestel-Seward, Margaret Palmer-McCann) That the Agenda for the First Nation, Métis, Inuit Communities Committee Meeting of Monday, November 16, 2012 be approved as presented. Carried.

5. *Report from Schools*

Steve DeGurse shared resources that are being used at St. John Fisher Catholic School. He brought in examples of student research and artwork based on literature resources. He commented the parish Priest visited the school to talk about St. Kateri.

Caroline VanRoestel-Seward described resources that are available in all elementary schools.

Gerri Brown and Margaret Palmer-McCann shared many activities taking place at Ursuline College. Fundraising for FNMI students for Muskoka Woods was attended by the Elders. Left over funds will be used for a trip to London where students will meet an author. They will also meet a dancer and learn local dances. A local carver taught an art class where they learned wood carving and soapstone carving. John Snake is going to facilitate a day in the spring to help students celebrate cultures.

Margaret Palmer-McCann is looking into programs that could be supported by the Diocese funding to address transitions and academic success issues. She is awaiting approval. She discussed feedback from the First Nation Club. There was a Bird of Prey presentation given to the school, sharing the importance of the eagle to the FNMI culture. They are also holding nutrition/cooking sessions where students learn nutrition education and basic cooking skills. They are planning an Indian Taco night coming up soon. A video “Respecting Differences” is being created. The purpose of this video is to teach students about watching the language used, eliminate stereotypes, and develop respect for all cultures.

Other updates included UCC had a week of prayer that focused on St. Kateri, and a welcoming display was created to show that UCC is their home and increase their pride in their school. It was also noted that St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School had a Grade 11 Native Studies course last year.

6. *Report from First Nation Communities*

Harriet Jacobs reported that Suzette Jacobs visits students at Ursuline College on a regular basis. There was nothing else to report at this time.

7. *Report from the Board*

Caroline VanRoestel-Seward highlighted projects from the 2011-12 school year:

- Artwork by John Williams from Sarnia, paintings by Sean Couchie from London, drums from Roger Williams from Sarnia
- Grades 4-8 received Turtle Island books
- David Bouchard presented to students and parents and many of his books are in our schools
- 13 students participated in a Student Survey

Caroline presented the survey results from elementary and secondary. She also shared the Self-ID update for 2012-13. There are 129 students, up from 66 in 2011-12. She commented there is a need to find ways to facilitate Self-ID so that we can have a better idea as to the demographics.

She has been sharing success stories with the Ministry. The proposals for 2012-13 have not been approved yet. The focus for this proposal is the environment.

8. *Next Meeting Dates*

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.