



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

*Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey*

## MINUTES

### FIRST NATION, MÉTIS, INUIT COMMUNITITES COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.  
U.C.C. Library

Chair: Carol Bryden, Trustee

Present: Deb Crawford, Steve DeGurse, Margaret Palmer-McCann, Ray Power, Luana Sfalcin, Caroline VanRoestel-Seward, John Snake, Tiffany Vermast, Anne Fournier, Christine Preece, Dan Parr, Gloria Greeve, Steve Pitois, Alisha Hart, Kaid Hart, NoodinWalker, Cheryl Riley, Tahja Cadotte, Nora Sony, Dayle White, Candace Noah, Mia Fisher

Regrets:

Recording Secretary: Cathy Calvert

1. *Opening Prayer- All*

Margaret Palmer-McCann began the meeting with Grace Before Meals. Everyone enjoyed a pizza dinner.

Deb Crawford welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Ray Power, Principal of UCC and Margaret Palmer-McCann, UCC Chaplain, for their hospitality.

Dan Parr, Director of Education, opened the meeting with prayer.

2. *Welcome and Introductions*

Carol Bryden welcomed and thanked those in attendance, and introductions were made.

3. *Review and Approval of Minutes*

**Motion: (Margaret Palmer-McCann and Tiffany Vermast ) That the Minutes for the First Nation, Métis, Inuit Communities Committee Meeting of June 2, 2014 be approved. Carried.**

4. *Agenda Setting and Approval of Agenda*

**Motion: (Margaret Palmer-McCann and Ray Power) That the Agenda for the First**

**Nations, Métis, Inuit Communities Committee Meeting of Tuesday, November 4, 2014 be approved as amended. Carried.**

5. *Director of Education Address*

Dan Parr, Director of Education, passed around the Prayer Card and Lighting The Way booklet which contains our Board's multi-year plan.

This plan also contains Three Strategic Priorities:

- Living Our Faith
- Promoting Educational Achievement and Innovation
- Fostering Stewardship, Leadership and Social Justice

Dan explained that the Strategic Priorities with our Mission Statement which is on the one side of the prayer card. Everyone in our Board is part of our Mission Statement whether staff, students or parents.

This Plan will be regularly monitored and reported on for each of the three goals.

The Board has also placed plaques in all our schools and classrooms which contain the Multi-Year Strategic Plan for the next five or six years.

6. *Reports from Schools*

Ursuline College – *Margaret Palmer*

- \$10,000 has been received from the Diocese for FNMI students. Some of the activities suggested by the students, for the use of the funds are:
  - A day to celebrate all the many cultures within Chatham-Kent this year
  - Trip which would involve cultural experiences for the students
  - Day trip to high ropes course
  - Fry Bread Day a few times during the year.

St. Elizabeth - *Luana Sfalcin*

- Mini Pow Wow at St. Elizabeth was held last June
  - A Teepee was set up onsite, many pictures of the Pow Wow were shared.
- *Anne Fournier* shared some pictures, which were not part of the PowerPoint presentation. These pictures depicted the way in which the communities came together for the Pow Wow. Students had lots of questions and were very interested in First nation culture and traditions
- Focus is on monthly classroom sessions by Facilitators from Walpole Island
- Cultural days will happen at the end of the year highlighting language, drama, song etc.

Holy Family – *Gloria Grieve*

- FNMI Super readers with First Nations materials
- This year's project is to engage First Nations Community with the students and make the connections through the curriculum
- Monthly classrooms sessions by First Nations Facilitators

- Culminating activity will be a celebration of First Nations Culture by bussing grade 5 to 8 to a Cultural Day.

St. John Fisher – *Steve DeGurse*

- Last year Lacrosse was introduced into the school
- Lacrosse will continue this year and there will be increased participation of students. Students will also be reading two books which accompany the game of Lacrosse

7. *Report from the First Nation Communities*

Ann Fournier – Walpole Island

- Prayers for the community are requested as there is a funeral there this week.
- Fiddle and the Sash Metis Association in Wallaceburg help people with their genealogy, for self-identification.

John Snake & Candace Noah– Delaware First Nation

- Spiritual Walk just completed along the river beginning at the Mission Church, second oldest church in Canada.
- White Corn delineates the Delaware people from other First Nations people.
- John issued an invitation to go to reserve at fishing time in the spring. Fishing time begins when the ice is gone off the river, usually March.

Information from group

- 2 students went to Regina and played in the Indigenous games and received Silver and Bronze medals in Lacrosse.

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

a. Self-Identification

- Poster - **Stand Up. Be Proud** – students from UCC on poster
- We have increased the number of students who have self-identified from 66 to 178
- This year we only have about ½ the funds which we have been given over the past 5 years. There has been a change in the way the funding is now calculated. We are now funded by the size of the board and the number of self-identified students.

b. Grade 5 Social Studies

- Highest number of FNMI students are at UCC, St Elizabeth, Holy Family and some at St. Patrick's High School in Sarnia
- Grade 5 teachers will have PD this year to learn how to incorporate FNMI into their curriculum
- The ratio of Metis and First Nations are about 50/50 in our board's secondary schools

c. Other business

- FNMI Leadership Camp – Tim Horton Onondaga Leadership Camp at St. George, ON for students in grade 7 to 12. We will be sending students from our board with one chaperone, Greg Mallette, Teacher at UCC. Four UCC students are currently signed up to attend. The camp will take place at the end of November. No cost, bussing will be provided. Leadership skills and personal achievement will be the focus of the camp.
- Ministry has released a new First Nations and Treaties Map of Ontario

9. Carol Bryden

- Implementation of the Board Strategic Plan will be the focus for the Board
- New Board will be sworn in in December 2014.

10. Next Meeting Date

Spring of 2015 – *TBD*

The meeting was adjourned:

**Motion: (Margaret Palmer-McCann and Caroline Van Roestel-Seward) to adjourn the First Nation, Métis, Inuit Communities Committee Meeting of November 4, 2014 at 7:02 p.m. Carried.**