



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

*Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey*

## MINUTES

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

Tuesday, June 4, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.  
Holy Family School, Wallaceburg, Library

Chair: Deb Crawford

Present: Mat Roop, Margaret Palmer, Ray Power, Luana Sfalcin, Caroline VanRoestel-Seward, Tyler White, Tiffany Vermast, Gloria Grieve, Beverly Brissette, Nora Soney, Sandra Wintjes, Brenda Collins

Regrets: Carol Bryden,

Absent: Steve DeGurse

Recording Secretary: Cathy Calvert

1. *Opening Prayer- All*  
Deb Crawford, opened the meeting with  
Prayer: Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks
2. *Welcome and Introductions*  
Deb Crawford welcomed and thanked those in attendance, and introductions were made.
3. *Review and Approval of Minutes*  
**Motion: (Margaret Palmer-McCann ) That the Minutes for the First Nation, Métis, Inuit Communities Committee Meeting of November 4, 2014 be approved. Carried.**
4. *Agenda Setting and Approval of Agenda*  
Change in order of Agenda to accommodate travel of Brenda Collins
5. *Reports from Schools*  
Ursuline College Chatham – Ray Power, Margaret Palmer, Tiffany Vermast  
➤ Tim Horton's Camp

- 2 students from UCC attended – Nora Soney was one of the students who attended and reported that team work and leadership building, were some of the activities they did and they made a lot of friends.
- Lunch time Drop-In at UCC in the Student Success area – 4 days a week with Tiffany Vermast.
- New Spirit Wear for the First Nations Club they can wear the shirts on Fridays.
- Educational Excursions – Indspire-Soaring: Indigenous Youth Career Forum, May 5/15 in London. Joined LKDSB for trip. 7-8 draws at end of the day and one of the SCCDSB students won a lap top with software and bag. Very worthwhile conference to attend.
- LKDSB Aboriginal Student Symposium: Re-writing our future . . . Lighting the Seventh Fire was held on May 27, 2015 - workshops, guest speakers, Tyler White was the MC for the day and was instrumental in getting SCCDSB students invited to attend.
- First Nations Club are planning an Indian Taco Day on June 16<sup>th</sup>.
- High ropes and leadership activities for First Nations Club are planned for next week in Sarnia.
- Ray Power thanked Tiffany Vermast for her work with the students at UCC while Margaret Palmer was away; and thanked Tyler White for his help and support.

#### St. Elizabeth - *Luana Sfalcin*

- January through May once a month there were 200 students, their teachers and EA's all participating in Native Language classes in every classroom from JK to Grade 8. Students enjoyed these classes. The school day began with a Prayer Service for the whole school and Our Father was said in English and Ojibway and hand drum was also part of the service.
- This Friday, June 12, 2015 will be FNMI Culminating Activities Day with the big tent at the school. There will be rotating centres for Grades JK-7: Native Crafts, Story Telling Dance Teaching, Hand Drum Teaching and Indian Tacos will be served and day will end with prayer.
- One student from St. Elizabeth attended the Tim Horton's Camp with the UCC students.

#### Holy Family – *Gloria Grieve*

- Brenda Collins, retired elementary teacher from London, has been working at Holy Family School and explained her family heritage. She showed a mosaic, made up of 6500 tiles; she worked on with the grade 7 & 8 students and which will hang on the wall at Holy Family School. Brenda then explained the mosaic, the colours and the meaning of the depictions within the mosaic.
- 2 Holy Family students went to Tim Horton's camp as well.
- Cultural Diversity Workshops: Gifts of the Spirit; Tipis (K – Gr. 2); Dreamcatchers (Gr 3-5); Cultural Day – Tyler White was MC for the day Grade 5-8 from all 3 Wallaceburg schools – began with prayer, Pow Wow, dancers, Indian Taco lunch, learned about the dancers and their regalia, storytelling by an elder and then lacrosse stations. Community participation for this event was wonderful and good for the students.

#### 6. *Report from the First Nation Communities*

##### Tyler White – Walpole Island

- Good year to stay connected with UCC

- Part of 7 & 8 program at WDSS, excursions, lacrosse
- Participated in Holy Family Cultural Day
- Lots going on at other schools as well as UCC
- Tiffany Vermast has done an amazing job with the students and the programs at UCC
- Tyler's current job coming to an end, funded by a Walpole Island First Nation grant, hoping that it will continue in some way next year and in the years to come.
- Adam Beech, actor, guest speaker at WDSS and spoke to students and some people had issue with why couldn't UCC students attend. Tyler would like to have ability to have students from UCC to attend cultural events within the community.
- Tyler is now a Teen Suicide/Grief Trained person (there is a team of 4 people who do this) he would like to bring it to SCCDSB.

Beverly Brissette – Chippewa of Kettle and Stoney Point

- Want to establish a more formal relationship with SCCDSB.
- Number of their students attend St. Pat's in Sarnia.
- There is a resource list from their community of people who have skills which might be utilized by the schools.
- Mid-July Pow Wow and everyone is invited to attend. Flyers will be sent to Caroline Van Roestel-Seward to circulate to our schools in the north.
- School on reserve will be celebrating 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year with special celebrations.
- They have a secondary school counsellor who visits all Lambton schools and she would visit St. Pat's if there was a need.

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

a. Self Identification

- Principals will be receiving FNMI Self-ID flyers & posters

b. Grade 5 Social Studies

- Historical viewpoints of First Nations people
- Trying to help teachers bridge between historical and current First Nations
- Combines our faith and First Nations
- Brenda Collins presented to grade 5 teachers and they made wampum belts
- New resource kits have arrived for schools.

c. New Proposals for next year

- FDK through the inquiry model use provocations to bring about awareness of various cultures in our communities through Art.
- Cultural awareness for staff in secondary. (Tyler offered to do information training for administration and staff on and at Walpole Island) (Beverly Brissette said that LKDSB used some FNMI money to do something similar).
- Grade 3 – using Many Gifts Resources to deepen inquiry and discussion around communities in Canada in the 1800s particularly FNMI communities.
- Phys. Ed Teachers – using lacrosse materials previously purchased to hold cultural events.

- Cultural days.
  - Provide experiences for students to experience and learn about the culture (e.g. through art and social student related lessons) (wampum belts, medicine wheel mosaics, literacy materials).
  - Margaret Palmer commented that the monies received from the Diocese have assisted UCC with their programs but there is not the large amount of money coming from that source and would like to look for other ways of funding the FNMI projects as they are very important to the students.
  - Beverly Brissette offered to have resource people, from her community, come and meet teachers at a Professional Development Day to make connections.
- d. New FNMI Curriculum Release
- New curriculum to be released for the end of August, FNMI Course to replace current Native Studies course.

#### 8. *Next Meeting Date*

*Fall of 2015 – TBD – Cathy will sort out dates. (possible 2 dates – October date? – Anne Fournier, Librarian at Walpole Island and maybe school at Kettle Point maybe end of November and then possibly May)*

The meeting was adjourned:

**Motion: (Margaret Palmer-McCann and Caroline Van Roestel-Seward) to adjourn the First Nation, Métis, Inuit Communities Committee Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Carried.**

Deb thanked Caroline for all the work and commitment to the FNMI.