



**ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

MINUTES

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.
St. Elizabeth School, Wallaceburg, ON**

Chair: Carol Bryden, Trustee

Present: Carol Bryden, Lisa Demers, Ray Power, Liz Gibson, Celeste Noah, Cortnee Goure, Paul Teetzel, Beverly Bressette, Mark Bernard, Steve DeGurse, Susie Jones, Debbie Millward, Candace Caron

Regrets: Vicki Ware, Robin Isaac, Zandra Bear-Lowen, Thomas Dula, Kimberly Sonneveld

Recorder: Cathy Calvert

1. Opening Prayer- All

Lisa Demers 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 of May 17, 2018

Motion: (*Liz Gibson, Paul Teetzel*). That the Minutes for the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting of May 17, 2018 be approved. *Carried.*

4. Review of Agenda and Approval

Motion: (*Mark Bernard, Ray Power*) That the Agenda for the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting of Wednesday, October 10, 2018 be approved. *Carried.*

5. Review of Board 2018-19 Action Plan – Cortnee Goure

- The Board 2018-19 Action Plan on Indigenous Education which was based on input from our community partners was presented by Cortnee Goure.
- Some comments and suggestions generated by the presentation:

- Carol Bryden – Do we have any students from the Caldwell First Nation in our schools? Cortnee replied that we do not.
- Susie Jones – Is there a way of educating parents about doing Indigenous Education. Perhaps by inviting parents to what we are doing at the schools?
 - Some schools are including Cortnee’s newsletter into their school newsletter.
 - St. Elizabeth Orange Shirt Day – Using information from the Director’s Memo on Orange Shirt day a note was sent home, note put on school doors, and on School’s Facebook page.
 - Steve DeGurse – follow-up activity to Orange Shirt Day to create further discussion.
 - Cortnee – there are recommended resources on our Board website for both parents and teachers which include Treaty Recognition Curriculum as well there is a Twitter account, and News Releases.
- The board brochures for *First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education* and *Voluntary and Confidential Self-Identification Policy and Pamphlet* should be easily accessible to students and parents in schools.

6. Updates from Schools

St. Elizabeth - *Liz Gibson, Principal*

- 10% self-identified students. Some have decided not to self-identify.
- **White Lightning Clark** came to the school twice last year – drumming and dancing.
- Year-end family social – fry bread fish tacos.
- Finding ways to do teaching and not just have an event.
- Susie Jones presented last week.
- White Lightning Clark spoke with our younger students about starting school and how to use drumming to express feelings.
- Celeste Noah will be part of the Sewing Group in our Collaborative Learning Space to connect the Sewing Club with Indigenous Education.

Ursuline College – *Ray Power, Principal & Celeste Noah*

- The Secondary Student Leadership Group and Celeste Noah are spreading the interest in Indigenous Culture.
- 18 students signed up for new course, NBE3U Contemporary Aboriginal Voices, which explores Indigenous literature.
- Indigenous Leadership Group – have planned 4 major activities for this year.
- October 2, 2018 which is when UCC celebrated Orange Shirt Day:
 - Susie Jones came to introduce the movie *After Shock* and to answer questions afterwards.
 - Students had quotes from Residential School Survivors posted throughout the school and had setup information booths in the Library and a Display Case.
 - White Lightning Clark opened and closed the session and explained the importance of opening and closing.
- Looking to bring guest speakers to speak to Indigenous students re: Post-Secondary opportunities.

Holy Family – Mark Bernard

- Grade 7/8 teacher wanted to build on the meaning of Orange Shirt Day and to bring it to the rest of the school.
- Grade 7/8 had Susie Jones present and White Lightning Clark did the Blanket Exercise. The follow-up discussion with White Lightning Clark was very impactful.
- Students wanted to help their peers understand what happened at the Residential Schools. They did a dramatic tableau *Secret Path* and had follow up discussion with Susie.
- White Lightning Clark discussed the book *The Kissing Hand* and dealing with separation and he did drumming and dance.
- Students were interested and they want to learn more.

St. Michael-Bright's Grove – Steve DeGurse

- St. Michael Catholic School in Bright's Grove does not have a lot to report on.
- Grade 7 8 teachers with Cortnee are working together.
- Orange Shirt Day this year generated more discussion.
- Beverly Bressette offered to set up an introduction session at Kettle and Stony Point if that is something that the school would like.

7. Updates from Committee Members

- **Beverly Bressette – Kettle and Stoney Point:**
 - Language Counsellor – Patricia Shawnoo.
 - More than willing to host groups.
- **Friendship Centre:** Candace Caron
 - Cultural Resource program works with families.
 - Urban programming works with community wellness.
 - Orange Shirt Day was tied in with Mental wellness.
 - *Indian Horse* video is available to schools and comes with teaching resources which can be accessed.

8. Next Meeting Date

March 5, 2018 – Location and time will be determined.

9. The meeting was adjourned:

Motion: (Liz Gibson, Steve DeGurse) to adjourn the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting at 5:30 p.m. Carried.