

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Wednesday, November 25, 2020 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Present: Carol Bryden, Lisa Demers, Cortnee Goure, Chris Kehoe, Stacy Shepley, Ann Clarke,

Community Partnership Members:

Celeste Noah, Community Partner, Eelünaapéewi Lahkéewiit

Student Members:

Daisy White, Ursuline College

Recorder: Cathy Calvert

Regrets: Ray Power, Cecil Isaac,

Absent: Greg Mallette, Paul Teetzel, Vicki Ware, Steve Styers, Jolene Whiteye, Robin Isaac, Deb Munroe, Eden Monkhouse, Sylver Elijah, Shaawnonoo Altman

Chair, Carol Bryden, Trustee, opened the meeting at 2:40 p.m. and introduced herself. Carol explained as this is a formal Board Committee and as the meeting was being held in a virtual setting she was required to take attendance. Carol also explained that when there was a motion to be voted on she would require the voting members to verbally express their vote, when asked by the chair.

Carol then read the *Acknowledgement of Ancestral Lands*.

1. Opening Prayers

- The opening prayers were done in their Native Languages by Daisy White and Celeste Noah.

2. Welcome and Introductions

- Lisa Demers, Superintendent of Education, asked each attending member to introduce themselves.

3. Review of Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Minutes from December 5, 2019

MOTION BY Celeste Noah and seconded by Daisy White to accept the Minutes from the December 5, 2019 Indigenous Education Advisory Committee meeting. **CARRIED**

- 4. Adoption of Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Agenda** **Carol Bryden**
MOTION BY Daisy White and seconded by Celeste Noah to adopt the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Agenda of November 25, 2020. **CARRIED**

5. Updates from Committee Members

Chris Kehoe, Principal, St. Patrick's Catholic High School

- *St. Pat's* has 5 students signed up for the new Anishinaabemowin credit course . The invitations for this course were personally handed by Chris.
- In November *St. Pat's* had Native Veterans resources available during Treaty Awareness Week.
- There was a webcast available to teachers on Louis Riel which helped them to learn about Métis and Orange Shirt Day.
- *St. Pat's* student group is going ahead virtually this year.

Stacy Shepley, Principal, St. Elizabeth Catholic School

- Activities through virtual opportunities for Orange Shirt Day and the virtual opportunities that Cortnee has been able to provide have been wonderful and well received by both staff and students.

Ann Clarke, Chaplaincy Lead, St. Patrick's Catholic High School

- Ann stated that as she is new to this committee she has nothing to report at this time.

Celeste Noah, Community Partner, Eelünaapéewi Lahkéewiit

- She has had a drop-in with UCC students only 2 students came but she has received some feedback from them such as what it is like attending school during COVID-19. Some of the things they are struggling with are: spending time with all the same kids.
- Celeste is planning a session for the girls on December 10th focusing on self-esteem and humility For the boys she is planning on an elders night with hands on activity. The students are looking for support and emails are not working as they are not being read. Celeste is looking for ways to keep in contact with the students. There has been an online meeting for UCC students regarding colours and symbols that she hoped they enjoyed.

Daisy White, Student, U.C.C.

- Daisy is enrolled in virtual school and has not been able to attend any of the activities at UCC.
- Daisy likes the virtual school better than in-school.
- Daisy has signed up for the new Anishinaabemowin Course which will begin in March 2021.

6. Reflections on St. Clair Catholic District School Board Learning to Date **Cortnee Goure**

- There are 10 students who are registered for the Anishinaabemowin Course. That is the total enrollment allowed to SCCDSB.
- Main Objective: Connecting and building relationships within and across schools
- Providing advice for educators
- Orange Shirt Day - 60-100 classrooms participated virtually each day throughout the week learning from survivors, families of survivors, Elders & Knowledge keepers
- Duct tape wall - Truth & Reconciliation - Orangeshirt Day
- Being together virtually to learn had a big impact on community partners and students
- Treaty Recognition Week - 75 -115 classrooms participated virtually throughout the week
- Intermediate and Secondary students were able to have virtual chat with Chief and they had many questions for him
- Wampum bead session gave students a way of actively participating
- First Nations Library Week presented to 32 classes

- UCC art class with Cecil Isaac & Celeste Noah and they made their own beaded creations
- Kindergarten classes drew their own medicine wheels
- Virtual Blanket Exercise was done following Treaty Week
- Louis Riel Day with Rebekah Wilson had 45 classrooms participate in the learning about Métis
- Youth Leadership has held Lunchtime & Evening Connections. More Lunchtime meets are planned closer to Christmas

Board Action Plan

- The Board Action Plan that SCCDSB submits to the Ministry consists of 4 areas -
 1. **Supporting Students,**
 2. **Supporting Educators,**
 3. **Engagement & Awareness Building**
 4. **Using Data to Support Student Achievement.**
 - Cortnee will send out the ***Board Action Plan on Indigenous Education*** to the IEAC members
- **Supporting Students:**
 - Secondary Youth Leadership - Daisy and Sylver are looking at what else we can do. Being aware of the quadmester system.
 - Youth leaders being involved in this committee
- **Supporting Educators**
 - Professional Development using online sessions and using the Board website as a support for the teachers
- **Engagement & Awareness Building**
 - School Based learning: Residential Schools, Treaties for Grades K-12
 - Community Partners Gatherings - notice will be sent out by Cortnee in January for the next gathering which will focus on supporting our students and their achievement.

7. Next Meeting Date

Lisa Demers

- Suggested timeframe for the next IEAC meeting: end of February, between 20th & 28th.
- Committee members will receive an email asking their preferred February date and time for the next meeting prior to the date being set.

8. Adjournment

Carol Bryden closed the meeting with an ***Indigenous Blessing*** at 3:15 p.m.