

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING



Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

Via: Google Meeting

MINUTES

Members:

Chair: Carol Bryden, Trustee

Board Resources: Lisa Demers, Superintendent of Education
Cortnee Goure, Indigenous Education Lead

Board Committee Members: David Argenti - Trustee
Ray Power, Principal–Ursuline College Chatham
Mark Bernard, Principal–Holy Family Catholic School
Stacy Shepley, Principal–St. Elizabeth Catholic School
Ann Clarke–Chaplaincy Leader–Secondary–St. Patrick’s Catholic High School
Greg Mallette–Teacher–Secondary–Ursuline College Chatham
Paul Teetzel–Teacher–eLearning–Tech Support–Catholic Education Centre

Community Partnership Members: Vicki Ware, Education Manager, Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Beverly Bressette, Administration Assistant, Kettle and Stony Point First Nation
Jolene Whiteye, Education Manager, Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit
Cecil Isaac, Elder and Cultural Advisor, Bkejwanong Territory
Robin Isaac, Harriet Jacobs Centre, Bkejwanong Territory
Deb Munroe, Education Director, Sarnia Lambton Native Friendship Centre
Deb Milliken, Elder, Kettle and Stony Point First Nation
Bary Milliken, Elder, Kettle and Stony Point First Nation

Student Members: Eden Monkhouse, St. Patrick’s High School
Leela McLaughlin, Ursuline College Chatham
Dakota Sands, Ursuline College Chatham
Asia Greenbird-Joseph - St. Elizabeth Catholic School
Ma-Koonse Aquash - Holy Family Catholic School

Recorder: Kim Wells

Regrets: Cecil Isaac

Absent: Ann Clarke, Paul Teetzel, Vicki Ware, Beverly Bressette, Jolene Whiteye, Robin Isaac, Deb Munroe, Eden Monkhouse



A. Opening Prayer

Deb and Barry Milliken

B. Ancestral Lands Acknowledgement

Cortnee Goure

C. Welcome and Introductions

Lisa Demers

Lisa welcomed the new members joining today, David Argenti, Trustee, and students, Asia Greenbird-Joseph and Ma-Koonse Aquash. All participants briefly introduced themselves

D. Review of Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Minutes

Carol Bryden

MOTION BY Deb Miliken and seconded by Greg Malette to adopt the IEAC Minutes of October 15, 2021. **CARRIED**

E. Adoption of Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Agenda

Carol Bryden

MOTION BY Stacy Shepley and seconded by David Argenti to accept the IEAC Agenda of January 12, 2022. **CARRIED**

F. Updates from St. Clair Catholic District School Board

A. [Review to Date](#) (shared for review ahead of meeting)

Cortnee advised everyone they can use the link to look at slides and see what has been done this year. Cortnee continues to make our Board Action Plan with the slides.

B. Fundraisers for Residential School Survivors

A number of schools are taking on our board-wide stance of not making things a one-time event. For example, the impact of residential schools is an everyday discussion/reflection rather than just Orange Shirt Day. Schools are wanting to fundraise and are asking where the funds should go.

The Members were asked what they would like to put fundraisers toward. Many ideas were brainstormed:

- Orange Shirt Society (current)
- Woodland Cultural Centre
- fundraise for an band local to the school community
- Counseling services
- Friendship Centres



- Family Centres
- Women's Shelters
- Residential School Survivor visits
- Homeless persons/feeding/housing/providing warm articles/addiction assistance
- Schools in need of lunches

The idea was brought forth to use the school calendar to link events throughout the year. This could incorporate the education piece as well as raising funds. We could build the calendar around curriculum and student inquiry to different times of the year, and provide a list of options and local connections, as well as the location/services/explanation for the organization.

It was noted to keep fundraising as a rotating piece, to go between areas of need. Cortnee can reach out to various places to find campaign opportunities for youth leaders. Secondary students are action-oriented and would aim to support all year, as an act of service initiative.

Cortnee asked for a show of hands to create a subcommittee to initiate the directive for fundraising plans. Current members will include: David Argenti, Mark Bernard and Greg Mallette, with a standing invitation to all members who may be interested.

C. NBE Secondary Course

The Grade 11 English course will be integrating First Nations, Metis, Inuit, and authors of all kinds and all works and in September 2022, will become a mandatory course. This course has been running for a number of years and it was found that students/families did not realize what the NBE option represents. It was difficult to offer two grade 11 Englishes, so this will encompass both curriculums as well as being a required course for graduation.

The student flow for English options will be:

- Grade 10 English
- Grade 11 NBE, college or university
- Grade 12 English

Cortnee has been working with the English departments on planning, how to build community relationships and create groups online. Teachers could put forth student questions to the groups and the community partners would give answers. These groups could potentially be live and ongoing.

D. Secondary Youth Leadership

Greg stated that since our last meeting, there are 12 group members which is phenomenal. There was a big push before Christmas to make ribbon skirts.

With the support of Lambton college, the group has been trying to think of thank you and graduation gifts, something to give back. Hopefully in the Spring the group can utilize their student voice, student choice to make things happen in the schools.

Cortnee noted that during the pandemic, students made their own drums. There is a Healing Walk in May and maybe the students can wear their ribbon skirts and play their drums.



At St. Pat's, the youth leadership wanted to figure out how to do something from beginning to end. They were thinking about planting sweet grass in the Medicine Garden, learning how to harvest the crop and gift it to all the graduates.

This past Fall, the students wanted to learn to cook so they held a Cooking Day on November 30, 2021. They had fun making fried bread, strawberry mash and whipped cream.

A fourth semester language course is being offered for UCC and St. Pat's students, for credit through the Dufferin Peel School Board. It is a night school course running from February to May, two nights per week, three hours each night.

G. Updates from Committee Members

H. Next Meeting Date

Lisa encouraged the members to share any additional updates as they arise. We will keep members informed of our next meeting by sending out information and potential next dates.

Lisa and Carol thank David for seeking to join the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee.

This meeting marks Carol's final time Chairing the IEAC Committee meetings. Lisa thanked Carol for her leadership, learning and love for indigenous education.

Carol spoke to the fact that the IEAC Committee has been an emotional experience. She was raised in Wallaceburg and always had a strong connection with the Indigenous. She is proud of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board for promoting relationships and growing knowledge between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous. Other boards are overwhelmed by our own accomplishments. Our student voice and community leadership are the frontrunners of our success, and it was an honour and a pleasure to be part of this committee.

Barry and Deb expressed their appreciation to Carol and also wanted to acknowledge Cortnee, as she is very central to the whole of IEAC. She is a big part of their lives and they appreciate all the work she does to bring education and knowledge to the forefront.

Carol concluded the meeting with a Prayer.

I. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.