

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Friday, May 19, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.
Via Google Meet

MEMBERS

Chair: Jann Tooshkenig, Trustee

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

Board Committee Members: Ray Power, Principal–Ursuline College Chatham
Mark Bernard, Principal–Holy Family Catholic School
Stacy Shepley, Principal–St. Elizabeth Catholic School
Ann Clarke, Chaplaincy Leader–St. Patrick’s Catholic High School
Greg Mallette, Secondary Teacher–Ursuline College Chatham
Robert Walicki, Catholic Curriculum Consultant–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–Eelünaapéewi 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
Barry Milliken, Elder–Kettle and Stony Point First Nation
David Ennis–Director of Education for Kettle and Stony Point

Student Members: Leela McLaughlin, Ursuline College Chatham
Dakota Sands, Ursuline College Chatham
Asia Greenbird–Joseph, St. Elizabeth Catholic School

Guests: Scott Johnson

Recorder: Kim Wells

Regrets: Lisa Demers

Absent: Ray Power, Ann Clarke, Greg Mallette, Robert Walicki, Vicki Ware, Beverly Bressette, Jolene Whiteye, Cecil Isaac, Robin Isaac, Deb Munroe, David Ennis, Leela McLaughlin, Asia Greenbird–Joseph



A. Opening Prayer

Deb & Barry Milliken

B. Ancestral Lands Acknowledgement

Cortnee Goure

C. Welcome and Introductions

Cortnee Goure

D. Review of Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Minutes (MOTION)

Jann Tooshkenig

Motion: (Stacy and Barry) To adopt the IEAC Minutes of November 14, 2022.
CARRIED

E. Adoption of Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Agenda (MOTION)

Jann Tooshkenig

Motion: (Stacy and Barry) To accept the IEAC Agenda of May 19, 2023.
CARRIED

F. Updates from St. Clair Catholic District School Board

Cortnee Goure

1. [Review to Date](#) of this 2022-2023 school year (shared for review ahead of meeting)

- a) Cortnee encouraged our members to continue to look at the 'Review to Date' link as the slides will be updated continually throughout the school year.
- b) Our UCC students were present to speak to the events from this term:
 - i) Students have been learning about medicines and the sugar bush: what can be produced and how that has an impact on Indigenous people. They went to the Indigenous Learning Centre in Chatham and spent the day learning about the medicine wheel and the different types of medicines. Students were told seed stories and gifted with traditional seeds (sweetgrass, sage, tobacco) that they can plant. They were also led in drum songs.
 - ii) Students attended the 2nd Annual Pow Wow held at St. Clair College, in Windsor. The Great Lakes Woodland Dance Troupe performed
 - iii) Amy and Kylie stated that every other Thursday, Leann Isaac comes at lunch to discuss topics and socialize. Both students said it was a good time.
- c) All of our Library Technicians and Literacy Team connected for critical thinking about books. It was a good session as the discussion focused on representation through books in our schools. The entire team was reminded of representation of who is not in your school, ex: very few black students - still need books

representing them (black history). The group left with a draft checklist to critically think about, ex: what is dated, stereotyped, romanticized? We need to make our inventory more current and up-to-date.

- d) Our April PD Day hosted Faith Hale and Naomi Wilson who connected with staff. EA's, CYW's, PRT's, Music and French teachers were all welcome. They walked through trauma and healing informed learning: how to move forward together through phases and stages of life.
- e) Deb and Barry were invited to help with the naming of the new teaching lodge being built. Students were invited to come out to see how the lodge is built, the meaning behind the lodge, learn about the elements, etc.
- f) Youth Leadership is going to start in our elementary schools. St. Patrick's Youth Leaders will support this new endeavour.

2. **Current [fundraiser for Residential School Survivors](#)**

Geronimo's Dream - Geronimo Henry is a residential school survivor. He was brought to the Mohawk Institute Residential School, also known as the "Mush Hole" in Brantford, Ontario at the age of 5, where he remained for 11 years.

Geronimo's dream is to build a memorial wall in memory of those who, like himself, suffered and continue to suffer as a result of this experience. All funds will support Geronimo's dream.

Items were placed on SchoolCashOnline for purchase until May 22, 2023, with proceeds going directly to Geronimo's Dream.

3. **Board Action Plan (BAP)**

Cortnee shared the Board Action Plan and will send out to those who could not be at the meeting today. Cortnee explained the pillars of the plan:

Pillar 1: supporting youth

Pillar 2: connecting through professional development

Pillar 3: curriculum connections in-and-across classrooms, students working hands-on

Pillar 4: IEAC work, Community Partners, understanding student learning

Pillar 5: placeholder - work in partnership with Anishinaabe Youth Leadership

Pillar 6: work within NBE Grade 11 English course - books, media

Students currently taking the Grade 11 NBE course described what they have been doing:

- a speaker came to meet the class and spoke about the history of residential schools and second-generational trauma
- they have been reading two books - Indian Horse and The Firekeeper's Daughter: both are very educational and have helped to put perspective on Indigenous history
- they went to pow wows and all students in the class learned how they're carried out, and learned about the Medicine Wheel

- the students feel they have been beneficial in helping others to understand, students and teachers

G. Updates from Committee Members

1. Stacy Shepley - St. Elizabeth Catholic School

- PLT plan showed 8% self-identified students with the prediction that approximately 25% of students could be. The school has put in applications for Jordan's Principle funding for students who would benefit.
- The school has asked for extracurricular support for families, ex; play in Little NHL Hockey near Six Nations.

2. Deb & Barry Milliken - North Lambton High School in Forest has a big oak tree. Deb and Barry want to do a ceremony for that tree and have students come and take part: learn the history of the tree, how long it's been there, what it does for us, and what life that comes from that tree. They would like people to only see what that tree means and provides for us. The tree is something from the ground, something they can see. Students would have a ribbon to tie someplace on the tree. It would be good to have something visible as a reminder that students were a part of something. Barry has a connection with that school: it was his high school, and it's special to see that tree and realize it had been there the whole time he was going to that school. At a younger age, we don't pay attention to something like that, so it's good to come back to a part of the natural world that is standing there so strongly. The tree is part of a community and seems to be the grandparent of trees at that site. There is a whole community underground, ie: the roots - represent the ancestors of where that tree grew from. It is a great privilege to see the visible part of that tree, but important to know the underground knowledge, keep sharing with the people in the present but to remind ourselves of our history.....mistakes we learn from each other, and our future - the people that are coming. We are in the past, present and future simultaneously. It is a holistic way of living, and for our future, we have a responsibility to those spirits still to come.

H. Next Meeting Date

We will poll for a meeting at a later time in the Fall.

I. Adjournment (MOTION)

Motion: (Stacy and Barry) To adjourn the IEAC Meeting of May 19, 2023 at 11:02 a.m.
CARRIED