



**INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Chair:	Jann Tooshkenig, Trustee
Board Resources:	Lisa Demers, Superintendent of Education Cortnee Goure, Indigenous Education Lead
Board Committee Members:	Mike Giroux, Principal, St. Elizabeth Catholic School Mark Bernard, Principal, St. Joseph Catholic School, Corunna Kelly Tremblay, Principal, St. John Fisher Catholic School Margaret Palmer, Chaplaincy Leader, Ursuline College Chatham 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, Eelunaapeewi Lahkéewiit Cedric Issac, Elder, 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 William Tichenoff, Director, Kettle and Stony Point
Student Members:	Carter Lambert, St. Patrick's Secondary School, Sarnia Cherish Sands, Ursuline College Chatham Adrianna Grellemore, Ursuline College Chatham Aurora Williams, Ursuline College Chatham
Recorder:	Kim Wells
Guests:	Leighann Isaac, Noah Wilde, Gabriella MacDonald, Kylie Bresette, Neva Isaac-Sands, Sandra Isaac
Regrets:	Vicki Ware, Beverly Bressette, Jolene Whiteye



**A. Opening Prayer**  
Deb & Barry Milliken

**B. Welcome to the Territory**  
Cecil Isaac

**C. Welcome and Introductions**  
Cortnee Goure

**D. Review of Indigenous Education Council Minutes (MOTION)**  
Lisa Demers

**Motion:** Kylie Brissett and Cecil Isaac to adopt the IEAC Minutes of [May 1, 2024](#).  
**CARRIED.**

**E. Review of Indigenous Education Council Agenda (MOTION)**  
Lisa Demers

**Motion:** Mike Giroux and Kylie Brissett to accept the IEAC Agenda of December 13, 2024. **CARRIED.**

**F. Updates from St. Clair Catholic District School Board**  
Cortnee Goure

**1. SCCDSB 2024-2025 Year in Progress (to review ahead of time)**

A slide deck was shared with everyone of staff and students in K-12 from September to December-connecting with Indigenous partners and participating in cultural events.

**2. Cedric Isaac: Bimi Akiawan**

Cedric's image to represent the working group of Indigenous Education Partnerships was shown to everyone, even though it is still a rough copy, he described that the words are honouring, understanding, and respecting the nations represented on the Wampum belt. Thoughts were welcomed. Cedric, along with a working group of elders and knowledge carriers named the Indigenous Education Partnership Group that connects across SCCDSB schools Bimi Akiawan: Going with the Way of the Earth. This was researched and a collaboration with other elders, language carriers, and knowledge carriers for naming the image. This sparked a dialog of ideas, and when completed, the hope is to have it made into t-shirts for the working group of Elders, Knowledge Carriers, and Indigenous Partnerships that connect across SCCDSB schools.

**3. Youth Leadership Updates:**

Adrianna - Kidwin Zhiingwak (Voice of the Pines) UCC Youth Leadership Member - Youth Leadership is held every Thursday and Friday at lunch. Students hang out, create, and have presentations for Indigenous youth. It is a lot of fun.



Feels the gathering space: Maawnjidimi Wewenong is a calm, safe space. There are non-indigenous students coming - they enjoy learning and feel comfortable.

Carter - E-maadookiiwag (The Ones Who Share) St. Pat's Youth Leadership Member - students meet every Wednesday during lunch. It is a welcoming and a comfortable place to socialize, have fun. They are currently working on making mini moccasins and drums.

#### 4. **Lisa Demers: EQAO Results**

An infographic was shown of our board's EQAO results in comparison with the Provincial standard. Our grade 3 reading was slightly below provincial standard, but we will improve. Grade 6 reading was above provincial standard. Secondary grade 9 math was above provincial standard.

#### 5. **Indigenous Education**

a) Mark Bernard (St. Joseph, Corunna):

Mark participated in EKAN Professional Development run by SCCDSB Indigenous Education, the 3-part travel to each community and connected with our partners. The hands-on experience was amazing. He has been involved with Indigenous education for 25 years. From a youth perspective, we need to do better. We need our community partners included in our schools, they have a huge impact on the students.

b) Mike Giroux (St. Elizabeth):

Mike stated there is continual good work being done by our partners who are at the school. Students participated in a planetarium experience where Elders joined and shared song, art, and stories of the night sky. This was spread out over three days and the two other SCCDSB schools in Wallaceburg and Bkejwanong Kinomaagewgamig, along with senior administration came out to participate.

The JK-1 students (50 students and families) went to Walpole Island for Indigenous Veterans Day.

Indigenous Youth and family support - students sign up to spend time with Neva.

It is a very natural experience to connect with Indigenous Partnerships day in and day out at St. Elizabeth School.

c) Kelly Tremblay (St. John Fisher):

Neva comes to the school two times a month and works with students in grade 2 and up. She uses PowerPoint presentations: talks about traditions and teachings and incorporates it into the curriculum. Kelly has been in the room during Neva's presentations. Neva is very personable and kids are encouraged to ask questions. Parents have reached out begging for their children to go into their group. The school is getting a



larger space as the current space is getting to be too small. Youth leaders are also planning events with the kids.

Nishin Youth Leadership group: 2nd year running - gives kids a sense of belonging, a safe space, a place to feel proud of their culture. Neva talks with the children and sometimes does a craft that the kids take home. Classroom teachers are allowing students to share what they learned from Neva. Students are showing more self-confidence and leadership skills, taking pride and sharing what they're proud of.

## **6. Updates from Committee Members**

Gabriella - The Friendship Centre closed in January of 2020, but has since reopened to lots of changeover of programs and staff. Currently the centre is doing well with the Akwe:Go Program (fundamental principle: to improve the quality of life of urban Indigenous children through the delivery of culturally appropriate services and programs). There is currently a wait list and the Centre is looking for another worker.

Cortnee -upcoming - Partnership with four schools - last year, able to video youth creating two- minute video, highlighted at a film festival. We want to continue this year - partners are excited - the youth will be among each other on a day of workshops, all the while creating a film that will be at the film festival in April.

Cortnee - slide deck - Homelands Theatre performance - 1100 youth participated during the day, in the evening 300-400 participated. This was open to all school boards including Windsor. Performers were from Six Nations Dance Theatre (Kaha:wi Dance Theatre), the same theatre group who did Mush Hole.

Cortnee - What's to Come - We have Star Wars in Anishinaabe in February. This was just booked at the Capitol Theatre in Chatham.

Night school Anishinaabemowin Course for credit (parts 1-4) and are now doing e-learning to get credit for Anishinaabemowin Language Course.

### **I. Closing Prayer**

Deb Milliken

### **J. Next Meeting Date**

We will poll for a meeting at a later time.

### **K. Adjournment**

**Motion:** Leighann Isaac and Gabriella MacDonald motioned to adjourn the IEC meeting of December 13, 2024 at 1:50 p.m. **CARRIED.**