



Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: Friday, February 16, 2024

Location: Bracebridge Public School

Time: 10:00am

Present: Jennifer Johnston, Superintendent of Learning, Meeting Chair
Jacqualeen Beaver, Community Partner
Lori Benton, Principal, Glen Orchard Public School
Geoff Corbett, Principal, Bracebridge Muskoka Lakes Secondary School
Denise de Paola, Principal, IE Weldon Secondary School
Wes Hahn, Director of Education
Tricia Holmes, Indigenous Student Success Team
Lillian Lummiss, Indigenous Student Success Team
Kelly Moore, Indigenous Education Curriculum Consultant
Larry O'Connor, Community Partner
Judy Saunders, Trustee
Christopher Stock, Community Partner
Dorothy Taylor, Community Partner
Sherry Telford, Indigenous Student Success Team
Monique Tindale, Indigenous Student Success Team
Trent Willett, Principal, Gravenhurst High School

Regrets: Louise Clodd, Trustee
Sarah Chaloux, Wahta Mohawks
Kelli Gates, Principal, VK Greer, Public School
Carol Holmes, Education Director, Wahta Mohawks
Dave Rice, Community Partner

Staff: Wendy Browne, Executive Assistant

1 Opening in a Good Way

Elder Stock opened the meeting in a good way.

2 Land acknowledgement

S. Telford shared a land acknowledgement.

3 Roll call

J. Johnston shared regrets from committee members, and confirmed that quorum was present.

4 Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

5 Committee action items

5.1 Approval of the minutes of the December 15, 2023 meeting

The minutes dated December 15, 2023 were approved.

6 Administrative updates

6.1 Wahta Mohawks First Nation Update

K. Moore and J. Johnston shared an update on behalf of Wahta Mohawks:

- Preparations for a large land-based learning event, including hide tanning, is taking place for students in community and at Glen Orchard Public School.

6.2 TLDSB update

J. Johnston shared the following updates:

- The Board is once again collecting qualitative demographic data through a student census, which will open on February 26, 2024. The previous census took place in 2022. The Board is hopeful that the response rate will increase this year to support student achievement and well-being.
- A five-part Land and Territory Acknowledgement Workshop series will be held from February through April for NBE teachers and educators from each school. Eliza Braden-Taylor from the Curve Lake Cultural Centre will be leading the sessions alongside the Indigenous Student Success Team. A learning session will also be organized for trustees.
- Riverside Public School students participated in an assembly to learn about residential schools that included follow-up activities to discuss student rights. More information is available in this news article:
<https://doppleronline.ca/huntsville/riverside-students-learn-about-residential-schools-through-quilt-project/>
- Field trips have been planned to foster connections with Indigenous students across TLDSB. Voluntary self-identified Indigenous students and students in NBE classes in the northern areas of the Board will visit the Muskoka Discovery Centre Misko-Aki:

Confluence of Cultures exhibit. Students in the southern part of the Board will be visiting the Petroglyphs Provincial Park.

- The Indigenous Student Success Team has been working to complete the Ministry of Education’s Board Action Plan to support Indigenous education. A presentation was shared on the Board’s priority areas and activities, which includes family engagement, expanding the student listening campaign, and increasing Authentic Voice presence in classrooms.

W. Hahn shared the following updates:

- W. Hahn shared that the TLDSB senior team has been participating in Canadian Principal Supervisor Learning Network sessions with renowned researcher Meredith Honig. The team has been asked to present to the 72 boards involved on the Board’s leadership work in areas of equity and student well being, including the work of the Indigenous Student Success Team.
- W. Hahn and a Trustee Chair Colleen Wilcox have been asked to present on positive governance as part of the Supervisory Officers Qualification Program professional development programming.

K. Moore shared the following updates:

- Schools have been working with D. Taylor regarding the Seven Grandfather Teachings.
- The Indigenous Student Success Team is supporting the reconciliation professional development work of Usha James from The Critical Thinking Consortium.

7 Presentations and discussion

7.1 For discussion: Family and caregiver engagement

The group shared thoughts and recommendations to support increasing family and caregiver engagement. Committee members suggested that community supports be made available at any events that may trigger participants. Discussion around school transitions — including elementary transitions — and addressing racism also took place.

7.2 TLDSB Treaty Map

Based on the Native Land website (<https://native-land.ca/>), the Indigenous Student Success Team, supported by the Technology Services Department, has created an interactive TLDSB-specific map and other resources to help educators share treaty information in their classrooms. This test site was shared for feedback.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Community updates/new business

9.1 Upcoming TLDSB Indigenous education events

- Twenty Indigenous high school students will be participating in the Skills Ontario Skills Ontario (<https://www.skillsontario.com/>) conference taking place in May.
- Planning for the TLDSB Powwow and Drum Circle scheduled for June 4, 2024 at I.E. Weldon Secondary School.
- The Indigenous Student Success Team attended the recent Trent University Elders & Traditional Peoples Gathering conference. The theme of the event was “Feeding Our Spirit: Language, Culture, and Land-based Reclamation.”

9.2 Other items

- K. Moore noted that there is now a Moon River Métis Council connection and was hopeful that their voices could become a part of the IEAC in the future.
- C. Stock and J. Beaver shared plans for a Canada Day weekend pow wow event that will take place in Bracebridge. The celebration will honour Indigenous veterans who also fought for Canada’s independence, and will feature many different events and representation from several Indigenous cultures and.
- L. O’Connor shared that he has been in communication with Fleming College. The college is looking to create more opportunities for greater community conversations that incorporate Indigenous perspectives.

10 Closing

C. Stock closed the meeting in a good way.

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