



## Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Minutes

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**Date:** November 29, 2024

**Location:** Virtual

**Time:** 10:00am

**Present:** Jennifer Johnston, Superintendent of Learning, Meeting Chair  
Jacqualeen Beaver, Community Partner  
Lori Benton, Principal, Glen Orchard Public School  
Sarah Chaloux, Language Coordinator, Wahta Mohawks  
Denise de Paola, Principal, IE Weldon Secondary School  
Wes Hahn, Director of Education  
Carol Holmes, Education Director, Wahta Mohawks  
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  
Kimberly Taylor, Community Partner  
Sherry Telford, Indigenous Student Success Team  
Monique Tindale, Indigenous Student Success Team

**Regrets:** Louise Clodd, Trustee  
Geoff Corbett, Principal, Bracebridge Muskoka Lakes Secondary School  
Kelli Gates, Principal, VK Greer Public School  
Dave Rice, Community Partner  
Trent Willett, Principal, Gravenhurst High School

**Guests:** Ian McCallum, Indigenous Education Officer, Ministry of Education  
Ashley Wilson, Indigenous Mental Health Counsellor, TLDSB

**Staff:** Wendy Browne, Executive Assistant

### 1 Opening in a Good Way

C. Stock opened the meeting in a good way.

## **2 Land acknowledgement**

M. Tindale shared a land acknowledgement.

## **3 Roll call**

J. Johnston 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 September 27, 2024 meeting**

The minutes dated September 27, 2024 were approved.

## **6 Administrative updates**

### **6.1 Wahta Mohawks First Nation Update**

C. Holmes and S. Chaloux shared the following updates:

- Community is struggling with transportation costs and have joined a pilot project with the District of Muskoka to support students attending Bracebridge and Muskoka Lakes Secondary School.
- Gratitude was expressed for the opportunity for Wahta students to access Aspire Speech services at Glen Orchard Public School to support language learning.
- Community students at Glen Orchard Public School are now also able to access play-based therapy supports.
- Autism spectrum disorder training and supports in Community are ongoing. Training has been offered to Glen Orchard Public School staff.
- Beginner level language learning in Community continues on Thursday evenings. Wahta Mohawks has received a community language plan grant to support further language learning.
- A work plan has been developed and submitted for land-based programming which will include winter survival skills and other seasonal activities.
- Representing the Kanien'kéha Language Circle, Troy Maracle, Indigenous Education Lead for Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board recently made a presentation to the Ministry to support alternative teaching certifications through the Ontario College of Teachers.

### **6.2 TLDSB update**

J. Johnston, K. Moore shared the following updates:

- The Indigenous Student Success Team and Superintendent Johnston attended the Indigenous LEADS conference, November 11-13, 2024, along with two Indigenous community partners. Highlights from the conference were

shared including the presentation, “How About We Talk About the Purple Rain?” by Sean Lessard.

- In-School Guides have participated in their first learning session. Almost all schools have a representative in this new position. They will take their learning back to their schools.
- The Seven Grandfathers Teachings program is taking place in 12 schools across the Board. In June, the learning will culminate in action and reflection activities.
- A Student Leadership Camp overnight opportunity took place in October at Camp Pine Crest in Torrence, Ontario. Over 40 students participated in activities run by the camp staff. Indigenous community partners also shared their teachings. The goal of the activity and other leadership work is to bring a student voice to IEAC in the future.
- Fry Bread and Friends networking events are taking place in secondary schools. More activities have been implemented and voices from other parts of Turtle Island have joined the events.
- Mohawk language programming at BMLSS is up and running, with continued hopes to expand to Glen Orchard Public School. The team is working with other departments within the Board and connecting with colleagues across the province to support sustainable implementation and scheduling to ensure that students can access the program without losing out on other learning taking place.
- The Outdoor Learning School and Store is offering a [Kanien'kéha \(Mohawk\) Language Course for educators](#). This opportunity has been shared with Glen Orchard Public School staff.

## **8 Presentations and discussion**

### **8.1 EQAO Data 2023-2024**

J. Johnston shared a presentation of the 2023-2024 EQAO results. She noted that Indigenous students are out performing the province in all areas, but the results need to be better. She noted that this is just one type of assessment and data gathering tool that is used to support student achievement.

Areas of consideration that were discussed by the committee included the correlation surrounding attendance, the influence of the pandemic, and the switch from paper to online testing formats.

### **8.2 2024-2025 Board Action Plan update**

K. Moore shared a presentation reviewing the 2023-2024 Board Action Plan and outlining the goals and implementation plans for the 2024-2025 plan.

## **9 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

## **10 Community updates/new business**

### **9.1 Upcoming TLDSB Indigenous education events**

S. Telford shared an update on the events taking place throughout the Board:

- Learn at the Desk: Understanding Treaties programming took place in November for primary, junior and intermediate, and secondary classrooms.
- NBE teachers have been invited to attend the 2024 Indigenous Authors Book Festival hosted by the Durham District School Board.

### **9.2 Community updates**

C. Stock congratulated the team on continuing to move forward with their good work. He also thanked the Board for supporting the first Muskoka powwow, which was attended by over 15,000 guests across the two day event in the summer. He reported that the Parry Sound Friendship Centre has taken the lead and will make this a legacy event going forward. Additionally, C. Stock reported that the [Muskoka Discovery Centre's Misko-Aki exhibit](#) has won both a provincial and national tourism award. The exhibit is available online, but the Discovery Centre is working on supports to offset transportation costs for schools.

L. O'Connor expressed his gratitude for the nomination for the Director's Recognition for Innovation and Leadership Award.

## **10 Closing**

D. Taylor closed the meeting in a good way.