

Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Minutes

Date:	May 9, 2025
Location:	Curve Lake Cultural Centre
Time:	10:00am
Present:	Jennifer Johnston, Superintendent of Learning, Meeting Chair Jacqualeen Beaver, Community Partner Sarah Chaloux, Language Coordinator, Wahta Mohawks Geoff Corbett, Principal, Bracebridge Muskoka Lakes Secondary School Denise de Paola, Principal, I.E. 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 Dave Rice, 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 Trent Willett, Principal, Gravenhurst High School Ashley Wilson, Mental Health Counsellor
Regrets:	Lori Benton, Principal, Glen Orchard Public School Louise Clodd, Trustee Carol Holmes, Education Director, Wahta Mohawks Kelli Gates, Principal, VK Greer Public School
Guests:	Leah Ryrie, Educator, Langton Public School Terra Macey, Educator, Langton Public School Nathan Stephenson, Principal, Langton Public School Donovan Taylor, Manager, Curve Lake Business Centre
Staff:	Wendy Browne, Executive Assistant

1 Opening in a Good Way

C. Stock opened the meeting in a good way.

2 Land acknowledgement

K. Moore shared a land acknowledgement.

3 Roll call

J. Johnston welcomed attendees 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 February 21, 2025 meeting

The minutes dated February 21, 2025 were approved.

6 Administrative updates

6.1 Wahta Mohawks First Nation Update

S. Chaloux and K. Taylor shared the following updates:

- Language and play-based therapy supports continue for students.
- Psychoeducational assessments are underway for several students in hopes of having them completed before year end.
- Tutoring is being offered for students, but there is a need for math tutoring supports for students in Grade 10-12.
- The Education Celebration will be held on June 11, 2025 and an invitation was extended to IEAC members.
- Land-based learning took place with students from Glen Orchard Public School joining students from community. The next land-based learning event will take place on June 18, 2025 and will involve some water-based teachings.
- Wahta Mohawks will be attending the June 5, 2025 TLDSB Powwow and Drum Social and their dancers will be participating.
- S. Chaloux recently attended a parent engagement event at Gravenhurst High School and shared some teachings.

6.2 TLDSB update

J. Johnston introduced Langton Public School Principal N. Stephenson and educators L. Ryrie and T. Macey who shared a presentation about the Indigenous learning and experiences they have been embedding into the school community, supported by Brittany Taylor of Curve Lake First Nation. The school has also had a mural installed in the front foyer, designed and implemented by Cileena Sandy of Wasauksing First Nation and students. Fundraising for the mural included a grant through the Imagine Canada education program offered through the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and the University of Manitoba with an application submitted by an Indigenous student and Indigenous ally at the school. These students will also have the opportunity to visit the Museum of Human Rights in Winnipeg, Manitoba, meet with Elders, share the school's mural journey, and deepen their learning.

7 Presentations and discussion

7.1 Presentation: Celebrating the 2024-2025 Board Action Plan

K. Moore shared a presentation spotlighting the successes that have been achieved in line with this school year's Board Action Plan. Highlights included:

- An increase in self-identified Indigenous students
- Grades K-8 Learn at the Desk series
- Land Acknowledgement series featuring Eliza Brayden Taylor of Curve Lake First Nation
- Indigenous Student Forums
- Fry Bread and Friends events in the spring and fall
- New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) support
- Right to Read Grade 5-8 support
- Student lead ribbon skirt (hoodie) making initiative
- Seven Grandfather Teachings pilot schools
- An increase in authentic Indigenous voices in schools
- Third Annual Pow Wow and Drum Social taking place on June 5, 2025

7.2 IEAC input into the 2025-2026 Board Action Plan

J. Johnston invited attendees to discuss the successes of last year's plan and asked for suggestions to build on the following recommended focus areas:

1. Student achievement and preparing students for the future
 - Safe spaces for students, beyond cultural rooms
 - Alternative credit accumulation considerations
 - Alternate grading assessment that does not require an individual education plan (IEP)
 - In-school team meetings regarding at-risk students should involve the ISST early on
2. Indigenous Language Revitalization
 - Greater conversations with and problem-solving that involves Indigenous community partners
3. Land-Based Learning
 - Schoolyard medicine gardens to support land-based learning, with consideration for their continued care long term.
4. Engagement and collaboration with local Indigenous partners, communities and organizations
 - More ceremony to engage school communities and help deepen understanding of and respect for why initiatives and events are taking place
 - Co-development of the Board Action Plan
 - Learning about the concept of two-eyed seeing and implementing it into school communities
5. Improving/Expanding knowledge of all students and educators on Indigenous history, perspectives, contributions and ways of knowing
 - Ensuring that multiple perspectives are being introduced and embedded in the learning
6. Culturally-responsive well-being supports

7.3 Student representation on IEAC - input into the process

J. Johnston shared information regarding student representation on IEAC, which is an initiative that has been in development through the Student Leadership Forums that have taken place throughout the year. She invited the committee to share input on the election process for this.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Community updates/new business

9.1 Upcoming TLDSB Indigenous education events

K. Moore reminded everyone of the upcoming Powwow and Drum Circle taking place on June 5, 2025 at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.

9.2 Community updates

There were no community updates.

10 Closing

D. Rice closed the meeting in a good way.