

Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: Friday, March 6, 2026

Location: Wahta Cultural Healing Centre, 2343 Kanien'kéha Iohatátie

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Present: Jennifer Clark, Superintendent of Learning, Meeting Chair
Lori Benton, Principal, Glen Orchard Public School
Sarah Chaloux, Language Coordinator, Wahta Mohawks
Esther Childs, Trustee
Denise de Paola, Principal, I.E. Weldon Secondary School
Phillipa Griffiths, Student Success, Wahta Mohawks
Wes Hahn, Director of Education
Carol Holmes, Education Director, Wahta Mohawks
Tricia Holmes, Indigenous Student Success Team
Lillian Lummiss, Indigenous Student Success Team
Andrea McDermott, Vice Principal, BMLSS
Kelly Moore, Indigenous Education Curriculum Consultant
Larry O'Connor, Community Partner
Dave Rice, Community Partner
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
Ashley Wilson, Mental Health Counsellor

Regrets: Jacqualeen Beaver, Community Partner
Louise Clodd, Trustee

Guests: Kim Horrigan, Executive Officer of Facilities, Transportation & Capital Innovation
Dan Whalen, Senior Manager of Facility Services
Britney Pagliuca, Bachelor of Ed. student at Lakehead University
Keanna Stock, Community Partner

Staff: Cheryl Evans, Executive Assistant

1. Opening in a good way

Elder Stock opened the meeting in a good way.

2. Land acknowledgement

K. Moore shared her land acknowledgement.

3. Roll call

J. Clark welcomed attendees and confirmed quorum was present.

4. Approval of agenda

Elder Stock asked that the Outdoor Education and Indigenous Centre discussion be moved to item #6 on the agenda, and that the AI follow up be tabled to the next meeting.

S. Telford motioned to approve the revised agenda, seconded by E. Childs. Carried.

5. Committee action item

6.1 Approval of the minutes of the November 28, 2025 meeting

Motion by Elder Stock to approve, second by K. Moore.

Approved.

6. Artificial Intelligence follow up from November 28, 2025 meeting - tabled to next meeting

7. Outdoor Education and Indigenous Centre

Director Hahn provided an update on the project, outlining the Ministry process, acknowledging the preferred order would have included advance consultation with the committee to receive full input, including site visits, prior to submitting the proposal.

D. Whalen presented the building design focusing on the interior concept, functionality, integrated exterior learning, logistics, accessibility, and safety. The site is 90 acres, was formerly a farm property, and includes a protected water course. It is strongly advised to attach to existing services due to urban boundary requirements.

Concerns were raised that the process had not been done in the proper land acknowledging way.

Questions included the building's sustainability, whether labeling it "Indigenous" would impact Indigenous funding (the building is a board responsibility, and existing Indigenous funding will continue), and concerns about vandalism from the non-Indigenous community. Programming for the summer months was also discussed.

Discussion covered the need for a Forest Management Plan, previous logging activity, and the requirement for permission before cutting down trees.

It was stressed that the community must be behind the project. An information session is required as part of the site plan approval process to address potential racism issues/concerns.

Traditional/ceremonial gatherings held at the center must ensure no alcohol or drugs are brought in.

J. Clark to organize a date to visit the site prior to the May 8 IEAC meeting, post April 15, 2026.

8. Wahta Mohawks update - Carol Holmes, Sarah Chaloux, Phillipa Griffiths

The following updates were shared:

- The five year Strategic Plan is complete
- The Language Strategy should be complete by next week
 - Language in the elementary panel is difficult
 - Currently a Mohawk Language course is running in 2 of the secondary schools
 - Looking into a 4-year language plan
- Land based learning next week at Wahta
 - One day, Maple teachings
 - 50 students (all Gr 7/8 students plus Gr 6 self-identified)

9. Community updates and discussion

1. Flag Discussion - which flag should TLDSB school fly? (Every Child Matters or Indigenous Survivors)
 - a. Fly both, if room for both flags. If not, D. Taylor says Every Child Matter
 - b. Many schools, have Indigenous flag up all year not just in September
2. Elder Stock in talks with Explorers Edge, James Murphy looking to develop a youth summit specifically an entrepreneurship program for Indigenous youth

10. Next meeting

Date: Friday, May 8, 2026
Location: Curve Lake
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

11. Closing

D. Rice closed the meeting in a good way.