

Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: May 8, 2026
Location: Curve Lake Cultural Centre
1024 Mississauga St, Curve Lake, ON K0L 1R0
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Present: Jennifer Clark, Associate Superintendent of Learning, Meeting Chair
Lori Benton, Principal, Glen Orchard Public School
Sarah Chaloux, Language Coordinator, Wahta Mohawks
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
Judy Saunders, Trustee
Christopher Stock, Community Partner
Dorothy Taylor, Community Partner
Sherry Telford, Indigenous Student Success Team
Monique Tindale, Indigenous Student Success Team
Ashley Wilson, Mental Health Counsellor

Regrets: Esther Childs, Trustee
Trent Willett, Principal, Gravenhurst High School
Louise Clodd, Trustee
Jacqualeen Beaver, Community Partner

Guests: Lilly Ward, ISF student rep from BMLSS
Parker Montreuil, ISF student rep from FFSS student
Keanna Stock, Community Partner

Staff: Cheryl Evans, Executive Assistant

1 Opening in a good way

Elder Taylor opened the meeting in a good way.

2 Land acknowledgement

M. Tindale shared her land acknowledgment.

3 Roll call

J. Clark welcomed everyone and confirmed quorum was present.

4 Approval of agenda

Elder Stock asked that a discussion around the Land Walk including next steps be removed from the TLDSB update and moved up in the agenda.

K. Moore motioned to approve the revised agenda, seconded by L. O'Connor.

Carried.

5 Committee action items

5.1 Approval of the minutes of the March 6, 2026 meeting

A. Wilson brought forward that she was not present at the March 6 meeting.

M. Tindale motioned to approve the revised minutes of the March 6, 2026 meeting, seconded by Elder Stock.

Carried.

6 Administrative updates

6.1 Wahta Mohawks First Nation update

6.1.a C. Holmes shared that she has received a draft version of the Ministry of Education's, in partnership with Indigenous partners, new, comprehensive curriculum resources for the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. Once the resources are finalized and released she hopes that the ISST can lead and share how TLDSB will distribute and roll out these resources.

6.1.b P. Griffiths shared the education banquet celebrating all learners will take place on June 10, 2026, Summer Camp (8 weeks) will be Mohawk language focussed, along with literacy and math programming to help maintain learning, and that they are looking forward to the Student Success meetings.

6.1.c S. Chaloux shared that the June land-based learning dates are planned, fish skin tanning: two dates in June (30 to 40 kids to attend), strawberry planting will happen internally due to busyness of the school year. Sarah continues to work with the Chiefs of Ontario, Ministry of Education and OCT regarding pathways to certifying language instructors. A pool of teachers is in existence.

6.2 April 30 Land Walk

Associate Superintendent Clark thanked everyone for their leadership at the Land Walk. No permits are in place yet, but looking heading to the ground breaking ceremony and who might be invited and what that might look like. Points for consideration include:

- Women offering voice to guide the way, acknowledging both Anishinaabe and Mohawk in connection to land, Algonquin and Haudenosaune languages represented at the centre, language on the land needs to be a large focus.

- Media can be present for the ground breaking ceremony, no photos or recordings of ceremony, ensure media and other invited guests know what to expect and how to proceed during the ceremony.
- Youth need to be included
- Laurie Scott, etc

6.3 TLDSB updates

6.3.a Student Voice

Indigenous Student Forum students Lilly Ward and Parker Montreuil shared their lived experiences from this school year including summarizing the highs, the lows and next steps as discussed by this year's ISF represented by 18 students across the seven TLDSB secondary schools. Some highlights include that students feel safe, included and represented when:

- They learn about their strength and beauty, not just the trauma of what has been done to their people.
- Staff have done the work and they use circles and they understand current and relevant topics.
- Their ways are honoured and respected.
- They are taught by Indigenous teachers and guests because they know more and they know what they are talking about.

In contrast, students don't feel safe, included and represented when:

- Educators still "don't know about Indigenous histories and realities.
- Indigenous cultures aren't honoured in the day-to-day of schools.
- Mockery of culture happens.
- Ignorance is the norm (e.g., assuming that no one in the class is Indigenous or "You don't look Indigenous".
- Staff don't know how to respond to racism and ignorance.
- When teachers aren't really attentive and present in class.

Director Hahn commented that he's hearing the same message out of the Director's student forums hosted this year especially related to marginalized students. and recognized there is still work to be done under the equity, inclusion, and belonging goal of the strategic plan. He will continue to message families as a means to educate the previous generation.

The committee expressed why it is so important for our youth to use their voice to affect change.

6.3.b Presenting the 2025-2026 Board Action Plan

K. Moore presented the 2025-2026 Board Action Plan. The BAP with applicable budget information will be sent to Carol for review.

6.3.c Anishinaabemowin Circle

S. Telford shared that Region 3 is looking for nominations for language speakers who might be interested to sit on an education circle in order to vet those who might be interested in becoming an Anishinaabemowin language teacher through their language skills, to be paid as a teacher. Nomination forms due by next Friday

6.3.d Upcoming TLDSB Indigenous Education events

- “May I” transition sessions
- Land-based Learning
- Pow Wow - Gravenhurst HS
- Water Walk - VK Greer

7 Community updates/new business

7.1 K Moore thanked Larry for his work and support on IEAC and within TLDSB over the past few years. Larry has made the decision to move back to his home on Manitoulin.

8 Closing

D. Rice closed the meeting in a good way.