



Huron-Superior Catholic

DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Indigenous Education Committee Minutes

Date: Thursday, October 26th, 2023

Time: Lunch 12:30 Meeting 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Location: Board Meeting Room Huron Superior Catholic District School Board

Attendees: Rachelle Lambert, Taylor Madonna, Cindy Pelletier, Shelly Pewapsonias, Danny Viotto, Sister Pat Carter, Micaela Olejnik, Hannah Syrette, Elizabeth Nahwegezhic, Shannan Flint, , Kesha McLeod, Danielle Petrowski, Sherri Kitts

Virtual: Suzie Longpre, Barry Boissoneau, Christine Durocher

Co-Chairs: Aimee Brunetti /Lina DiPasquale

Minutes: Christine Durocher

Meeting Link:

[Teams Meeting Link](#)

AGENDA ITEMS		ACTION	WHO
1.	Prayer and Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome• Land acknowledgement• Prayer	Aimee and Lina
2.	Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Round table introductions in person and virtual	All
3.	Approval of Minutes from June 14, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indigenous Education Committee Minutes approved<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ June 7 IEC Minutes	All
4.	Community Updates	Garden River (Sherri Kits) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• They have a new Chief and Council and a new Acting Manager	Community members

		<p>of Education: Cheyenne Nolan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ASW schedules are getting finalized ● Sherri has been in a lot of meetings because of behaviours and parents are really struggling ● They have just hired a Crisis consultant and Sherri will look into whether this is available for students too ● Trauma Informed workshop hosted by Batchewana - it was very good information to help kids - Hannah, Keshia, and Elizabeth from the board attended <p>Serpent River (Cindy Pelletier)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cindy will be with us until April and then Hillary will be back from her leave ● They are working on relationships ● They are still exploring starting their own school and are looking for community partner support <p>Batchewana (Shelley Pewapsconias)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● They have a brand new Chief and Council for the past four months ● -On the Education side, they are very busy and they are supporting many families ● They have an education and wellness team to support students and families ● They have some student and mental wellness workers and they need four more because they are really being utilized ● Their focus is on catching those students who fell into the COVID gap or just starting school ● Early intervention is key <p>Brunswick House (Suzie Longpre)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New to this committee ● A lot of their children are attending Our Lady of Fatima in Chapleau this year 	
5.	Director's Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New Indigenous Student Trustee and her name is Mya Jensen ● New Indigenous Trustee from Serpent River and her name is Kerri Commanda ● Our Admin Team was recently invited to Garden River teaching lodge and it was a great opportunity for a full day of learning 	Danny Viotto

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We attended a presentation by Hannah Beach who focused on mental health ● Her message is that its okay for children to feel sadness and as parents, instead of trying to fix everything, we have to let them feel it ● She also reinforced the importance of play e.g., loose parts outside ● We are looking to see if we can bring her in for a parent event ● Update on new books by Indigenous authors being used at St. Mary's College ● Our Curriculum Department is working on updating our novels sets in curriculum too and is ordering titles from an "Anti-oppression" list that was shared by another board ● We want our selections to be more culturally relevant and responsive ● We can share some of the titles at the next meeting 	
6.	Presentations	<p>Summer Transition Program - Mino Bimaadiziwin</p> <p>■ October 2023- IEC Presentation.pdf</p> <p>Follow Up Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How did communication about the program look? The team emailed the Education Departments the flyers, each Self-ID student received a paper copy, and follow up phone calls were made to parents. ● What does the support look like for the East and the North schools? The team reached out to each First Nation and asked them if they would like any kind of support for their summer programming. Options included helping with existing programming the First Nation has going on or coming to a community event to share information. ● Interest expressed in seeing the data from the program E.g., How many Batchewana First Nations students attended? What was the feedback from the students who attended? Hannah will follow up at the next meeting, by providing the information for the students who participated. ● Recommended that next year, meetings are scheduled with the 	<p>Keesha McLeod Elizabeth Nahweghezic Hannah Syrette</p>

		First Nations to collaborate before plans are made.	
7.	Indigenous Education Update	Deferred to the next meeting.	Aimee Brunetti Lina DiPasquale Hannah Syrette Shannan Flint Barry Boissoneau
8.	Topics for Discussion	<p>Possible positions funded by the BAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culturally responsive mental health supports for students, e.g. a Youth Wellness Worker / Indigenous Student and Family Counsellor. • Focus could be on attendance, anxiety and one on one support for students. • These positions could connect them to First nation Wellness Teams and supports. • Suggestion brought forward includes a second Transitions Coach position due to the number of Self - ID students • Another suggested position is an Indigenous Special Education Representative. • Question asked about whether or not new positions would be permanent. • More information will follow at the next meeting. <p>Terms of reference- subcommittee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deferred to next meeting <p>Communicating and Collaborating with Education Departments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shannan and Hannah are open to suggestions on partnering with Education Departments. • They both can be making referrals to the Education Department teams. • Hannah and Shannan can be added to mail outs so that they can pass on information on community events and services. <p>Emergency Management Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several meetings are scheduled in the coming weeks to discuss emergency management procedures. • The board has to see how we fit into their plans. • More information will follow. 	All

9.	Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Request for additional meetings to allow for more frequent communication. ● Any newsletters or written communications should be sent to ED directors and/or collaborate with them to do one communication.. ● Prior to planning summer programming, the team will meet with First Nation Education Departments to collaborate and get their feedback on what they would like to see. ● VTRA training for staff, Shelly will look into this. 	All
10.	New Business		All
11.	Meeting Dates	Meeting #1: 10/26/2023 Meeting #2: 14/12/2023 Meeting #3: 26/02/2024 Meeting #4: 08/04/2024 Meeting #5: 10/06/2024	
12.	Closing Prayer	Closing Prayer Miigwetch, baamaapii	Aimee