
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FIRST NATIONS ADVISORY
COMMITTEE HELD ON FEBRUARY 22, 2017 AT
Shawanaga First Nation**

Vince Pawis Jr., Shawanaga First Nation
Catherine Pawis, Wasauksing First Nation
Nichole King, Moose Deer Point First Nation
Lucia Weatherley, Shawanaga First Nation
Sharon Goulais, Dokis First Nation
Roslyn Bowness, Superintendent of Schools
Genevieve Solomon Dubois, Henvey Inlet First Nation
Amanda Mathias Mizzi, Coordinator, Indigenous Education
Alan Bottomley, Trustee
Louise Sargent, Trustee
Carol Stevens, First Nations Trustee and Magnetawan First Nation
Larry Paquette, Principal Northern Secondary
Melanie Simmonds, Executive Assistant

1.0 WELCOME

2.0 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Approved by: Alan Bottomley
Seconded by: Sharon Goulais

3.0 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 12, 2017 MEETING

Approved by: Larry Paquette
Seconded by: Carol Stevens

4.0 Monitoring Priorities

The NNDSB Indigenous Education team continues to support the implementation of the work as prioritized with the support of FNAC. Some priorities are supported further through the Artist in Residence Program and the Collaborative Inquiry process with a focus on mathematics this year. The Board receives funding to support the Action Plan for FNMI Education that before this year was external but is now written into the GSN. There is also funding in place to support all boards to support a dedicated lead to support Indigenous Education. This funding supports the dedicated role currently served by Amanda Mathius Mizzi. It was requested that the Superintendent of Finance be invited to the next meeting if available to speak about the funding received and the overall budget. It was suggested that a student voice to be added to FNAC meetings to bring in the student perspective.

Amanda shared how the Board was providing PD to educators through George Couchie. All Principals/Vice principals, system leads, senior team and Trustees have experienced this PD. Ongoing Treaty education sessions have been led by Maurice Switzer. Educators and students learn alongside one another in his sessions. Native Language Revitalization remains a priority, with ongoing PD support for our Native Language teachers. Current models and best practices explored in an ongoing fashion in terms of opportunities connected to native language revitalization. Professional learning opportunities for Principals of schools with Native language programming are well received.

The FNMI CI is a grade 7-10 focus around learning styles and cultural knowledge embedded in mathematics. Doug Robidoux is the coordinator lead on this. This benefits Indigenous and non-Indigenous students and educators. This project is funded mostly through an external Ministry grant.

Amanda discussed the transition work going on with Nipissing University and Canadore College. She shared about engagement activities such as Wiidoktaadwin, Biidaaban, pow wow socials, Kendasswiin and Elder teachers.

A best practices guide is in draft form to help better support our schools in their efforts to embed culturally responsive practices into our school environment. It will help answer some frequently asked questions. The Indigenous Education link on the board website is also being updated.

Attendance Data will be included on the agenda for our next meeting as a monitoring practice.

Anishinabek Education System

Catherine provided an overview of the AES following a recent session in Toronto that many attended including most First Nation representatives on FNAC, and representation from the NNDSB. This system has been 20 years in the making and has just recently been ratified with implementation within a year. Catherine reviewed how the areas are divided and the 14 First Nations that have ratified the AES to date. First Nations can also join the AES later. Marianna Couchie, Nichole King and Catherine Pawis are the current directors for the AES in this region.

5.0 First Nation Updates

Moose Deer Point First Nation

Nichole King is on the Board of Directors and she will share ideas next meeting on keeping students on track.

Shawanaga First Nation

Shawanaga's elementary school works closely with Nobel and Parry Sound High on transition programs. There is no principal in place at this time.

Magnetawan First Nation

A language declaration was discussed with Chief and Council signing to help make language revitalization more prominent in their community. Magnetawan will be funding an educational assistant to support specific students attending Nobel and is also hiring a social worker/guidance counsellor.

Henvey Inlet First Nation

The group discussed the amount of time and energy the vote took within the First Nations.

Dokis First Nation

The new museum and trails are now open and Sharon discussed some digital displays. This experience is open to any schools and Sharon will provide the contact details. Dokis will have 2 students graduating from grade 12 as well as 15 students graduating from post-secondary this year.

Wasauksing First Nation

There are teaching position vacancies pending. Dates for post-secondary sessions will be shared.

NEXT MEETING DATES: April 19, 2017 - Dokis First Nation
June 22, 2017 - Moose Deer Point First Nation