

Equity Advisory Circle Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 19, 2024 at 9:30 AM.

Held via Zoom and in person in the North Bay Board room

Present:

Melanie Gray, Superintendent of Teaching and Learning
Louise Sargent, Trustee
Lisa Lamoureux, Principal of Student Well-being, and Equity
Sarah Spence, Principal of Student Achievement and Wellbeing
Kelly Nootchtai Huston, Indigenous Education Lead
Jeannie Vaillancourt, North Bay Metis Council
Seth Compton, Outloud North Bay
Nathan Moore, CAS Teacher Liaison Youth in Care
Ashley St. Pierre, Indigenous Trustee
Lyudmyla Boyko – Multi-Cultural Centre
Tim Graves, Superintendent of Education
Chris Walkling – SAWB Principal
Kim Pauli – Assistant Superintendent, Math Lead
Alison Clarke, Acting Principal of Special Education
Lana St. Louis, Mental Health Lead
Krista Tucker Petrick, Principal of Chippewa Secondary
Heidi McMillan Executive Assistant

Regrets:

Howard Wesley, Trustee
Sandra Zurbrigg, Community Member
Chantal Phillips, Trustee
Deborah Robertson, Multi-Cultural Society
Jennifer O'Driscoll, Nbisling Secondary School
Amanda Mathias, Indigenous Education Lead
Laura Forget, PIC Member
Margaret Soroye, NNDSB Teacher
Marcus Etienne, PIC Chair

Land acknowledgment by Principal Lamoureux

Talking Circle - Introductions

- Superintendent Gray welcomed everyone to the meeting and had introductions around the circle.

Near North Equity Update and Resources- *Principal of Equity and Well-Being - Lisa Lamoureux*

- Equity coaches have been involved in lift and UDL projects.
- Sunset has been focusing on great work for students supporting identities.
- Workshops next CRRP lessons for students K-6
- Near North Responding to Discrimination Tools has been really effective being implemented in schools, with a lot of positive feedback about the Posters being used by students and staff.
- Pride month saw the flag raising at city hall, and most schools have the flag up or displayed in the front office. Some schools hosted pride events.

- More equity-based resources were ordered to support schools and libraries.
- Jessica Feick is working on an interactive CRRP calendar that allows the user to just click in place to access resources.
- The May 1st Eliminating Stigma event held at Alliance, focused on student well-being and was joined by community partners and was well attended.

Reports/Updates

SEAC (Special Education Advisory Committee) Principal Clarke

- In May, SEAC was able to finalize budget recommendations related to special education and motioned them to be put forward to the board. At the June 11, Board Meeting, the SEAC budget recommendations were approved for consideration.
- Principal Walkling was able to attend May's SEAC meeting and present on the NDNSB Student Achievement Plan. He was able to share information related to data tracking, attendance data, engagement, well-being, making meaning of EQAO results and co-hort tracking. Principal Walkling will be returning to future SEAC meetings within the next school year to continue to share details and information related to the SAP.
- Principal Clarke was able to share updates to the Special Education Plan for 24/25, which reflects information and activities within the 23/24 school year. The SEAC committee accepted the Special Education Plan and motioned to have it forwarded to the Board of Trustees for approval. Again, at June's Board Meeting, this was accomplished. The plan alongside the updated Special Education Parent Guide will be posted on NNDSB's website very soon.
- In terms of community partner updates, Community Living North Bay was able to reference their Family Fun Even on May 31 and encouraged attendance.
- SO Graves noted Ministry Updates, including recent public announcements related to cell phones and the new kindergarten curriculum.
- Trustee Sargent noted that Caren Gagne has joined the Board of Trustees and noted that she is replacing the zone 2 former trustee. As well, Trustee Sargent noted that NNDSB has a new Chair - Ashely St. Pierre and a Vice-Chair Howard Wesley.
- Within the Special Education Report – Spec Ed Dept is moving forward to implement and configure RISE (cloud-based and all-encompassing student services platform). Initially will be using this platform for student IEPs and the referral process. Full implementation is expected to begin shortly into the 2025 school year.
- Principal Clarke confirmed the creation of an additional special education classroom for students enrolled into the Senior Communication Program at Chippewa. Increasing numbers and parental demand allowed us to recommend this class be created and students will be welcomed into the class for September 2024 through the IPRC process.

FNAC (First Nations Advisory Committee) Principal Spence

- Several Powwows occurred in May and first week of June with three teaching and learning powwows, and a Parry Sound powwow that were all well attended and appreciative.
- Feeder schools attended half day powwow for transitioning students. Northern and all of White Woods attended the outdoor event.
- IYC acknowledged the selection of new trustee Riley Trudeau serving a 2-year term and recognized outgoing Indigenous Student Trustee Albany Benson and her efforts.
- Albany was the recipient of the TD Scholarship for Community Leadership as a result of her growth and leadership making the world a better place, as well as the recipient of the

community builders scholarship awarded by Bay Today for an extraordinary individual under 25 years of age that is actively involved in community service making our community better for others. She was recognized for her work in organizing assemblies and events, and for leading the necessities drive for Attawapiskat, which saw thousands of dollars' worth of items collected and sent to northern communities.

- Indigenous Grad Coaches were piloted with a .4 position at WFSS intermediate, .5 position as well at CSS and PS intermediate.
- Two transition workers have been assigned to the north at Silver Birches and Woodland and west in Parry Sound. The north is being increased to 1.0 and west 1.0–
- The “Bones of Crows” is a 5-part series for supporting educators that is available on CBC and movie format as well. A five-hundred-dollar subsidy is available if teachers wish to take an Indigenous Course.
- Contact Principal Spence for more information on additional subsidies for Nipissing U.
- The month of June saw special guests attend various schools including their teachings – 2 grants, DOKIS grant supports specific teaching – cultural in North and Northwest, WASSOING Grant – in West

PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) – SO Graves

- PIC had 2 meetings and a subcommittee meeting since the last circle.
- Principal Walkling came to PIC and did a presentation where all school council chairs and PIC committee engaged in discussing how school councils can improve. Best practices were discussed including how school councils used Reaching Out Grant – Thirteen events took place with \$20,000 distributed.
- School councils engaged to support their parents.
- PIC to send out survey asking how to support.
- Discussing turnout and ways to engage those school councils.
- Working on a book club – *Children Unplugged* getting children to unplug from the internet – everyone reaching out for a copy of the book.
- Putting finishing touches on board report due in Sept.

Trustee Update Louise Sargent

- Trustee Sargent noted that Caren Gagne has joined the Board of Trustees and is replacing the zone 2 former trustee as well the new Chair Ashely St. Pierre and Vice-chair Howard Wesley. The new chair was presented with a gift and recognized for being the first indigenous trustee to our board.
- Acknowledgement was given for the work and memory of former Trustee Randy Sheppherd, who recently passed, and recognition was given to Student Trustees Albany Benson and Dora Chen for all of their efforts.
- There is a special board meeting in July for budget.
- Graduation season is a wonderful time for Trustees to share in the enjoyment of the occasion and have that privilege of thanking all the people involved in helping make it possible.

Lana St. Louis, Mental Health Lead

- NNDSB was selected for [Preventure](#) Pilot - brief evidence-based prevention program to promote mental health and delay substance use among adolescents.
 - Small scale implementation first year - 3 - 4 schools in the grades 7/8 classes
 - NNDSB selected to pilot their inclusive manuals

- Summer Mental Health Supports has mental health clinicians providing virtual support, using some of the funding to develop capacity to support student mental health with trainings in the fall.
- SMH-ON Provincial Meeting in May - Audrey Berwick (g 12 CSS) and Summer Knight (g 11 PSHS) representing Thrive SMH - student reference group advising SMH-ON on student MH needs
 - Opened conference with land acknowledgement, hosted panel discussion and breakout groups for mental health leads, superintendents responsible for mental health and ministry representatives
- Next school year will have the grade 10 careers class have two mandatory MHL modules. Plans are underway to support staff implementation of this.

Community Agencies Update from Multicultural Centre, CAS, OutLoud

Lyudmyla Boyko – Multi-Cultural Centre

- MCC uses interpretation services for their clients only.
- Community agencies are encouraged to use CISOC (Cultural Interpretation Services of Our Communities) for professional interpretation services. You can access within 24 hours, and it is the schools' responsibility to make that available and a fee applies for the service.
- Colleague distributed referrals – when the parent signs the form it gives permission to communicate with MCC.

Nathan Moore, CAS Teacher Liaison Youth in Care

- Big event held in April, OECC committee members for four boards in our district – pathways to success focused on connecting with students that really struggle with mainstream pathways and look for ways to support students – i.e. Mental Health
- The event was a success – Nathan was represented by OYAP and hopes to repeat it again next year.
- May/June – meeting with schools to ensure students are finishing out their credits and looking at students transitioning to post-secondary.
- Revised OGST acronym - schools and children's aid will support students to obtain their education. Will be updated this summer and will share that with schools and administrators for next year.
- NNDSB committed to funding our summer school at Arbour house and school of success, for July/august – recruiting students for that.
- Working with SO of NNDSB on stability and transportation funding. Hoping to allocate some of the funds to psychoeducational assessments and to streamline the process and make it more accessible.

Seth Compton – OUTLOUD North Bay

- Outloud is focusing on creating more space for students.
- Group in Muskoka working on gender forming care and our partnership with community agencies.
- 2-week summer camp in July and 2 weeks in August for low-income group.

Group Presentations:

Student Achievement Plans- Principal of Student Achievement- Chris Walkling

Principal Walkling shared a presentation related to **Bill 98, Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023**, including newly introduced provincial priorities for student achievement:

- **Achievement of Learning Outcomes in Core Academic Skills**
- **Preparation of Students for Future Success**
- **Student Engagement and Well-Being**

As part of the Ministry of Education's commitment to promote student achievement and transparency for parents and families, the ministry is pleased to share the new **Student Achievement Plan** (formerly known as the Board Improvement Plan). This will support boards in adopting the provincial priorities into their multi-year plans, with goals and indicators to focus their improvement planning processes. Under the Act, school boards are required to **publicly report on progress** toward the provincial priorities and **meet with parents and partners in education** to discuss the priorities and progress towards them.

During the Spring of 2024, the Near North District School Board engaged with a broad range of parent and community organizations. The focus of these engagements has included the school board's action plan to support and improve student achievement and well-being and measures for success. Engagements included the NNDSB Parent Involvement Committee, Indigenous Education Council, Special Education Advisory Committee, Equity Advisory Circle, MYSP Committee, as well as Indigenous Youth Circle.

Moving into the Fall, community engagement will expand to include School Councils and will further support student achievement through responsive planning, reflection, and meaning making.

- SAP timeline Sept – aligning SAP/SIP/MYSP – how they all fit together
APR 2 – SAP Public Template Launched – baseline where are we now
Apr-Jun – consultation and engagement
June 20 – initial board plan launch of SAP
Fall 2024 – consultation and engagement
- What SAP priorities or indicators are of interest to you
- Are there additional priorities or indicators that you feel should be reflected in the SAP plan, how might we engage EAC as meaningful partners in this work.
- Principal Lamoureux explained it is important to ensure we have support in place for all students.
- Nathan Moore made note that his agency observed that many of the students they work with take longer than 5 years to graduate. Talking to mature students and how they are achieving – Have a lot of students who disengage in Gr 10 - aren't engaged in writing EAQO and testing – are their achievements reflected in the data?
- Principal Walkling clarified the participation rate is - expectation around attendance is geared to Gr 1-8, but concerns around attendance in secondary are consistent – the Acadience testing is done three times a year. Very brief but focus in on foundation skills for readers – not tied to grades or achievement. Haven't actively engaged with that group of students yet. Better understand the avenues they are moving towards. It might be through partnership and collaboration to participate in those conversations.

- Nathan Moore commented priority is attendance – biggest indicator for our students – before they come into care that they are not attending – and working with other community partners to support attendance from Kindergarten upward within schools' students and families to build better habits.
- Principal Lamoureux asked Nathan whether students he supports share what they are struggling with.
- Nathan Moore explained that there are unique situations for all students, mental health is one – students feel anxious, size of school kids going from 7/8 to larger school. One thing he found helpful, connecting them with a caring adult in the school to help address the little problems before tackling the larger problems. Teach them they have support in the schools to help with the small stuff and to reach out to them.
- Principal Walkling – PRIORITY to bring back in the fall to gather some data and work around that with a lense on next steps and actions – ONSIS data Gr 1-8 % of students that were in attendance for instructional time.
- One factor is transportation due to weather – bus cancellations – factors into the data – part of the conversation.
- Principal Lamoureux commented that Nathan would be a great part of that if he would like to participate.
- Nathan Moore – asked when we will be looking at data to reflect a more normal year since it took a long time to get students back after the covid lockdown. 2021-22 – Still has significant number of absences.

Chippewa Team Re-Branding – Principal Krista Tucker-Petrick

- The process began in April and the CSS rebranding committee has decided that before we can have a school mascot, we need to have a school team name. In May we asked for team name suggestions from school students and staff. We have collated the raw data using the attached criteria and are now at a point where we have a short list of 7 names.
- Collected 282 suggestions, shortlisted.
- The CRC has asked me to inquire about presenting these names to NNDSB EAC for comment, feedback and consultation on their appropriateness. Our hope is to take at least 5 of the 7 names forward to the students and staff to vote on to arrive at a suitable school team name and mascot to carry us into the future.
- We will be seeking input from Nipissing first Nation, the NNDSB IEC and the North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre. We will also be reaching out to the North Bay Multicultural Centre and taking the list to the in-school Indigenous Youth Advisory Circle, Okimankan.
- Received responses and did present to IEC – Circle asked that 2 names be removed from the list. Hopeful that after seeing the list you will understand the rationales provided

Criteria suggestions 1. Make sure to pick an appropriate name (ex: not cultural appropriation, not silly, no vulgar language, not political) 2. Make sure it suits the community of the school. 3. Make sure to use legible handwriting (only relevant if we are doing paper ballots) 4. Seriously consider your suggestion as it needs to be a strong name that continues the positive Chippewa legacy 5. Do not use the name of a person or group of people. Only suggest an animal, thing or object. 6. Do not

suggest a name of any other mascot or team used in the NNDSB, NDA, or North Bay and surrounding area, either past or present 7. A name that can be used easily when cheering at school activities/events and is catchy in connection with “Chippewa”. 8. Consider a name that keeps the colours scarlet & gold in mind. 9. Make sure it does not infringe copyright of any local or national franchises (ex. Blue Jays, Raptors, etc.) 10. The Chippewa Rebranding Committee will create a short list of name suggestions before any outside consultation. All feedback from outside consultation will be given serious consideration.

- *Committee is made up of 2 students from each grade, Pride family, Black history month committee, offered to Okimankan, Student trustee elect, SAC, 4 staff members, Chair of parent school council. Lottery – self nominated and we did a draw.*
- Short List of Names Include: Cardinals, Chargers, Comets, Heat, Jets, Ravens, Thunder
- Cardinals – was brought forward as being harmful to indigenous folks - because cardinals are rulers of the church.
- Thunder – it was mentioned that some indigenous folks have thunder in their spirit name so it would be difficult to hear particularly if other teams were making fun of it.
- Jets - was included because of the connection to air force base in north bay.
- Top 2 names will go head-to-head on a vote. Looking at the middle 5 names that will be voted on to get the top 2.
- Principal Walkling asked if the feedback has been shared with students yet.
- Principal Tucker Petrick responded that nothing has been taken back to the group – students and staff do not know these names yet. The committee does respectfully request that the names shared remain confidential as they hope to build some momentum and excitement within the school for when it comes time to vote on a new school team name.
- Nathan Moore commented that Chargers brought an image of horses or military to mind.
- Principal Tucker Petrick responded we are on site of former barracks and a Charger is also a mythical creature.
- Trustee Sargent shared when looking at the list of names there is a lot of potential to create team spirit in choosing what the mascot is going to look like. Because the voting is taking place in the fall Trustee Sargent was concerned that the graduating grade 12 students would not be able to vote.
- Principal Tucker Petrick clarified that any grade 12 student who wishes to vote will be given a form that they can share their personal email address so that they can be contacted via email to cast their vote in the fall.

Next EAC date: Fall 2024

Next meeting date: early October

Meeting adjourned at 11:27 am