

Indigenous Education Circle (IEC) Minutes

Wednesday, October 23, 2024 | 10:00 – 11:30 am

TEAMS

Present:

Melanie Gray, Superintendent, Teaching and Learning
Amanda Mathias, Indigenous Lead
Kelly Nootchtai Huston, Indigenous Teacher Lead
Louise Sargent, NNDSB Trustee
Ashley St. Pierre, Indigenous Trustee & Director of Education - Moose Deer Point First Nation
Riley Trudeau, Indigenous Student Trustee
Daniel Stevens, Director of Education - Nipissing First Nation
Michael Schneider, Acting Principal of Parry Sound Intermediate and High School
Eileen Boucher – Executive Assistant Henvey Inlet First Nation
Dave McDougall, Wasauksing First Nation
Sarah Spence, Principal of Student Achievement and Wellbeing
Joanne Groulx, Mattawa Metis Council
Lois Lambert, Dokis First Nation
Riley Trudeau, Indigenous Student Trustee
Heidi McMillan, Executive Assistant

Regrets:

Genevieve Solomon-Dubois, Henvey Inlet First Nation
Chantal Phillips, Trustee
Geraldina Goulais, Nipissing First Nation
Cheryl Partridge, Wasauksing First Nation
Carol Stevens, Magnetawan First Nation
Mike Kalfus, Wasauksing First Nation
Lynn Mongrain, Temagami First Nation
Sherrill Judge, Shawanaga First Nation
Rose Jawbone, Kebaowek
Jennifer Ford - Nijjcs

Welcome

a) Land Acknowledgement by Principal Spence

b) Opening Circle

Meeting called to order at 12:43 pm.

c) Approval of Agenda

Motioned by Louise Sargent, seconded by Lois Lambert. Carried.

d) Approval of the Minutes of the June 13, 2024 meeting:

Motioned by Ashley St. Pierre, seconded by Dave McDougall. *Carried*

Review Terms of Reference – Principal Spence

- No community partners were present – TOR were included in the package. Given the fact that we don't have any partners present we will move forward and review/discuss at the next meeting.

Updates:

A) Indigenous Education Team – Principal Spence

- Continue to provide updates in a newsletter format and share pieces most relevant to Indigenous Education
- Consists of Superintendent of Education and Learning - Melanie Gray, Program Principal - Sarah Spence, Indigenous Education Coordinator - Amanda Mathias, Indigenous Education Lead - Kelly Huston and Karla Byers (LTO), Indigenous Mental Health Clinician - Brittany Chevrier in the north region and Mental Health Clinician - Lynn Fortin in the west region, Indigenous Support and Transition Worker – Kathy Newhook & Jeanette Laurin (north) & Jacey Claus (west), ASSP – (partnership with friendship centre) Heather Sampson (north),
- Graduation Coach: Chippewa Intermediate – Nicole Groulx, CSS - Bob Boal & Nicole Cartwright, West Ferris Intermediate – Karla Byers, WFSS – Ashley Sommerville, Northern – Karen Pigeau, Parry Sound Intermediate – Kelly Wood Fraser, Parry Sound High – Danny Gray, Summer School TBA
- Language: CHI Intermediate and Secondary – Tamara Fisher, Northern and West Ferris – Falcon Shabogesic-McLeod, West Ferris Intermediate – Zach Beaudette, Whitewoods – Alyssa Beach, Britt – Janet Sonnenburg, Nobel – Lila Ann Rice, MacTier – Billie Jo Isaac, Parry Sound Public School – Carrie Reid, Parry Sound Intermediate – TBA, Parry Sound High – Johna Hupfield

I) Board Achievement Plan – Principal Spence

Nov 2023 – Ministry sent out supplemental piece with priorities.

(I) Student Achievement and Preparing Students for the Future:

- Focus this year capacity building of Grad coaches and support staff through PLC's and PD, MYSP development for the ASSP program, Youth Leadership (IYC), Transition activities/events via culture and language activities, Summer school Grad coaches.

(II) Supporting Staff:

- Indigenous Language Revitalization Project, Language-Based Learning, Improving/expanding knowledge of all students and educators on Indigenous history, perspectives, contributions, and ways of knowing.
- Focus on Authentic Indigenization of the grade 7/8 History Curriculum, Grade 4/5 Walking the Path Program, Grade 7/8 Culture-Based Education and Connections to Curriculum Project: Partnered with Nipissing FN, Collaboration with program teams, LIFT Projects (Learning and Innovation Funds for Teachers), SharePoint site development.

(III) Data and Analysis:

- Student voice and community consultation through both FNAC and IEC.
- Grad Coach Reflection – from last year – Grad Coaches have reported a 80-100 percent capacity daily.
- Access for support ranges from academic, cultural and social emotional.
- All potential graduates are either in line to graduate or have a plan to return for year 5.
- Credit recovery, grade 7/8 access, parent engagement and increase in Self-Identification have been listed as successes.

(IV) Awareness and Engagement:

- Focus on IEC/Community Partners, FNAC/First Nations Partners, Community Ally Partners.
- Engagement and collaboration with location Indigenous Partners, communities and organizations.
- Improving and expanding knowledge of Indigenous learning - language resources around language revitalization – two big initiatives – collaborative PD with catholic board in August and NNIotik that took place on NFN and Nibissing and NPSCDSB,

History pilot project to create PLC to work through ministry curriculum.

- Amanda and Kelly working with program teams to have Indigenous voice. Consideration for consultation and keeping those lines of communication open and ongoing.

II) Key Initiatives – Principal Spence

- Allocation of budget:
 - Majority of funding goes towards staffing,
 - Indigenous lead, Grad coaches, transition workers, shared salary of social worker with mental health team, central staffing
 - Summer School Grad Coach,
 - Supports for culture experiences, Powwows, etc.,
 - And student transportation, guest Elders' honorariums, PD, conferences, curriculum supports.

QR Code – active poll to give you a voice to respond to the questions see link - <https://app.sli.do/event/p42wAcuZ2j5WxGnpkXR46> included in presentation from Principal Spence. Join at slido.com #6302971

B) Indigenous Student Trustee Report – Riley Trudeau

- The transition back to school is a critical period for students, parents, and educators. A smooth return helps set a positive tone for the academic year, promoting engagement and readiness for learning. NNDSB has had an effective transition, focusing on emotional, social, and academic aspects of the transition.
- Near North District School Board students have been taking part in Truth and Reconciliation events like orange shirt Day, with reflections by students, lessons in class as well as exhibits. Walk for Wenjack events as well as selling crafts, shirts, pins and keychains to donate to the Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack Fund. Some schools had to push events further due to scheduling and time management with the new school year.
- A huge part of Indigenous Youth Circle lately has been planning for this year's IYC initiative which is a partnered "Stuff the Cruiser" event for this December. The Anishinabek Police Service has partnered with us to start planning this event. We are still in the early to middle stages of planning but hope to donate new toys, and money to the Indigenous Friendship Center with the goal to give back to families in need at Christmas. Each school will fundraise and carry out different activities to support these plans. Some schools have started to fundraise by selling candy, Raffles and sales, Movie events, a giving tree, and beaded paintings for staff purchase.
- Plans for Indigenous students include Beading workshops, Ribbon Shirt and Skirt making, School assemblies with guest speakers, Hunt camp and hide camp, and lunches with peers in our Indigenous centers. An upcoming event for IYC to attend will be on May 6th where Ted Nolan will be speaking at West Ferris. IYC plans to take on a leadership role in this event, alongside the Indigenous Education Department. IYC members from past years have helped recruit new members and are excited to start the new school year with lots of plans and lots of great activities to come.

C) Board Report:

I) Trustee Report

- Trustee Sargent welcomed the new indigenous Trustee Riley Trudeau.
- Chair St. Pierre had Trustee Steer put a motion forward for living climate course, food security and wellness, working with the program team to get that course curriculum developed.
- Trustee Fuscaldo drafted a letter to ask the ministry to keep McDougall operational for the next year.

II) Director/Superintendent Report – SO Gray

- SO Gray welcomed Riley Trudeau and enjoyed working along IYC and all schools across NNDSB.
- A special thank you was extended to Henvey Inlet for hosting the in-person meeting and for their warm hospitality.
- MYSP important work as directed by trustees and the Director's office. Indigenous Education Team planning is well underway. Plans are in the works, and they have completed their current 6-week submission of goals and outcomes.
- Amanda and Principal Spence along with board senior staff were at Cote lam Gold Mine located in Gogama and on traditional harvesting land of Metis harvest 3. It was an incredible experience and great to walk alongside the team to see the respect for the land and the passion to work alongside us to help educate and support NNDSB about what the mining industry can offer.

D) Community Reports

- Lois Lambert – Dokis off to great start with having elections next month with new chief and council.
- Eileen Boucher – Thank you on behalf of Genevieve for joining us in our community for 2 days.
- Principal Spence thanked Eileen and the team responsible for hosting and welcoming everyone.
- Chair St. Pierre – Recently had an Arbour built through cultural programs that sits in the ball field and is a good addition to our community.
- Dan Stevens– NFN has good numbers. OPHEA is looking to have some product of the work we have done. Finalization of ESA and formalizing our relationship – fortunate to be close to the school board and share those common goals in education.
- Principal Spence – based land learning – missed – under land based component and support both staff and students we do have partnership grant with NFC with learning from the land Nov 18th doing deer hide tanning with 7/8 focus collaboration with NFN and Nibising and the whole goal and this format is the fact that teachers are still hesitant to introduce Indigenous voice through making a mistake, so we have teachers involved in this group and develop a lens to their planning and learning cycles and teachers sharing best practices with other teachers is more effective than pushing it out – sharing with their peers to adopt. (adjust slide to include this)
- Principal Schneider – We've had a great start up and getting timetables straight. Midterms are coming up, and we have parent teacher night tonight.
- Dave McDougall – kudos to Principal Schneider for working around the new build.

Closing Circle

Motion to adjourn at 1:55 PM.

Next Meeting: January 22, 2025, 1:00 PM