



COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Committee Name: Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee

Date: Tuesday November 22, 2016

Time: 5:30pm

Core Voting Constituent's:

Present: Co-Chair Blu Waters, Co-Chair J'net Ay Ay Qwa Yak Sheelth, Landy Anderson (NCFST), Dr. Joanne Dallaire (Elder), Marilyn Hew (Métis Nation of Ontario - Toronto & York Region Métis Council), Bob Phillips (Elder), Joseph Poitras (Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario), Shannon Judge (FNST Parent Council), Dawn Maracle (University of Toronto), Janine Manning (Teach for Canada), Leslie McCue (ROM), Sarah Beth Burns (Toronto Inuit Association) & Melissa Abatossoway (Toronto Council Fire).

TDSB Trustee's:

Present: Pam Gough (Co-Chair), Jennifer Story and Alexander Brown.

TDSB Staff:

Present: John Chasty (Superintendent), Barbara-Ann Felschow (Central Coordinating Principal), Tanya Senk (Central Coordinating Vice-Principal), Mike Izzo (Instructional Leader), Sandy Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent), Mario Tenentes (Sir Wilfred Laurier Collegiate Principal), Jennie Town (Coordinator, NLC East), Natasha Gleason (Teacher), Emily Blackmoon (Child & Youth Counsellor) Christina Saunders (Instructional Leader), Tessa Sill (Community Liaison) Michelle Corneau (Instructional leader), John Malloy (Director), Lena Recollet (Native Language Instructor), Marlene Tameta (Clerk) & Marilyn Maychak (On-Leave).



Guests: La Toya Dennie (University of Toronto), Justin Chipaloo (ROM), Michael Cheena (Community) Shams Medie (Student Trustee), Chris Renna (Children’s Services, City of Toronto), Howard Monroe (Métis Council, OCAD) Jesse Thistle (Community member), Soliel Perrier (Student), Kimberly Waddilove (Student).

Regrets: Dr. Susan Dion, Dr. Duke Redbird, Bonnie Johnston & Veronica Johnny.

Recorder: Tasha Smith (Student Success Teacher).

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/MOTION
Call to Order, Traditional Opening	J’net chaired the meeting. Elder Joanne Dallaire conducted a traditional prayer to open the meeting.	
Approval of Agenda	The agenda was amended and approved by consensus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> J’net- change in the agenda to include Land Acknowledgement.
Review and Approval of the minutes of September 20, 2016.	<p>The minutes of October 11, 2016 were approved by Bob</p> <p>J’net reminded everyone that the ACAC will continue all future ACAC meetings on the third Tuesday of every month.</p> <p>Landy Anderson requested that the following be removed from the minutes on page four where it said: <i>Follow up action item-NCFST-Response-</i> “Communities did not want a child protection agency involved in the planning”.</p>	<p>The following sentence will be removed from the October 2016 minutes - “Moreover, when the committee formed, it was clear that communities did not want a child protection agency involved in the planning” (p. 4).</p>
Introductions	<p>John Malloy, TDSB Director of Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicated that he was pleased to attend the 	



	<p>ACAC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has worked for TDSB for the past year and feels honoured. <p>J'net:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy to have people attend ACAC meetings who have influence and take time to listen to the community. 	
<p>Land Acknowledgment</p>	<p>Jnet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Acknowledgement in all our schools • There are some concerns about the Métis Nation being mentioned in the acknowledgement. • Read a statement from Métis Nation and the AEC. • The acknowledgement began at board meetings and then a motion was passed to have it in our schools. • J'net reminds everyone that the land acknowledgement was approved and put forth by the ACAC. • J'net read a statement that was written by Michelle Corneau- the statement will be attached to minutes for next meeting. Michelle's letter was written prior to the letter from the Metis Council to show why we are recognizing the Métis Council • In the spirit of being inclusive, it is necessary to include Métis as they have been included from 	<p>Motion: The ACAC recommends that TDSB accept the suggestion from the Toronto York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) and modify the present Land Acknowledgement to reflect the wishes of TYRMC. Moreover, that change is made to remove the word "traditional lands" to "ancestral lands".</p>



	<p>the onset.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking back in history, settlers married Indigenous women. If we didn't include them it might be perceived in a negative way. If we respect the wishes from the Métis Nation then we are going into it in a good way. <p>Joseph:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has some concerns- FNST moving here- but why do we keep calling it First Nations? How am I going to encourage Métis kids to come here? <p>J'net:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I understand that we are moving towards a new name-Urban Indigenous Education Centre It's meant to be inclusive and moving away from calling it FNST <p>Jessie Thistle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesse was asked by Blu to attend and speak at the ACAC about land acknowledgement <p>Landy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanked Jesse for bringing his research and would like to receive a copy of all of the letters <p>Blu:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We should take a vote to amend the acknowledgement <p>J'net:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We want our language to reflect FNMI <p>Janine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Takes issue with the word <i>traditional</i> as she 	<p>The letters will be attached to the November 2016 minutes.</p>
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	<p>feels that it signals post presence and our people are still here.</p> <p>Dawn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not have it in front of her so cannot speak to it. <p>Landy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we have the authority to make those decisions here? <p>Sandy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The motion of an acknowledgement already went to the board for approval. The actual text and the understanding were developed in consultation with the AEC and community <p>Tanya:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are living the colonial legacy, colonial chaos. • If we are going to talk about territory or tradition territory we need to have an understanding of what it means. It is really about an Indigenous paradigm of land, the storied paradigm. <p>Blu:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not want this issue to be deferred as we often get caught up in this. <p>Lena:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just acknowledging that this land acknowledgement is going to be changing. That is why Anishinaabe people did not write things down. Everybody's land acknowledgement is different. The TKaronto meeting place-Williams 	
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	<p>treaty, what about the wampum belts? What about the dish with one spoon. It will be consistently changing.</p> <p>Mike Izzo:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers a staff perspective and agrees that everything is changing and to make a motion to change the wording would involve reprinting and distribution to all 588 TDSB schools. It is a massive amount of work to make a shift. <p>Janine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is more important to have the understanding rather than the language. <p>Blu:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right now the acknowledgment is misleading and right now it has to be addressed. It is just a small change. <p>Joseph:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm concerned what effect is this going to have on Métis children who attend the new school. <p>J'net:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think we can leave this to the AEC and allow them to make the adjustments respecting the wishes of the Métis Council. <p>Janine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is also wondering if we should make another motion to acknowledge the word "Traditional"? <p>J'net:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We now have a question of using the word 	
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	<p>traditional lands.</p> <p>Janine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not here to judge any work but is bringing to the table the article by Susan Blight 	
Follow-up/ Action Items	<p>UIECE Steering Council Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering council met recently • Subcommittees were formed • One for naming the facility • One for overall governance, self-determination and sovereignty • One for Employee services • One for Partnerships • One for the Boyne Outdoor Education Centre • Next steering committee is Dec. 16th 	
Community Check-	<p>Blu Waters: TDSB trustee-Deferred</p> <p>Recruitment, retention was addressed by Barb in UIEC</p> <p>Marilyn Hew: presented the TYRMC sash and explained the colours in the sash.</p> <p>Dawn, UOT Updates: Summer mentorship program for students grades 10-11. Applications are now open and on UoT website. March 24th deadline. So far one student has identified as Indigenous. Wants to recruit students from schools that have higher populations of</p>	TDSB trustee-Deferred



	<p>FNMI students. Tomorrow night is Indigenous Health Lecture-Dr. Suzanne Stewart- sign up on <i>Event Bright</i>. ROM- Accepting new members for Toronto youth cabinet-Indigenous framework-Multicultural but they do not have any indigenous youth. Youth driven decision making.</p>	
<p>Staff Updates</p>	<p>Sandy Spyropoulos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update-Work at Eastern Commerce has started. Projected to be here in January. Everyone, John Chasty, AEC, FNST are working together to have everything happen on time. • Dec 3rd-there will be a celebration to close Eastern Commerce. • Action-the Term for “Central Coordinating Principal” has come to an end. • Asking for volunteers to participate on a committee to look at the needs of the AEC and to assist with developing a job posting. <p>Barbara-Ann Felschow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks Joanne and the co-chairs. • Acknowledge- Nov. 3rd. <i>Dish with One Spoon</i> conference at 16 Phin. • Nov. 5th-Tanya and Hannah Fowlie presented at a conference. • Nov. 8th- Launched two resources. 	<p>Central Coordinating Principal position: ACAC members, who are interested in participating on a committee or to provide input, please contact Barbara-Ann Felschow.</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge building education-Acknowledge Christina Breen. • Resource guide for Admin-protocol for respectful engagement with Indigenous people. • Nov. 10th-FNMI-CI PD for teachers-Acknowledges Tasha and Christina Saunders. • Nov. 11th-Vern Harper-Veterans acknowledgement. • Nov. 15th-REEL Canada Screening day. Acknowledges Tasha, Michelle and Tanya. • Nov. 16th- Louis Riel day and Michael Kusugak Inuk storyteller. • Nov. 21st. Naming Ceremony for secondary program. Elder Shirt conducted the ceremony. • Soleil-Sweetgrass Youth of the 7th fire. • Nov. 23rd Board meeting-We are going to see the video that will be presented to the board. • Acknowledge the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation for providing funds for our roster to go into schools on Treaty week. • Nov. 25th- We will be hosting 100 coaches and teachers for PD. • This will be Barbara-Ann Felschow' last year. • Showing of the video. <p>Mike Izzo:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Idea of going digital and finding new ways to 	
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	<p>communicate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using new technology. • AW-For staff for TDSB. • Community piece-FB page for our centre. • All of our events-on the side with all the information. The page name is Aboriginal Education Centre. • We get requests from community organizations- we can plug those into our page. If you want to submit something, send us a FB message with an electronic copy. <p>J'net:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wants to bring a motion to acknowledge National Aboriginal Day as a culturally significant day where staff and students may have the day off without being marked absence. For staff to be paid but not to be used as a miscellaneous day. <p>Sandy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The way we use a miscellaneous day for religious/culturally significant holiday- Anytime we take time to celebrate a day of significance that is the process. • June 21st is during the Exam period so we would have to look at this very closely. • Those are some of the things that we would take into consideration. 	<p>J'net: requested a motion to acknowledge National Aboriginal Day as a culturally significant day where staff and students may have the day off without being marked absent. For staff to be paid but not to be used as a miscellaneous day.</p> <p>Seconded by Blu</p>
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	<p>Sandy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are not marked absent for taking a religious day. <p>J'net:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there precedent for people taking a cultural day for a lieu day <p>Blu:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports J'net as it is a significant day that people want to celebrate. • If other cultures have days that are respected then we should have it too <p>Emily Blackmoon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with exam schedule-Makes the assumption that the exam is the most important thing and she would challenge the thinking that celebrating together is just as important. <p>Jnet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The motion has been put forth and it is left with trustees and superintendent to take it to board. 	
<p>New and Other Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tanya Senk- Ethical engagement/partnerships-will be deferred 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tanya Senk- Ethical engagement/partnerships-will be deferred however Tanya reminded everyone to consider the people at Standing Rock and the Dakota Access Pipeline



Future Topics		
Next Meeting Date	<p>The next ACAC will be on Tuesday January 17, 2017 and in the library on the second floor.</p> <p>ACAC on Feb 21st, 2017</p>	
Traditional Closing	Elder Joanne Dallaire closed the meeting.	

