



## **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Committee Name: Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee

Date: Tuesday April 18, 2017

Time: 5:30pm- 8pm

### **Core Voting Constituent's:**

Present: Dr. Joanne Dallaire (Elder), Marilyn Hew (TYRMC), Keith McCrady (Native Child & Family Services), Shannon Judge (Parent), Melissa Abotossaway (Council Fire), Howard Munroe (OCAD/Parent), Dr. Bob Phillips (Community Member), Joseph Poitras (Senator, MNO), Cris Renna (City of Toronto), Judy Rheame (Parent), Belinda Toulouse (Parent), Juan Rodriguez (Rep. for Dr. Suzanne Stewart) and Pablo Joseph (Parent).

### **TDSB Trustee's:**

Present: Pamela Gough

### **TDSB Staff:**

Present: Sandy Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent), John Chasty (Superintendent), Barbara-Ann Felschow (Central Coordinating Principal), Adrienne Plumley (Teacher), Lena Recollet (Native Language Instructor), Natasha Gleeson (Teacher), Malia Mitha (Teacher), Roxanne Chee (Teacher), Amber Smith (Education Assistant), Jeewan Chanicka (Equity & Achievement Central Coordinating Principal), Erin Carey (Teacher), Tsitra McKay (Social Work Student), Bonnie Johnston (Community Liaison) and Mary Doucette (Digital Communication Programmer).



**Regrets:** Jennifer Story (Trustee), Alexander Brown (Trustee), Tanya Senk (Central Coordinating Vice Principal), Dr. Duke Redbird (Archives), Mike Izzo (Instructional Leader) & Christina Saunders (Instructional Leader)

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/MOTION/ACTION
Call to Order, Traditional Opening	Bonnie Johnston chaired the meeting. Dr. Joanne Dallaire conducted a traditional prayer to open the meeting followed by introductions of the membership in attendance.	
Approval of Agenda	The Agenda was amended and Approved by: Joanne Dallaire and Seconded by: Marilyn Hew <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update from the FNST Parent Council and from the FNST Principal will be added to this agenda and every ACAC meeting agenda.</li> </ul>	Approved by: Joanne Dallaire Seconded by: Marilyn Hew
Review and Approval of the minutes of Tuesday March 21, 2017	The minutes of Tuesday, March 21, 2017 were reviewed and approved by Marilyn Hew and seconded by Shannon Judge.	Approved by: Marilyn Hew Seconded by: Shannon Judge
Community Check-In:	<b><i>'The Journey Together'</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cris Renna-</b> <i>'The Journey Together'</i> is Ontario's commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples by closing gaps and removing barriers. This will involve an increase</li> </ul>	



	<p>to the number of licensed child care spaces and culturally relevant programming off-reserve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACAC membership discussed the desire to create an Indigenous day-care at 16 Phin.</li> </ul> <p><b>First Nations School of Toronto</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some of the ACAC members raised concern about the <i>Steering Committee</i> changing the name of FNST to “Wandering Spirit” as they felt that they were left out of the process.</li> <li>• A former FNST parent asked that the Steering Committee provide them with the names and background information on all of the Steering Committee members so that they can get to know the members.</li> <li>• TDSB staff provided clarification and announced that a “meet and greet” event will be held in May as an opportunity for parents and communities to gather and get to know each other.</li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>Staff Update:</u></b></p>	<p><b>Sandy Spyropoulos:</b> <i>Update</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Aboriginal Education’s report will be presented to the board shortly – this report will cover all information regarding all work done in Aboriginal Education for the 2015/2016 school year.</li> <li>• The Programs &amp; Schools committee passed the</li> </ul>	



	<p>motion for this report on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and it will go to the board for its final report tomorrow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The driving force for this report was in Dr. Susan Dion's 2010 report. We continue to benefit from Dr. Dion's wisdom &amp; knowledge.</li> <li>• The opportunity action plan from 2013-present has visibly demonstrated the importance for Aboriginal Education.</li> <li>• The board continues to show its commitment to Aboriginal Education through its profound goal of its system wide professional development for teachers.</li> <li>• The board recognizes the impacts as a result of Indian Residential Schools moving towards a deepening knowledge in respect to Aboriginal Education while using the TRC as a framework for future awareness.</li> <li>• The Aboriginal Education Centre is fully infusing Aboriginal Education across the board through various ways, e.g., conferences held last year, the upcoming conference in May, the 2 Native learning Centres, ACAC with its broad representation and the liaison between the board and the community, the collaborative inquiry, the AEC's roster of Artists/Speakers/Elders &amp; Knowledge Keepers, the NAC10 programs that are currently in 49 secondary schools while interest for the</li> </ul>	
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	<p>program continues to grow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would like to acknowledge a few people for their work: Jim Spyropoulos, Barb Felschow/Tanya Senk &amp; the AEC staff, John Chasty for his work in NAC10, Artists &amp; speakers as well as being the Superintendent for the FNST &amp; Trustee Pamela Gough for her support/work and being an ally to Aboriginal Education.</li> <li>• Would also like to thank the ACAC for teaching &amp; guiding her with wisdom &amp; knowledge to become a better listener and appreciates each person's input as she continues to learn.</li> <li>• Acknowledges the need for self-identification and the implementation of self-identity while being conscious of the effects of "counting".</li> </ul> <p><b>Barbara-Ann Felschow: Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The AEC will be hosting a conference: <i>Creating Spaces of Belonging</i> - May 3. The conference will focus on Aboriginal perspectives on mental health and well-being. A full day conference designed for educators, equity reps, guidance counselors and professional staff.</li> <li>• TRC call to action #62. K-&gt;12 Knowledge building workshops, 1200 teachers will be coming through the AEC for this training.</li> </ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The KAIROS blanket teachings had 600 participants.</li> <li>• Barb/Tanya completed 13 learning centre presentations at both elementary and secondary schools as it is mandatory for principals and vice principals to embed appropriate education.</li> <li>• In December, AEC hosted a Round Dance with FNST.</li> <li>• April 13 North American Indigenous Games &gt; Marianne Groat is looking for volunteers.</li> <li>• Mike Izzo &amp; Dr. Duke Redbird are working on a social &amp; world studies project to engage teachers and students in a 14,000 year timeline versus “Canada 150”.</li> </ul> <p><b>Bonnie Johnston:</b> <i>Update:</i> Bonnie Johnston, Community Liaison worker presented a copy of the revised ACAC Terms of Reference. ACAC voting members approved the revised ACAC Terms of Reference.</p>	<p>April 18, 2017 ACAC Terms of Reference: Approved by: Joseph Poitras Seconded by: Marilyn Hew</p>
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<p>New and Other Business:</p>	<p><b>Dr. Bob Phillips</b> – <i>Updates about the position of a TDSB Aboriginal Trustee</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bob applied for the position of Trustee in Scarborough Ward 21. He recently found out that he was not short-listed for an interview. Bob is very qualified for the job and does not understand why he wasn't given an interview.</li> <li>• ACAC continued dialogue regarding the importance of an Aboriginal Trustee for TDSB including the idea of writing a letter to the Ministry of Education advocating for an Aboriginal Trustee in TDSB.</li> </ul>	
<p>Future Topics:</p>	<p>Bonnie Johnston: Dates for ACAC 2017/2018 School year deferred to next meeting.</p>	<p><b>Deferred:</b> Dates for ACAC 2017/2018 School Year.</p>
<p>Traditional Closing:</p>	<p>Elder Joanne Dallaire closed the meeting.</p>	
<p>Next meeting Date:</p>	<p>The next ACAC will be on Tuesday May 16, 2017 @ 5:30pm. Located in the Library on the second floor.</p>	

