

Name of Committee: Urban Indigenous Community Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 21st, 2023

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 pm

Attendance via Zoom:

**Core Voting Constituents:** Tanya Senk (System Superintendent, Indigenous Education, UIEC and Kâpapâmahchakwêw / Wandering Spirt School, TDSB), Bonnie Johnston (Indigenous Social Worker, UIEC), Isaiah Shafqat (Indigenous Student Trustee,) Joe Rock (City of Toronto, Early ON), Sean Gale (Student Success Teacher, UIEC), Shannon Judge (Community), Selina Young (City of Toronto, Indigenous Affairs Office), Robin White (Vice Principal, Seneca School), Natasha Gleeson (Instructional Leader, UIEC), Kyle Genaille (Graduation Coach, UIEC), Tracy MacKenzie (Community Liaison, UIEC)

**TDSB Staff:** Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent, Human Rights, and Indigenous Education, TDSB), Emily Wadsworth (Centrally Assigned Vice-Principal, UIEC), Antonino Giambrone (Centrally Assigned Principal, UIEC), Michael Griesz (Principal, Lawrence Park), Danielle Noel (VP, Eastview PS), Lindsay Boag (VP, Eastview Barbara-Ann Felschow (Retired Principal, TDSB), JacobBarghout (Vice-Principal, Laurier CI), Jim Veltman (ACL, NLC-East), Eleni Sotos (ACL, NLC-East), Lisa Dilworth, (Superintendent of Education, LN17, TDSB), Elise Twyford (Principal, Wandering Spirit),

**TDSB Trustees:** Michelle Aarts (Ward 16), Deborah Williams (Ward 10), Sara Ehrhardt (Ward 15), Dan MacLean (Ward 2), Indigenous Student Trustee Isaiah Shafqat

**Regrets:** Elder Dr. Joanne Dallaire (UICAC Chair, Elders Council Member), Elder Pauline Shirt (Elders Council Member), Clayton Shirt (Elders Council Member), Saby Chandi, (Principal, NLCE), Michael Sanders (Principal, Eastview PS), Elder Dr. Duke Redbird (Elders Council Member), Sara Ehrhardt (Ward 15), Robert Durocher (Centrally Assigned Vice-Principal, UIEC), Elder Blu Waters (Seneca College)

| ITEM | DISCUSSION | MOTION/RECOMMENDATION |
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| Call to Order, Traditional Opening, Review of Meeting Etiquette, Code of Conduct | Bonnie Johnston chaired the meeting.  Bonnie Johnston spoke to the code of conduct for UICAC (Urban Indigenous Community Advisory Committee) members and guests.  Introductions from the membership in attendance. | |
| Approval of Agenda | The agenda of February 21st, 2023, was moved and seconded by Isaiah Shafqat and Shannon Judge | |
| Review and Approval of the minutes | The minutes of January 21st, 2023, was moved and seconded by Isaiah Shafqat and Shannon Judge | |
| Declaration of conflict of interest, Terms of Reference | None | |
| Facility, 16 Phin – Mobility, Accessibility, Health & Safety, Renovations.  Indigenous Trustee (TDSB)  Hiring practices, recruitment, retention, and mobility. | Facility, 16 Phin – Mobility, Accessibility, Health & Safety, Renovations  **Tanya Senk (System Superintendent, Indigenous Education, UIEC and Kâpapâmahchakwêw / Wandering Spirt School, TDSB)**   * No updates at the present time.   **Elise Twyford (Principal, Kâpapâmahchakwêw / Wandering Spirt School, TDSB)**   * Currently looking at mobility accessibility upgrade to entrances.   Establishment of an Indigenous Trustee  **Tanya Senk (System Superintendent, Indigenous Education, UIEC and Kâpapâmahchakwêw / Wandering Spirt School, TDSB)**   * Akosua Mathews (Indigenous lawyer) has been hired by the board and will be preparing a report to move this along through a legal framework. * Conversations continue with the Elders Council as well, and looking at the possibility of a standing committee, and what the standing committee would entail. Updates will continue when available.   **Michelle Aarts (Trustee, Ward 16)**   * Strategic drivers have been reviewed for the budget and will be going to Board next meeting. Updates will be provided shortly.   Hiring practices, recruitment, retention, and mobility    **Tanya Senk (System Superintendent, Indigenous Education, UIEC and Kâpapâmahchakwêw / Wandering Spirt School, TDSB)**   * The Urban Indigenous Education Centre Tessa Sill, (Community Liaison) and Robert Durocher, (Centrally Assigned Vice-Principal) are in the process of scheduling a First Nation, Metis and Inuit Job Fair at 16 Phin. Dates will be provided shortly. * We will continue to work on recruitment to build capacity with Indigenous peoples within TDSB and address the underrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples. * There are a few job postings currently at both Native Learning Centres.   + Acting Social Worker   + Child and Youth Workers   Listings can be found on the UIEC website | |
| Elders Update:  Staff Update: | No update.  **Elise Twyford (Principal, Kâpapâmahchakwêw / Wandering Spirt School, TDSB)**   * Excited to have KWSS basketball team head to Sudbury for an Indigenous tournament this coming Friday. Students are very excited to participate and experience this great opportunity. * Teachers have participated in workshops for teachers’ literacy interventions and moving forward with the science of reading within capabilities.   **Emily Wadsworth (Centrally Assigned Vice-Principal, UIEC)**   * Focus the last couple of weeks has been visiting the Native Learning Centres getting to know the teams and students. * The focus will remain on attendance, engagement and challenging some of the pieces around engagement. * Graduation Coach Kyle will be on site at our NLC downtown working with Matt to offer student success and academic support for our grade. 9 and 10 students specifically. * Student enrollment is up at both NL centres, and we look forward to the future growth moving ahead.   **Tracy Mackenzie (Community Liaison, UIEC)**   * Excited to be planning the 2023 South East Scarborough Pow Wow hosted on the Traditional Territory of the Mississauga Nation (Eastview Public School). * Pow Wow committee has been formed and we welcome any volunteers that reside in the Scarborough area to participate. * Date has been tentatively booked and will be communicated once officially confirmed. * Further updates will be provided shortly.   **Antonino Giambrone (Centrally Assigned Principal, UIEC)**   * Professional Learning in Indigenous Education at 16 Phin Ave has been going well. At the end of the week, the UIEC will have hosted approximately 200 staff members doing professional learning in various areas. * Professional Learning includes a three-part course on confronting anti Indigenous racism, as well as Biidaanan and Aanse Truth and Reconciliation. * The Student Success team has approximately 140 referrals and continues to work very hard by providing one on – one counselling support as well as group sessions across the system. To decrease the number of referrals the work we are doing collectively is to enhance conditions in schools so that students might not need counselling support on an ongoing basis overtime.   **Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent, Human Rights, and Indigenous Education)**   * TDSB budget and latest projections, have us in a 61 million deficit which we're going to have to address over the coming weeks and months. TDSB is hopeful that these findings will not have a negative impact to Indigenous education as it is self-funding based on revenue generated through courses the ministry calls native studies and language studies. * The Board Trustees supported a motion that was brough forward by Indigenous Student Trustee Isaiah Shafqat to ensure that every student that graduates from high school will take one compulsory credit in grade 11 English (NBE3) that covers contemporary First Nations, Metis, and Inuit issues. * We are using resources to enable the Board to offer March break programming for students that is tutoring focused and is a combination of academic tutoring plus recreational activities.   **Tanya Senk (System Superintendent, Indigenous Education, UIEC and Kâpapâmahchakwêw / Wandering Spirt School)**   * We are currently in the process of writing a report to discuss the gradual implementation of NBE3 course to ensure it is implemented the right way. * Indigenous author advisory committee will be formed. Updates are forthcoming. * NBE3 courses generate funding, and any incremental funding gets reinvested into Indigenous education. * The board action plan is distinct for Indigenous education and that funding is enveloped. | |
| Indigenous Student Trustee Update:  Trustee Upd*a*te: | Isaiah Shafqat (Indigenous Student Trustee, TDSB)   * In September, October of 2022 the Board wrote a letter to the Ministry of Education, asking that language courses that are currently offered to an open level be assigned as a U or M level credit. In addition, we also asked that the Indigenous language instructors be exempted from requiring an Ontario Teacher certificate. If not successful with the request, this will cause tremendous barrier to the need of traditional language instructors. * NBE3 motion was passed on February 1st, 2023, with a vote of 18 - 3 * Staff will be presenting a report to the Board of Trustees in June on a gradual implementation plan. * TDSB has 110 secondary schools, and it was decided that the implementation would be done in a good way, Trauma informed, culturally responsive and in a respectful way. * TDSB students and the elections are currently under way. Students from grade 6 to 11 are eligible to apply for a position on the Senate. More information can be found on the TDSB website on the Student Senate Elections web page * Recruitment and discussions continue for a future Indigenous Student Trustee with students who are interested in in the position with Kyle Genaille. The Elders Council will appoint an Indigenous Student Trustee by the end of April.   Michelle Aarts   * The Ontario Public School Boards Association and the in the Indigenous Trustees Council had a meeting earlier today and the project work team is creating a vision document to influence the Ministry of Education on the items that need to happen over the next 5 – 10 years to change and specifically modernize the education platform that our students need surrounding Indigenous ways of knowing and being embedded with Indigenous education across the board. | |
| New and Other Business | Bonnie Johnston (Social Worker, UIEC)   * Review the current and longstanding UICAC meeting priorities and Terms of Reference. Date TBD | |
| Traditional Closing: | Bonnie Johnston adjourned the meeting. | |