## Community Avisory Committee header image

Name of Committee: Urban Indigenous Community Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 pm

Attendance via Zoom:

**Core Voting Constituents:** Dr. Duke Redbird (Elders Council Member, UIEC/TDSB), Elder Clayton Shirt (Elders Council Member, UIEC/TDSB), Tanya Senk (System Superintendent, Indigenous Education), Joe Rock (City of Toronto, Early ON), Robin White (Vice Principal, Seneca School, TDSB), Robert Durocher (Centrally Assigned Vice-Principal, UIEC/TDSB), Sean Gale (Student Success Teacher, UIEC/TDSB), Reta Red Sky, (City of Toronto), Monique Diablo (City of Toronto, Early ON), Christina Saunders (Centrally Assigned Principal, Caring and Safe Schools), Selina Young (Indigenous Affairs, City of Toronto), Tracy MacKenzie (UIEC Community Liaison)

**TDSB Staff:** Emily Wadsworth (Centrally Assigned Vice-Principal, UIEC), Antonino Giambrone (Centrally Assigned Principal, UIEC), Barbara-Ann Felschow (Retired Principal), Danielle Noelle, (Vice-Principal, Eastview PS), Rebecca Chahine (Vice-Principal, Eastview PS, Tracy MacDougall (Acting Administrative Liaison),

**TDSB Trustees:** Deborah Williams, (TDSB Trustee, Ward 10)

**Guest(s)**: none

**Regrets:** Sara Ehrhardt, (TDSB Trustee, Ward 15), Sean Gale (Student Success Teacher, UIEC/TDSB), Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent, Indigenous Education, Caring and Safe Schools), Elise Twyford, (Principal, Wandering Spirit School), Elder Dr. Joanne Dallaire (Elders Council Member, UIEC/TDSB), Elder Pauline Shirt (Elders Council Member, UIEC/TDSB), Bonnie Johnston (Social Worker, UIEC/TDSB), Ozaawaa Secord (Indigenous Student Trustee, TDSB), Kyle Genaille, (Graduation Coach, UIEC/TDSB), ), Dr. Susan Dion (York University), Robert Loft (Social Worker, UIEC/TDSB, Shannon Judge, (Community Member), Jim Veltman (ACL Numeracy, Native Learning Centre East)

| ITEM | DISCUSSION | ACTION |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Traditional Opening, Call to Order | Traditional Opening by Elder Dr. Duke Redbird. Lindsay Kretschmer calls the meeting to order. |  |
| Review of Meeting Etiquette, Code of Conduct, Declaration of conflict of interest, Terms of Reference | Lindsay Kretschmer spoke to the code of conduct for UICAC (Urban Indigenous Community Advisory Committee) members and guests. No conflicts.Requests that committee review the Terms of Reference. No Conflicts. |  |
| Approval of Agenda | The agenda of March 16th - Approved by Robert Durocher and seconded by Reta Red Sky |  |
| Approval of Minutes  | The minutes of February 20th, 2024 – Approved Elder Duke Redbird, seconded by Tanya Senk |  |
| UICAC Priorities for 2023-2024 | **Hiring Practices, Recruitment, Retention, and Mobility update*** No Update
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| Elders Council UpdateIndigenous Student Trustee and Trustee UpdatesStaff Update | **Dr. Elder Duke Redbird*** TDSB is currently considering program cuts due to a nearly $21 million budget deficit. In today's paper, it was also reported that teachers have rejected the proposal to bring retirees back to work, initially allowing them 50 days to assist and then temporarily increasing it to 95 days. However, the Teachers Federation now wants to reduce this back to 50 days. This is concerning because we need experienced educators in our school system, especially since there is a shortage of teachers. It is crucial to have enough staff available. This issue will likely be discussed at the meeting Jim is attending tonight. The trustees are deeply concerned and are considering making recommendations to the Ministry of Education regarding the budget and staffing needs, including the role of retirees, to maintain and enhance our teaching capacity. It is believed that they need to continue to have at least the 95 days, if not more, in our own case.

**Ozaawaa Secord (Indigenous Student Trustee** (absent)**Deborah Williams, Trustee Ward 10*** One of the main updates I wanted to share is about the ongoing TDSB budget process. Many of our trustees and staff are currently involved in these discussions. Right now, they are discussing proposed cuts to programs that are important for community building, such as continuing education. Many seniors participate in these programs, which offer courses beyond what the city of Toronto provides, including woodworking, carpentry, and sewing. These programs are a valuable resource for our community.

**Tanya Senk (System Superintendent, Indigenous Education, UIEC and Kâpapâmahchakwêw / Wandering Spirt School, TDSB)*** **Annual Report on Indigenous Education**: The report has been delivered and is set to be presented at the Standing Committee (PSSC) meeting, followed by the Board meeting. It follows the format of the Board Action Plan for Indigenous Education, which includes four areas: supporting students, supporting educators, community engagement, and research.
* **Highlights and Key Priorities**: The report will include highlights, key priorities, measurable indicators, and impacts of the Indigenous education initiatives.
* **Budget for Indigenous Education**: The budget for Indigenous education, including the Indigenous Education Grant, will continue to support Indigenous programming and initiatives.

**Antonino Giambrone (Centrally Assigned Principal, UIEC)*** The work of AANSE continues to support Indigenous students, which we refer to as our Achievement in Indigenous Education project. ANSE focuses on schools with the highest numbers of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students. We have a set of focus schools with the highest numbers of Indigenous students.
* We provide wrap-around support for each of these schools. This includes the work of Emily Wadsworth, (Centrally Assigned Vice Principal, UIEC) who works specifically with the NlC’s and Wandering Spirit School Secondary programs ensuring students have access to all supports, alongside with the UIEC team. This support happens alongside our professional learning, which we engage in through collaborative inquiry over the course of the year. We had our first session in mid-February, and we're currently in our second session as of April fourth. There is incredible work happening in each of these spaces for school transformation and the enhancement of conditions for First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students. We are excited about the ongoing learning and impacts. Additionally, we have student sharing circles, most of which have been completed. Through these circles, we hear from students about the positive impacts as well as the desired changes they hope for over the course of the rest of this year and beyond.

**Robert Durocher (Centrally Assigned Vice-Principal, UIEC/TDSB)*** In July 2020 and January 2023, Isaiah Shafqat, Indigenous student trustee, successfully passed a motion to make Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Voices a compulsory Grade 11 course for all students. At the time of the motion, 27 secondary sites offered the course. By September 2023, this number had increased to 67. By the next school year, every TDSB secondary site will offer this course.
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| Next Meeting Date: |  Tuesday, April 16th, 2024, via Zoom |  |
| Traditional Closing: | Elder Clayton Shirt closed the meeting |  |