



**Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee
Minutes
Date: March 25th, 2014
Location: 90 Croatia Street, Room 103
Time: 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Trustee Pamela Gough (ACAC Trustee Co-chair); Christine Monague (ACAC Community Co-Chair, Howard Public School); Bela McPherson (ACAC Community Co-Chair); Ed Sackaney (ACAC Elder); Dr. Suzanne Stewart (Special Advisor to the Dean of OISE); Jennifer Sylvester (Parent Representative); J'net Cavanagh (Parent Representative); Mae Maracle (Community Representative, City of Toronto); Randy Pitawanakwat (Native Child and Family Services of Toronto); Rochelle Allan (Community Representative, University of Toronto, First Nations House); Landy Anderson (Native Child and Family Services of Toronto); Susan Dion (Community Representative, York University, Faculty of Education); Rob Lackie (Community Representative, York University, Centre for Aboriginal Student Services); Judy Rheaume (Parent Representative, Humber College); Marilyn Hew (Community Representative, Métis Nation of Ontario – Toronto & York Region Métis Council);

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Barbara-Ann Felschow (Aboriginal Education Centre); Bonnie Johnston (Aboriginal Education Centre); Tanya Senk (Aboriginal Education Centre); Tessa Sill (Aboriginal Education Centre); Jim Spyropoulos (Inclusive Schools and Equity Department); Lisa Zwicker (First, Nations, Jr/Sr School of Toronto, TDSB).

REGRETS: Charlene Avalos (Native Child and Family Services of Toronto); Stephanie Bennett (Parent Representative), Marco Pinto (Parent Representative, Rosedale Heights). Trustee Mari Rutka (ACAC Trustee Co-chair)

GUESTS: John Chasty (Superintendent ER14 FOS), Michelle Munroe (TDSB, Parent and Community Engagement)

RECORDER: Vandana Bharti (Parent and Community Engagement Office)

Item	Information/Discussion	Action or Recommendation
1. Traditional Opening/Welcome	Christine Monague opened the meeting at 5:42 p.m. Jennifer conducted a traditional opening. Introductions were made by all in attendance.	
2. Approval of the Agenda	1.) Move up Item 6d to 6a.– Presentation by Michelle Munroe (Parent and Community Engagement Office) 2.) Delay voting for new chair till after 7:00 pm	
3. Approval of the Minutes from February 25th	Approved.	

Item	Information/Discussion	Action or Recommendation
<p>4. Business Arising from the Minutes</p>	<p>Human Resources Committee Census Report of 2013 – Trustee Pamela Gough would like to put forward a motion to the board on increasing Aboriginal educators in the TDSB. Bonnie asked to expand the motion to include ALL TDSB staff such as social workers, caretakers, office administrators, lunchroom supervisors and etc. Tanya Senk indicated that Nanaimo BC school board put forward a similar motion under the Human Rights act. Trustee Gough will write up the report in a manner that will receive the most support and when presented to the board they may do one of 2 things.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Send it to the Human Resources Committee B. Adopt it on the spot <p>If the board sends it to the Human Rights Committee then we have an opportunity for a delegation Ed Sackaney requested that we use the term Indigenous people instead of Aboriginal because it is inclusive and respectful to all; this was a result of a discussion from the subcommittee.</p>	<p>Tanya will forward the Nanaimo BC information to Trustee Gough for her reference</p>

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<p>5. Staff Updates:</p> <p>Jim Spyropoulos</p>	<p>Aboriginal Education Update report- PowerPoint presentation and 2 handouts were distributed to the group</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDSB Aboriginal Education Report 2. Report on Decolonization <p>The TDSB is the only board in the province to identify itself by sub group of learners. And there are 2 areas of focus that will be funded by the Ministry of Education.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Student self-identification 2. Professional Learning 3. Alignment and Integration of resources <p>** Hiring Aboriginal teachers is one of the biggest challenges faced **</p> <p>Trustee Gough suggested that we reach out to colleges and universities and offer Aboriginal students internships as it provides them with a placement and experience with no risk. Dr. Dion mentioned that there is current discussion with York University for student placements but the larger issue is the language teachers. With elementary enrolment increasing and the hiring of 100's of teachers to hire Aboriginal teachers who can teach other subjects as well. J'net asked what the probability was of Job sharing.</p> <p>TDSB Aboriginal Education – Dr, Dion provided an update She was able to add 2014's numbers to the report which documented in detail the extensive work that the AEC staff has done in response to the recommendations they received from the board in 2010. P. 18 2013/2014 addendum it is important to recognize the accomplishments of the AEC staff and that they are having an impact. The 2010 report spoke to high expectations and the 2013 report spoke to commitment, accomplishments and ongoing projects that were achieved. The staff at the AEC needs to be recognized for their hard work and accomplishments.</p> <p>The sample size may be a challenge as it is not very large, but large enough to get good consensus. The sample size was 132 respondents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2014 are increased because they reached out to people in diverse communities. - The survey period was short because they had limited funding - The student sample size is too small to make the report public but it is important to note that we have come far in a short period of time. Especially since it was only 7 years ago that the Ministry realized that there were aboriginal students in the schools. - It is important to realize that success looks different to these students and we cannot measure them based on their credit #'s as just attending school every day is a measure of success for some of these students. 	

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<p>5. Staff Updates: continued</p> <p>Jim Spyropoulos</p>	<p>Louise Azzarello the teacher of the Pilot Program provided updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most students are in a process of determining academic/employment goals and interests - A small core group attends regularly, while others attend more sporadically - The pilot program is a huge success and some students have applied to the TDSB Focus on Youth summer employment program - An art show in partnership with OCAD will be held at Gallery 1313 in June. A poster will be developed and distributed. - Some students require increased access to academic, health and cultural support services. <p>Gave a PowerPoint presentation on the updates of the facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spoke about the facilities Emergency Preparedness - Office Space for Dr. Dion - Staffing updates ~ 2 Teaching positions available the postings were Central postings <p>Native Language Teacher Position posted at Wilfred Laurier which closed on March 7th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 candidates applied, of which 4 did not speak Ojibwa, there was only 1 viable candidate - The posting will be reposted in June and will be posted for a longer period than the last one. <p>Native Culture Teacher Instructor will work out of Laurier and the posting will be up in the next 2 weeks</p> <p>FNMI the provincial gathering is on April 3rd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marilyn MaychAk will be presenting with a film maker Shane Belcourt and to clarify this is not a digital storytelling piece). <p>Summer Literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - there are 3 possible locations in the East, West and Central - There was a question about the age range of the literacy program and the response was elementary <p>Networking opportunity with Aboriginal Leaders will be held in Room 208 these courses are offered July 2 – 17.</p>	<p>Jim work with Staff to develop a strategy to reach the goal of hiring more Indigenous teachers.</p>

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<p>6. Items for Discussion:</p> <p>Michelle Munroe</p>	<p>A) Parents Reaching out Grant – PowerPoint presentation She encouraged the committee to visit the Parents section on the Ministry of Education website. http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/reaching.html</p> <p>She gave a broad overview of the program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximum of \$30,000 are granted per year - the grant is for 1 year - the applicants can apply with other organizations - All funds must be spent and the project must be completed by June of the following year. - A final report must be submitted in August - Examples of what has been submitted in the past is available on the Ministry of Education website -** very important, you are assigned a login at the beginning, you must keep the login for the duration of the grant, if you misplace it you will have to start the whole process all over again. - There was a question as to whether the grant would cover the south east pow wow and the response was as long as the application can show that it will be engaging parents in the execution. Organization and in attending the event. - Currently 300 schools councils get funded and there is currently 3 regional board funded projects. - how much has the school board received in total; approximately \$326,000 <p><i>If anyone has questions they can contact Michelle Munroe at the Parent and Community Engagement office or via email. Michelle.Munroe@tdsb.on.ca</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">*continued on next page*</p>	

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Ed Sackaney	<p>B) Discussion paper is deferred to next meeting</p> <p>C) FNST PART meeting discussion – Program area review team met last Friday regarding the location The key question that they need a response from the community is do we want:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. A stand-alone school (no sharing the building) B. Willing to share space <p>The complication of the alone space is that there is a 2 – 5 year waiting period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There was lots of discussion around Eastern Commerce space, she was unclear about the other programs in that space - They are asking for feedback and want to know what people's priorities are. Lisa and Bonnie had visited the space as well. - There were many concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Location Danforth and Donlands b. No playground c. Mixing the younger grades with the older grades, bad influences d. The current status of the building ~ needs lots of restructuring and work e. There is a budget allocated to revamp the school to meet the standard f. The school fits 1200 students and is easily accessible by the subway. g. There were suggestions of sectioning off the school to separate the older kids from the younger kids which addressed concerns about safety. h. Lisa and Ed liked the school as an option while Bonnie had her reservations due to the structural issues, the current condition and age of the school. She also had concerns about no accessibility to the 3rd floor. i. Ed spoke in support of the school, he asked the committee not to look at the current condition of the school but look at the possibilities. For example; the school has 3 gyms, 2 music rooms and a large kitchen. 	
Susan Dion	<p>D) Jim presentation deferred to next meeting</p>	

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<p>7. New and Other Business</p> <p>J'net Cavanagh</p> <p>John Chasty</p>	<p>C) Co- Chair election –</p> <p>- Rob Lackie and J'net Cavanaugh submitted their names for the position. Both candidates gave speeches as to why they would be good for the role. Ed Sackaney motioned to not vote for which candidate but to elect both candidates as co –chairs. Bela seconded the motion. There was reference to the Terms of Reference that there are already 2 trustee co- chairs and Trustee Gough said it was not a problem from the trustee perspective. It was decided that if there are three co-chairs that they would meet and divide the responsibilities. ** Motion brought by Marilyn Hew that there are 3 co –chairs and it was seconded by Bela** The committee voted and it was unanimous to have three co-chairs. Motion passed.</p> <p>ROM Updates</p> <p>- J'net will send out an email but wanted the group to know that there is subsidy available for students interested in the summer club</p> <p>- There are volunteer's opportunities for students that want to get their volunteer hours to build their resume.</p> <p>- Friday June 13th – Indigenous night at the ROM, they are looking for suggestions for that evening so please email J'net any feedback or suggestions.</p> <p>-</p>	
<p>Future Topics</p>		
<p>Traditional Closing/Adjournment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Christine ended the meeting at 8:50 pm ▪ Bonnie acknowledged Bela for her years of hard work and commitment to work accomplished through the ACAC. ▪ Traditional closing was done by Ed Sackaney. 	

Next Meeting: At the Aboriginal Education Centre April 29th, 2014, 5pm. 90 Croatia Street Toronto ON M6H 1K9. Tel: 416-393-9600.

Visit the Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee webpage at www.tdsb.on.ca/community/acac/