



**Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**Date: November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**Location: 90 Croatia Street, Main Foyer**  
**Time: 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Trustee Mari Rutka (ACAC Trustee Co-chair); Bela McPherson (ACAC Community Co-Chair); Christine Monague (ACAC Community Co-Chair, Howard Public School); Ed Sackaney (ACAC Elder); Judy Rheaume (Parent Representative, HumberSide Collegiate); Jennifer Sylvester (Parent Representative); Rochelle Allan (Community Representative, University of Toronto, First Nations House); Charlene Avalos (Native Child and Family Services of Toronto); Stephanie Bennett (Parent Representative), Marilyn Hew (Community Representative, Métis Nation of Ontario – Toronto & York Region Métis Council); Rob Lackie (Community Representative, York University, Centre for Aboriginal Student Services); Mae Maracle (Community Representative, City of Toronto); Marco Pinto (Parent Representative, Rosedale Heights).

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:** Barbara-Ann Felschow (Aboriginal Education Centre); Bonnie Johnston (Aboriginal Education Centre); Vandana Bharti (Parent and Community Engagement); Tanya Senk (Aboriginal Education Centre); Tessa Sill (Aboriginal Education Centre); Jim Spyropoulos (Inclusive Schools and Equity Department); Michelle Corneau (Aboriginal Education Centre); Tanitia Munroe (George Brown Student with the AEC).

**REGRETS:** Trustee Pamela Gough (ACAC Trustee Co-chair); Cyndy Baskin (Parent Representative, Ryerson University); Susan Dion (Community Representative, York University, Faculty of Education, Aboriginal Education); Shane McLeod (Parent Representative, CR Marchant); J'net Cavanagh (Parent Representative, Centennial College); Kenneth Morden (Principal, Eastview Junior Public School); Vivian Roy (Native Child and Family Services of Toronto); Lisa Zwicker (Principal, First Nations Jr/Sr School of Toronto).

**GUESTS:** Donna Kowalchuk (Dennis Avenue Community School); John Chasty (Superintendent ER14 FOS).

**RECORDER:** Vandana Bharti (Parent and Community Engagement Office)

Item	Information/Discussion	Action or Recommendation
1. Traditional Opening/Welcome	Bela McPherson opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. A traditional opening was led by Ed Sackaney. Bela McPherson thanked Elder Sackaney, welcomed everyone at the meeting and introductions were made by all in attendance.	
2. Approval of the Agenda	Agenda was approved by consensus. There was a question about a letter from the local school Trustee that was sent to the residents in the neighborhood of the Aboriginal Education Centre. Barbara-Ann Felschow said she would address it in her updates. #4A will be deferred to the next meeting Future Topics add Laptops for Kids (i.e., Stronach Foundation).	
3. Approval of the Minutes October 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	Deferred to the next meeting	
4. Business Arising from		

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<p>the Minutes</p> <p>Susan Dion</p> <p>Trustee Rutka</p>	<p><b>A)MOE sub-committee</b>  <b>B) to work on writing proposal re: Native Language teacher requirements.</b>  Deferred to next meeting.</p> <p><b>B) Meeting with Julie Bull</b> ~ Not able to coordinate a date with Julie Bull and asked if she could be invited to the January 2014 meeting?</p>	<p>Trustee Rutka extend an invitation to Julie Bull for January ACAC meeting</p>
<p>Staff Updates:</p> <p>Jim Spyropoulos</p>	<p><b>Announcement of new Director Donna Quan and her Years of Action Plan for the next 5 years. 2014 – 2017.</b></p> <p><b>She has highlighted 5 areas of Focus:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Parent and Community Engagement</li> <li>b. Student achievement and well being</li> <li>c. Staff inspiration and Support</li> <li>d. Fiscal Stability and accountability</li> <li>e. Education for Sustainable Development</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Under student achievement one of the objectives is to champion aboriginal education and to provide professional development on advancing aboriginal education to 100% of school and central leadership teams.</li> <li>- To increase student achievement by 10%</li> <li>- Increase sub group achievement of Spanish speaking and Aboriginal students by 15%</li> <li>- Jim would like to invite Donna Quan to present the plan to the group themselves.</li> <li>- For those who would like to read the proposal themselves please refer to the following link <a href="http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/DirectorofEducation/YearsOfAction.aspx">http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/DirectorofEducation/YearsOfAction.aspx</a></li> </ul> <p><b>The board approved the revision of Advisory Committees here are the recommendations:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the following Committees continue as per statutory requirement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parent Involvement Advisory Committee</li> <li>- Special Education Advisory Committee</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. That the following Community Advisory Committees continue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee</li> <li>- Alternative Schools Advisory Committee</li> <li>- Community Use of School Advisory Committee</li> <li>- Early Years Advisory Committee</li> <li>- Environmental Community Advisory Committee</li> <li>- Equity Policy Advisory Committee</li> <li>- French as a Second Language Advisory Committee</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>Jim will bring the Years of Action Plan to the committee so they can examine it further.</p> <p>Vandana to send out recommendations.</p> <p>Bonnie to follow up with Vandana to get the dates of the</p>

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<p>Jim Spyropoulos</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inner City Advisory Committee</li> </ul> <p>3. That the scope and future direction of the Student Nutrition Advisory Committee be examined</p> <p>4. That the scope and viability of Caring and Safe Schools Advisory Committee be examined with respect to its continuation</p> <p>5. That the mandate and structure of CACs, including membership, communication, and reporting to the Board, be standardized to maximize input and efficient support</p> <p>6. That the Board and/or the appropriate Standing Committees provide feedback to CACs regarding CACs' reports and/or recommendations made to the Board and/or Standing Committees</p> <p>7. That the role and responsibilities of the Parent and Community Involvement Office be reviewed to ensure that CACs are effectively supported in gathering public input and communicating with their communities, the public, and Trustees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If the committee would like the recommendations he will send them to Bonnie</li> <li>- The recommendations will be going to Planning and Priorities Committee where committees can provide their input.</li> <li>- The dates for 2014 committee meetings will be decided the first week of December.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other Updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jim spoke about Holodomor which was a premeditated death by hunger in Ukraine from 1932 – 1933.</li> <li>- It was undertaken by the Soviet regime at the time it involved cutting off food supply and other basic necessities in a systematic way. 3- 5 million people were starved to death because where they live and their beliefs. These acts are remembered in November, typically the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday and in schools it is honoured on the Friday. For more information visit the Toronto District School Board website under “significant dates”.</li> <li>- Jim is aware that November is Aboriginal month and thanks to the board it has been highlighted on the TDSB website.</li> <li>- Jim indicated that the Digital Storytelling will be presented to the senior team on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013.</li> <li>- For the first time there is a charter for active safe transportation on how students can be more active getting to and from school.</li> <li>- Full Day Kindergarten is in its last year of implementation and next year all students will have been fully integrated in the program.</li> </ul>	<p>January meeting.</p>

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Barbara-Ann Felschow	<p><b>Gave a presentation with updates of the Aboriginal Education Centre – See Appendix for John’s Power Point presentation.</b></p> <p><b>Aboriginal Secondary Pilot</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arts and Media program is for a credit, thanks to John Chasty</li> <li>- Acknowledged Michelle Corneau for her workshop and read some positive testimonials from attendees</li> <li>- Thanked Ed for participating in the workshop on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013</li> <li>- Distributed a flyer for the Debwewin Stories presentation on December 2, 2013 by Susan Dion</li> <li>- Distributed a flyer for the Winter Celebration taking place on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and invited everyone to drop in.</li> </ul> <p><b>Facility Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brockton is being considered for a larger purpose, Bloor Collegiate will be moving into 90 Croatia Street building in September 2016.</li> <li>- Jim Spyropoulos provided clarification regarding any rumors of the Aboriginal Education Centre moving out and stated that 90 Croatia Street is the home of the Aboriginal Education Centre and that no one has decided that the AEC will move at this time.</li> </ul>	Bonnie to follow up regarding inviting Donna Quan to the next meeting.
<p>Items for Discussion:</p> <p>Bonnie Johnston</p>	<p><b>First Nations School of Toronto ~ Feasibility Study Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The research study is ongoing</li> <li>- The questionnaire was distributed and is still available online</li> <li>- Plan is to go into Eastview Public School in the New Year to gather additional community feedback</li> <li>- Opened the floor to questions/concerns. Bonnie will forward comments/concerns to Susan Dion.</li> </ul> <p>Jim introduced John Chasty.</p> <p><b>John Chasty gave a PowerPoint presentation on the information regarding the NAC 10 course</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Please see Appendix for John’s PowerPoint</li> <li>- Online courses are offered to native students</li> <li>- Ed Sackaney and Susan Dion have been instrumental in teaching non-Aboriginal teachers about the history and Aboriginal perspectives.</li> </ul> <p>Questions that arose from presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christine wanted to know visually where are the schools are located</li> <li>- Eastern Commerce is the new home where the TDSB arts and collections will be displayed; it will be more of an exhibit. The opening will likely be the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in February and they will be hiring an Aboriginal curator who will go through the archives and collections. When this opens, Aboriginal artists will be brought in and</li> </ul>	Jim to connect with Carol and get a scatter map to visually see the schools.

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<p>Guest Presentation – John Chasty</p>	<p>provide art classes for Aboriginal students.</p> <p>Funding priorities – John asked the committee if they have any other ideas and if they should continue with the current number of schools or should they expand? He asked the committee to think about this and provide him with any feedback. Tanya Senk added that they want to execute this program in the right way and are concerned of growing too quickly, what to ensure cultural appropriation and have a collaborative approach. And want to move forward in a way that is appropriate and respectful.</p> <p>Rob Lackie inquired as to where the money to support the program is coming from and the response was from the Ministry.</p> <p>Marilyn asked how the schools got involved and the response was if they agreed to participate they were in. Another question was how much training did they receive before implementing the program and the response was 6 full days in total of training. There was a suggestion that the training take place in August when the teachers are returning from holidays and prepping for classes and that there is additional training so they are more confident teaching the material. It was also suggested that the same pool of teachers who are committed to the program for at least 3 years. There were further concerns on the TDSB's ability to continually fund the program and to that it was explained that the funding was predictable from year to year and that the Toronto Catholic School Board used the same model and after seeing the feasibility funds were allocated to the program.</p> <p>Marilyn suggested that John consult with the Elders and have them present at the trainings in case there are questions about the Métis and culture. John thanked Marilyn for the good suggestion.</p> <p>Bela asked how many of the 35 teachers were involved in the AEC and the response was 7. Rochelle Allan felt that it would be better to train teachers before August 31<sup>st</sup> as it is a good way to look at the goals of the pilot. And that the focus at this time should be on the proper training of the teachers not expanding the program. Tanya thanked the group for their suggestions and their feedback will be presented to the Métis counselor and the other organizations.</p> <p>There was some debate as to why this program had not been brought to the Committee before and Bela said that this program was discussed last spring and during former ACAC meetings since then.</p> <p><b>Ed Sackaney's Discussion Paper</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ed made a request to the TDSB to change the way that they refer to the Aboriginal community; to refrain from using words like "our Aboriginal people" it sounds like the Aboriginal people belong to them and that is incorrect. The same with the word "chief" as it is currently used by TDSB in various job titles.</li> <li>- A group of elders met with Carleton University, who are developing a program for corporations to get to know the community in their area and the same is being offered to the Aboriginal community to learn about the corporate structure. He wanted to know if this is an initiative the TDSB could offer it could be beneficial for the TDSB.</li> <li>- He mentioned that he needs help and would like to form an elder's forum for the TDSB which would meet 4 times a year.</li> <li>- He suggested that the TDSB refrain from using the word museum for the artifacts at Eastern Commerce, there is a bad history with Museums and the Aboriginal community where they have historical artifacts that have never been returned to the community. He suggested that they call it Interpretative Centre or something else besides museum.</li> <li>- Ed spoke about the need for TDSB to modify their hiring practices to be inclusive of hiring more Aboriginal peoples internally and externally.</li> </ul>	

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Ed Sackaney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rob Lackie mentioned that part of the issue is that teachers they want in the program are not certified with the O.C.T. and so he asked Trustee Rutka if there are any roles that could be created that could go around certification.</li> <li>- Trustee Rutka explained that certain processes are in place to ensure the quality of the program and asked the committee what is the process in their community for teachers to be considered qualified to teach.</li> <li>- Ed commended John for his leadership and that he is not just talk but walks the talk.</li> <li>- Ed mentioned that even Jim has come a long way and taken the time to learn and understand how the community works, and acknowledged that at the same time Jim is limited as he is bound by the system.</li> <li>- In conclusion, if ACAC members are going to be a part of Ed's discussion paper sub-committee, they should make sure to have an alternate who can and will attend these meetings on a consistent basis.</li> <li>- Bela closed the discussion by requesting the committee to forward any questions or comments to Ed directly.</li> </ul>	
New and Other Business  Bela McPherson	<p><b>ACAC working committee</b> ~ ACAC members who volunteered were Stephanie, Judy, Rob, Bela and Tricia. If anyone else wanted to get involved email Ed.</p> <p><b>Recruitment for new ACAC Co-Chair</b> ~ To date, only one person responded for the position of the Co- Chair and he urged more of the committee members to apply. As a reminder, the vote will occur during the February 2014 ACAC meeting.</p> <p><b>ACAC Meeting Dates:</b> January 28<sup>th</sup> and February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 @ 5pm.</p>	
Future Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Laptop for Kids – Stronach Foundation</li> </ul>	
Traditional Closing/Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bela McPherson ended the meeting at 8:20 pm</li> <li>▪ Traditional closing was done by Ed Sackaney and he took a moment to acknowledge and thank all of the staff who work at the AEC.</li> </ul>	

**Next Meeting:** At the Aboriginal Education Centre January 28<sup>th</sup>, 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/](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/community/acac/)