



Minutes

THE MINUTES OF THE FIRST NATION, MÉTIS, AND INUIT EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., by Google Meet.

PRESENT:

Trustee/Members: David Bernier, Della Stewart-Figueira, Sherry Davis, Elaine Devlin, Emily Chorley, Helen McCarthy, James Mellon, Joshua Charpentier, Kerri-Lee Langer, Mark LaFrance, Karrie MacMurray, Mindy Taylor, Craig Hulsman, Jacqueline Gorveatt, Louise Musgrave

Regrets: Melissa Bishop, Aricka Fleguel, Shannon O'Connor, Cynthia Gray, Andy Dufrane, Lisa Evans, Mike Grant

Administration: Joan Carragher, Tim Moloney, Jeannie Armstrong, Mike Mooney, Erin O'Sullivan

Recording Secretary: Jenny Leahy

A. Call to Order

1. Land Acknowledgement - Mike Mooney

2. Opening Prayer – Tim Moloney
Tim Moloney opened with prayer.

3. Welcome and Introductions - Tim Moloney
Tim invited introductions and welcomed Joan Carragher, Erin O'Sullivan and Jeannie Armstrong to the meeting. Jeannie is a Superintendent of Learning and will assume responsibility for the Indigenous Education portfolio, and therefore, the First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Advisory Committee, beginning in September 2021.

Louise Musgrave acknowledged the passing of Murray Whetung, a respected Elder from Curve Lake First Nation. Mr. Whetung passed away at the age of 100. He is the last surviving veteran of WWII at Curve Lake and is the grandfather of Curve Lake First Nation's Chief, Emily Whetung.

4. Approval of Agenda

MOTION

Moved by Sherry Davis, seconded by Helen McCarthy

That the agenda be approved, as presented.

Carried

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on December 8, 2020

MOTION Moved by Helen McCarthy, seconded by Kerri-Lee Langer
That the Minutes of the December 8, 2020 be approved, with the change to reflect that Jacqueline Gorveatt was “Present” at the December 8 Meeting.
Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

Tim provided an update to the Committee regarding the Recommended Action moved by Helen McCarthy at the December 8, 2020 meeting. The Recommended Action was referred to the Board of Trustees and approved at the monthly meeting held on December 22, 2020.

Mike Mooney will be addressing AQ courses, under item C.4, Consultant’s Report.

B. Presentation

1. Strategic Planning - Joan Carragher

Joan Carragher provided an overview of the Strategic Planning process and explained the intent and focus of each of the three pillars: Learn, Lead, and Serve.

There was discussion and the Committee provided feedback in the following areas:

- Continue to improve relationships with our First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Communities;
- Expand professional development opportunities (including AQ courses) for educators;
- Provide opportunities that will engage and educate parents; and
- Improve the integration of indigenous education in more school programs and courses.

Joan thanked the Committee for this valuable input. Members were reminded to continue providing feedback through the other community consultation opportunities being offered through the spring.

C. Updates, Discussion, and Input

1. PVNC Catholic District School Board Update - Tim Moloney

Tim Moloney began his update by congratulating Joan Carragher as the newly appointed Director of Education.

PVNC Catholic District School Board staff, students and families are exercising a great deal of patience, creativity, and innovation with regards to the pandemic and have adapted well under these unique circumstances. He added that “we are not just surviving the pandemic, we are flourishing”.

The Board has just reached the two-thirds point of the school year. The quadmester system has worked well and PVNC Catholic District School Board has implemented many new protocols and practices this year, some of which will remain in place going forward.

St. Thomas Virtual Schools continue to operate for grades K-12, supporting 16% of our student population. Senior Administration is already preparing for September and Virtual

Learning students' families have been surveyed to determine interest in continuing with the virtual learning option for the 2021-2022 school year. Of those surveyed, approximately 25% of families would like the Virtual Learning School to continue. PVNC Catholic District School Board will wait for further direction from the Ministry of Education before rendering a decision.

As the Board's COVID-19 Lead, Tim shared that there has been lots of very rewarding work and, along with the excellent working relationship with the Public Health Unit staff, Galen Eagle and the Principals, our Board has managed the pandemic very well.

2. Community Partner Sharing

a. Alderville First Nation – Jacqueline Gorveatt

- The COVID-19 vaccination program begins this week for ages 55 and up for band members living on reserve and within Northumberland County.
- Alderville First Nation has welcomed April Smoke to the Administrative Offices. April replaced Nancy Marsden-Fox as Education Manager.

b. Hiawatha First Nation – Karrie MacMurray

- The year end at Hiawatha First Nation is March 31. Staff and elected officials are wrapping up the current year and budget discussions are well underway in preparation for the new fiscal year.
- The new Administration building is very close to completion. It has been a long time coming and staff are getting organized to settle in.
- Post-Secondary Graduate Studies Bursary – Applications were received from five (5) graduate students this year and all have been approved. This Program will aid the five students where lack of finances could pose a barrier for the completion of their post-secondary studies.
- The Administrative Offices remain closed to the public.
- COVID-19 vaccination program begins March 13, 2021.

3. Board Action Plan Review/Input – Mike Mooney

Mike shared the Board Action Plan and identified the objectives for gathering input from the First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Advisory Committee Members. Mike explained the work that has, or is being done, and how it has looked very different this year due to the pandemic.

Mike reviewed the Four Pillars in the Board Action Plan:

1. Supporting Students;
2. Supporting Educators;
3. Engagement and Awareness Building; and
4. Using Data to Support Student Achievement.

The Committee discussed creative ways for students to participate in learning activities and improve educator professional development. These suggestions include supporting the development of Additional Qualification (AQ) Courses, increasing access to virtual resources, creating opportunities to understand and build connections, and regeneration of the medicine gardens.

4. Consultant's Report – Mike Mooney
 - a. Learning Commons
Indigenous resources have been purchased again this year with GoodMinds. Mike is working with the Learning Common Specialists to find innovative ways of promoting books (paperback or digital) to students.
 - b. Virtual Presentation - Drew Hayden Taylor
The Author has made four presentations to students and staff. Drew Hayden Taylor is very engaging, and his presentations were all very well received.
 - c. Student Learning Activities
Mike reviewed some of the activities that have taken place.
 - d. First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education AQ Subsidy
PVNC Catholic District School Board has been working with Dr. Nicole Bell at Trent University to develop Indigenous Studies AQ courses for educators. A subsidy will be offered to educators who successful complete a course which will help fulfill our commitment to improving professional development opportunities as outlined in the Board Action Plan. The courses being offered, or currently under review, are:
 - First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Intermediate Studies Additional Basic Qualifications (ABQ) Course
 - First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Studies Senior ABQ (recommended for anyone teaching the NBE 3C or 3U); and
 - First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples: Understanding Traditional Teachings, Histories, Current Issues and Cultures Part 1 AQ.

D. Next Meeting

1. Tuesday, June 1, 2021 – Location: TBD
2. Volunteer(s) for Opening and Closing Prayer
Opening Prayer – Sherry Davis
Closing Prayer – Jacqueline Gorveatt

E. Conclusion

1. Closing Prayer
Tim Moloney invited Helen McCarthy to close with prayer.

2. Adjournment

MOTION

Moved by Della Stewart-Figueira, seconded by Elaine Devlin
There being no further business, that the meeting adjourn at
8:33 p.m.

Carried.