



Minutes

THE MINUTES OF THE FIRST NATION, MÉTIS, AND INUIT EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING held on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., by Google Meet.

PRESENT:

Trustee/Members: Helen McCarthy Della Stewart-Figueira, Sherry Davis, Elaine Devlin, Emily Chorley, James Mellon, Joshua Charpentier, Kerri-Lee Langer, Mark LaFrance, Karrie MacMurray, Jacqueline Gorveatt, Louise Musgrave, Melissa Bishop, Lisa Evans

Regrets: Mike Grant, Aricka Fleguel, Shannon O'Connor, Mindy Taylor, Craig Hulsman

Administration: Tim Moloney, Jeannie Armstrong, Mike Mooney, Rev. Paul Massel, Shannon Carr

Recording Secretary: Jenny Leahy

A. Call to Order

1. Land Acknowledgement – Mike Mooney
2. Opening Prayer – Rev. Paul Massel

Tim Moloney asked Father Paul Massel to lead with prayer.

3. Welcome and Introductions – Tim Moloney
4. Approval of Agenda

MOTION Moved Elaine Devlin, Seconded Lisa Evans
That the revised agenda be approved, as presented.
Carried

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on March 9, 2021 (attached)

MOTION Moved Sherry Davis, seconded by James Mellon
That the Minutes from the meeting held on March 9, 2021 be approved, as presented.
Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes
There was no business arising from the Minutes.

B. Former Kamloops Indian Residential School Discovery – Tim Moloney/Mike Mooney

Tim Moloney and Mike Mooney spoke of the shared sadness created by the recent discovery of the human remains of 214 children at the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School. This discovery exemplifies the statement outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report that Residential Schools are "a systematic, government-sponsored attempt to destroy Aboriginal cultures and languages and to assimilate Aboriginal peoples so that they no longer existed as distinct peoples."

Tim outlined how PVNC Catholic District School Board is responding to the tragedy. Mike Mooney will be providing opportunities to staff as well as providing suggestions about what information is appropriate and how to address the discovery with students.

There was an open discussion at this time.

C. Presentations

1. Demographic Data and Student Census - Jeannie Armstrong

Jeannie Armstrong, Superintendent of Learning outlined the Ministry demographic data and student census. A link to the survey will be posted on all school websites and is intended to be completed at home, after school hours. Although the survey is optional, school staff will be asked to encourage parents/guardians and students to complete it. The information collected will assist our Board in making data-informed decisions in future planning.

The budget for this project is \$50,000 which will be used to purchase the data collection tool and hire (three month contract - September-November) an Equity Facilitator.

Once completed, the final report will be shared with the First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Advisory Committee at a future meeting in the 2021-2022 school year.

There was a discussion and Jeannie answered questions.

2. Doctrine of Discovery - Rev. Paul Massel

Father Paul Massel provided a brief history and shared the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' (CCCCB) opinion regarding the "Doctrine of Discovery". This opinion from the CCB, together with that of the Canadian Religious Conference (CRC), the Canadian Catholic Aboriginal Council, and the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, was shared in a report dated March 19, 2016 in response to recommendation #49 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's "Call to Action" report.

<https://www.cccb.ca/letter/catholic-responses-truth-reconciliation-commission-call-action-48-questions-regarding-doctrine-discovery/>

In summary, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, based on historical information, states that the document has no basis in scripture, and has been repudiated by the Catholic Church. The Canadian Bishops will continue to dialogue and will initiate a meeting with Pope Francis and Indigenous leaders to address Truth and Reconciliation, and in particular, this document. To read more, please click on the following link - <https://www.peterboroughdiocese.org/en/about-us/truth-and-reconciliation.aspx>

The discussion was opened to the Committee. Mike Mooney will continue to gather resources around this topic and will bring an update to this next Committee meeting.

D. Updates, Discussion and Input

1. PVNC Catholic District School Board Update - Tim Moloney

As has been his past practice, Tim Moloney provided an update to the Committee.

Staff, families and students have demonstrated patience, creativity and innovation throughout the school year.

School staff are immersed in graduation planning and, although it was hoped that graduations would take on the more traditional model, all graduation ceremonies will be held virtually at the end of June. The same care and dedication have gone into the planning for the ceremony despite the fact that they will take place virtually.

The new school year will begin much the same as it did last September. Families have been given the option of attending a virtual school or to attend face to face, with student contact continuing to be limited to cohorts. Secondary schools will begin September in the quadmester system whereby students take two (2) classes per quadmester, using the Day 1, Day 2 model.

The schools and the Board office will begin September with the Health and Safety guidelines of:

1. Wearing of PPE for staff and students
2. Mandatory masking for grades 1-12
3. Social distancing; and
4. Cohorting

On June 14, vaccinations will begin for students 12 years of age and older. The Province has committed to providing second doses to eligible youth before the end of summer which will help our Board to be as safe as possible going into the new school year.

Virtual Summer Programs for students in grades 1-12 are being offered again this year. They are as follows:

Elementary

- Camp AIM (Adventures in Math) – Grades 1-6
- Transition into Grade 9 Secondary School Mathematics – Grades 7-8
- OJIBWE Language – Grades 1 to 5
 - July 5-23, 2021 - Online
 - Introduction to Ojibwe language and culture
 - Students will learn to introduce themselves in Ojibwe and engage in simple oral communication
 - Anishinaabe stories, songs and ways of being
 - Last year – 15 students – very successful
- Reach Ahead courses – Grade 8
 - An opportunity for students entering secondary school in September to begin taking grade 9 courses in the summer

Secondary

- English/Math and Science courses available
- Credit recovery and credit upgrade

2. Community Partner Sharing

a. Alderville First Nation – Jacqueline Gorveatt

Covid-19 Vaccination Clinic – A clinic has been held in Alderville, in partnership with local the health unit, for members of the Alderville First Nation community, including those living off reserve.

Programs – Staff have been working extremely hard during the lockdown and deserve to be recognized for being so creative in finding unique ways to continue to provide activities and services to families and children.

Elections – Elections will be held on July 9. There has been a lot of interest and several candidates vying for the four (4) Councillor positions and one (1) Chief position.

b. Curve Lake First Nation – Louise Musgrave

Curve Lake First Nation School/Oshkiigmong Early Learning Centre – Students returned to the Early Learning Centre/School on May 17. To date, there has been at least one and not more than five cases of COVID-19 reported at the school. Teachers have been providing instruction on site to those learning in the classroom as well as to those learning virtually (hybrid).

Standing Parade – School staff will be at the school to wave and give virtual hugs to the students and families as they drive into the parking lot. The standing parade will take place on Friday, June 25.

Learning Hubs – Learning Hubs have been organized in two locations for students in Grades 4-12. The hubs offer tutoring both in person and online.

Porch Visits – Education staff have been providing socially distanced porch visits for students. These visits have been crucial for some of the students to see the staff in person.

Sacred Fire at the PowWow grounds – The sacred fire has been set to allow members to visit and offer tobacco and prayers in the wake of the Kamloops Residential School discovery. There has been a help line set up for those experiencing trauma that may have resurfaced. It is overwhelming to see the community respond so efficiently and so quickly.

c. Hiawatha First Nation - Karrie MacMurray

Graduations – The Community is celebrating Grade 8 and Grade 12 Graduations as well as post-secondary. There are a few students graduating from post-secondary this year and quite a few new post-secondary students for the fall of 2021. Karrie has placed a request in the newsletter requesting families send information and photos of their graduates. The intent will be to provide a lawn sign to each graduate to recognize this milestone. It is challenging to track off territory students in Elementary and Secondary as the ISC (Indigenous Services Canada's) mandate is to track on territory elementary and secondary students but it is necessary for HFN education to know

who/how many are in Elementary and Secondary off-territory as they eventually come into the Post-Secondary Program.

Covid-19 Vaccination Clinic – Vaccinations are being offered to youth between the ages of 12-17 on June 12. A clinic for the second dose of the vaccine will be held in July.

LIFE Building (Lasting Individual Family Enrichment) – The main construction has been completed on this state of the art facility. Karrie has extended an invitation for the Committee to hold a meeting next year in the building once it is safe to do so.

Kamloops Residential School Discovery – Hiawatha First Nation has been offering different activities/support for the community in response to the discovery.

Karrie wrapped up her report by reflecting on some positive aspects resulting from the global pandemic. One such example has been the Anishinaabemowin language instruction at KPRDSB which, through the virtual platform, has increased the number of student learners by allowing one educator to instruct several classes at the same time.

d. Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre – Rianna Patterson

Covid-19 Vaccination Clinic – Clinic will be held on June 19, 2021 for all Urban Indigenous youth between the ages of 12-17.

3. Consultant's Report - Mike Mooney

a. ABQ/AQ subsidy

28 teachers have expressed interest in registering for either an ABQ or an AQ course. Three courses are presently being offered at Trent University. These course options have met Professional Development needs when traditional PD was not possible during pandemic. The programs being offered by Trent have been of particular interest to educators teaching the NBE courses in secondary.

b. Embedded Learning Opportunity - NBE 3C

Two classes of students taking the NBE 3C course at St. Peter Catholic Secondary School had the opportunity to work with Jack Hoggarth from the Curve Lake Cultural Centre. Jack joined classes virtually for one hour each time and presented on topics such as pre-contact, treaties, residential schools, the "60s scoop", and the resurgence of culture. Students engaged with Jack to ask questions and wrote their own Land Acknowledgements reflective of their individual learning journey.

c. Environmental Symposium – May 27-28 virtual

This symposium was organized in partnership with KPRDSB. The Ministry of Education Outdoor Education made this event possible for 150 students in grades K-12.

d. Book Study

55 PVNC Catholic District School Board employees have registered to read "Keeper 'N Me", a novel by the late Richard Wagamese. The book study began on May 20 and will wrap up on June 10. A Sharing Circle will be used to help create discussion where the participants can talk freely, from the heart without interruption.

4. Board Action Plan Review/Input - Mike Mooney

Due to time limitations, the input gathering for the 2021-2022 Board Action Plan will take place through an online process (eg. JamBoard) over the next few months.

E. Information Items

1. 2021-2022 Meeting Dates:

September 14, 2021

December 7, 2021

March 8, 2022

June 7, 2022

F. Next Meeting

1. Tuesday, September 14, 2021 – Location: Large Boardroom

2. Volunteer(s) for Land Acknowledgement, Opening Prayer, and Closing Prayer

Land Acknowledgement – Kerri Langer

Opening Prayer – James Mellon

Closing Prayer – Sherry Davis

G. Conclusion

1. Closing Prayer - Jacqueline Gorveatt

Tim asked Jacqueline Gorveatt to close with prayer.

2. Adjournment

MOTION

Moved by Elaine Devlin, seconded by Helen McCarthy

That the meeting adjourn at 8:57 p.m.

Carried.