



# Minutes

THE MINUTES OF THE FIRST NATION, MÉTIS, AND INUIT EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., by Google Meet.

## PRESENT:

Trustee/Members: Helen McCarthy, Mark LaFrance, James Mellon, Della Steward-Figueira, Cydney Habraken, Karrie MacMurray, Jacqueline Gorveatt, Aricka Fleguel, Gayelyn Heffernan, Elaine Devlin, Kerrie-Lee Langer, Lisa Evans, Joshua Charpentier, Melissa Bishop

Regrets: Sherry Davis, Craig Hulsman, Shannon O'Connor, Emily Chorley, Michael Grant, Mindy Taylor

Administration: Jeannie Armstrong, Mike Mooney

Recording Secretary: Shannon Carr

## A. Call to Order

### 1. Welcome and Introductions – Jeannie Armstrong

Jeannie Armstrong, Superintendent of Learning, introduced herself to the Committee and expressed that she is honoured to serve the committee. Jeannie shared with the committee that she and Mike Mooney visited Hiawatha last week. Jeannie expressed how wonderful it was to meet everyone in person and her desire to visit the remaining Communities in the near future.

### 2. Land Acknowledgement – Mike Mooney

### 3. Opening Prayer – James Mellon

### 4. Additions to the Agenda

- a. Trustee Report
- b. Review terms of Reference

### 5. Approval of Agenda

**MOTION:** Moved Elaine Devlin, Seconded, Aricka Fleguel that the Agenda was accepted.

Carried

6. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

None.

7. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on June 1, 2021.

**MOTION:** Moved Lisa Evans, seconded by Elaine Devlin that the Minutes from the meeting held on June 1, 2021 be approved, as presented.

Carried

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

**B. Updates, Discussion and Input**

1. Community Partner Sharing

a. Alderville First Nation – Jacqueline Gorveatt

Alderville First Nation recently went through an election. Chief Dave Mowat was re-elected Chief for his second term. Councilors Wes Marsden and Jason Marsden were also elected for second terms. Nora Sawyer was elected to council. Jacqueline extended her congratulations to Chief Dave on his second term and all other elected members.

The community is seeing a number of new faces, there are a lot of employment opportunities which has brought younger faces to the community even with Covid-19. Even with Covid-19, services are still being provided to students, parents, and community members with safety measures in place.

b. Curve Lake First Nation – Aricka Fleguel

Curve Lake has seen a record number of 87 students attend post Secondary this year, it is the highest enrolment they have seen in many years. There are currently 58 students enrolled in Curve Lake Kindergarten-Grade 3 Elementary School and over 100 Curve Lake students enrolled in Provincial schools. The school in Curve Lake is still in the development stage and is now into the architectural stage of planning. The community is very excited about the new school.

Curve Lake's water treatment plant and water distribution system is also moving forward and it is currently in the planning stages.

Just like Alderville, Curve Lake also has a lot of employment opportunities with many members moving around the Province for different employment opportunities; it has resulted in many vacant positions within the community.

c. Hiawatha First Nation - Karrie MacMurray

Karrie gave her thanks for the opportunity to be at the committee meeting and to share updates. She is looking forward to this school year and to be a partner with Peterborough Victoria Northumberland Clarington Catholic District School Board (PVNCCDSB).

Between Elementary and Secondary schools, there are 46 students enrolled in school within the community, enrolment is higher in Elementary School.

The community is thinking of ways to increase the presence of students in the schools and how to make them engaging in the school community. In addition, Karrie is looking for ways to increase the presence of PVNCCDSB within their community. To start facilitating these discussions Karrie met with Jeannie Armstrong and Mike Mooney to discuss ways to support further engagement.

Hiawatha received funding from the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, the community is working with band administrators to figure out the best way to go forward and distribute the funds.

The new, self-funded community building is in the works. The building had its grand opening on Labour Day weekend and it was a huge success. This building will be used for a variety of things and has different spaces for different activities. This new building is to be shared within the community and is dedicated to the elders.

September 30th is now a Federal holiday, Hiawatha First Nation is looking to do something at a community level to acknowledge this holiday, details will be forthcoming.

d. Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre – Cydney Habraken

The Centre is in its second phase of reopening with only a couple members working from home. The Centre is welcoming community members back and are able to have in-person events.

There is currently a new website in the works. Updates and details on the new website will be forthcoming.

The Centre held a “Welcome back BBQ” and “shop back to school” event. The event was a great success and the children had lots of fun shopping for their school supplies.

The Centre is working on a few events for September 30th to honor the “Truth and Reconciliation Day”. Some events will be held at the center and some events will be throughout the community.

“Alternative Secondary School Program” is a program that has been developed for secondary students that did not complete their high school credits. This program starts next week (September 20, 2021) and will be run by Cynthia Gray.

e. Peterborough and District Wapiti Metis Council - Gayelyn Heffernan

Local council has elected new members. Their Annual General Assembly is taking place this weekend on Saturday and Sunday (September 17-18, 2021). The center has focused on a lot of zoom activities for their members and it has been a great social event

for everyone.

## 2. Consultant Report

### a. Board Action Plan Review & “Looking Ahead” - Mike Mooney

Mike presented to the committee about the work done during the 2020-2021 school year. Mike’s presentation highlighted what could be done and what was done within PVNCCDSB in response to the recoveries of the Residential school findings. Mike worked in consultation with other Indigenous leads from Renfrew County and Trillium Lakelands to help facilitate ideas and learning opportunities for students and staff. Mike shared with the committee the ideas and information on how we can make a commitment to learn more, how we can relate and reflect, how we can make connections and how we can move forward.

Mike presented to the committee about looking ahead to this current 2021-2022 year and what work will be done. Mike highlighted three key items that will be facilitated this year including; providing access to the “4 seasons of Reconciliation” module to every PVNCCDSB staff member; providing the “Listening to Indigenous Voices” course to Secondary students; and, during Truth and Reconciliation week, PVNCCDSB will have Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair speak to PVNCCDSB staff and students.

Mike highlighted the “Keeper in Me” book study that had 64 participants. OECTA, Senior Administration, Consultants and a variety of PVNC staff members were involved in the book study. The book study is a way to think of pedagogical content to make us reflect on what we have learned, how to relate to this information, and how we move forward.

The environmental symposium took place on May 27th and 28<sup>th</sup>, with 5,000 students involved and 250 classes. PVNCCDSB has partnered with KPR for this event. An Elder from Curve Lake and her granddaughter provided the opening and closing ceremonies. It was a great success.

The Trent AQ and ABQ courses went very well. There were 32 responses which was a significant uptake. There was limited PD available to offer for adults, however, the youth PD was a great success and very popular. Mike would like to offer this course again but at the time of the meeting, it was not confirmed if that would be feasible or not.

### b. Feedback and Input from Committee Members

Mike shared a presentation to the Committee to review the purpose of our board action plan. The board action plan is focused on two main goals: (1) engagement of all students; and, (2) increased knowledge to improve Indigenous student achievement and well-being. The committee members then shared their feedback by providing their thoughts, opinions and questions.

Committee members gave Mike many suggestions such as offering book studies for younger students, offering teachers PD within partnership communities (have teachers go to communities with Covid-19 protocols in place), providing busing and resources to communities on the Lakeshore and continuing to offer the AQ and ABQ subsidy with Trent University. Based on the above suggestions, the committee then had an open

discussion as to how PVNCCDSB will track the above suggestions and how the above suggestions are impacting Indigenous students and other students in a positive way.

3. Trustee Report - Helen McCarthy

Helen asked the members of the committee for their feedback on the June 22, 2021 decision which relates to the Social Justice Flag and/or the Pride flag not being flown at the school board. This decision was made by the Board of Trustees of PVNCCDSB. There was an open discussion for committee member's thoughts, concerns, questions and feedback regarding this matter.

4. Review of Terms of Reference

Members at Trent University approached Mike Mooney and asked if they could be a part of this committee. Mike then brought forward the terms of reference, with respect to the addition of post secondary institution members on the committee. Jeannie opened the discussion to committee members for input. It was decided that Mike would reach out to those individual(s) at Trent University to seek further information and get clarification on their intent for the partnership. Mike is to report back with his findings to the Committee at the next meeting date.

**C. Information Items**

1. Remaining 2021-2022 Meeting Dates:

December 7, 2021

March 8, 2022

June 7, 2022

**D. Next Committee Meeting**

1. Tuesday, December 7, 2021 – Location: Large Boardroom (to be confirmed)
2. Volunteer(s) for Land Acknowledgement, Opening Prayer, and Closing Prayer  
Land Acknowledgement – Mike Mooney  
Opening Prayer – Helen McCarthy  
Closing Prayer – Jeannie Armstrong

**E. Conclusion**

1. Closing Prayer - Jeannie Armstrong
2. Adjournment  
**MOTION:** Moved by Gayelyn Heffernan, seconded by Mike Mooney

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Carried.