



# Minutes

THE MINUTES OF THE FIRST NATION, MÉTIS, AND INUIT EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING held on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., in the Large Boardroom at the Catholic Education Centre and also by Google Meet using: <https://meet.google.com/cyw-rgif-gfu>.

## PRESENT:

Trustee/Members: Braden Leal, Elaine Devlin, Helen McCarthy, Kerri-Lee Langer, Lisa Evans, Aricka Fleguel, Nancy Watt, Sherry Davis, Gayelyn Heffernan, Karrie MacMurray, Joshua Charpentier

Regrets: Mindy Taylor, Shannon O'Connor, Craig Hulsman, Cydney Habraken, Della Stewart-Figueira, Emily Chorley, Melissa Bishop, Mike Grant, Mark LaFrance, Jacqueline Gorveatt

Administration: Jeannie Armstrong, Mike Mooney

Recorder: Shannon Carr

Guests: Pam Hart, Mante Molepo, Dr. Niigaan Sinclair

## A. Call to Order

1. Welcome and Introductions – Jeannie Armstrong & Mike Mooney
2. Territorial Recognition– Mike Mooney
3. Opening Prayer – Helen McCarthy
4. Additions to the Agenda
  - a. Community Partner Sharing - Gayelyn Heffernan (Item C.1.d.)
5. Approval of Agenda

**MOTION:** Moved by Sherry Davis, seconded by Elaine Devlin, that the Agenda be approved, with the addition of C.1.d.  
Carried
6. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest
  - a. None.

7. Approval of the [Minutes](#) of the Meeting from Tuesday, September 14, 2021
  - a. Karrie MacMurry requested a change in wording of the recording of her community partners sharing update. In the fourth paragraph down, it was stated “Iroquois First Nations”. Karrie requested that the wording be changed to “the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians.” Shannon Carr made the change to the draft minutes.

**MOTION:** Moved by Elaine Devlin, seconded by Lisa Evans, that the Minutes of the meeting held on September 14, 2021 be approved, as amended.

Carried

8. Business Arising from the Minutes
  - a. None.

## **B. Presentations**

1. Truth and Reconciliation - Dr. Niigaan Sinclair

Dr. Niigaan Sinclair is Anishinaabe and originally from St. Peter’s (Little Peguis) Indian Settlement near Selkirk, Manitoba. He is a regular commentator on Indigenous issues for CTV, CBC, and APTN. He is a columnist with the Winnipeg FreePress, an associate Professor with the University of Manitoba and a former high school teacher.

Dr. Sinclair presented to the Committee regarding his work for Truth and Reconciliation. In addition, Dr. Sinclair informed the Committee about his national work with Indigenous Education.

Dr. Sinclair shared the formula for students’ success vs. the formula for Indigenous students’ success. Indigenous students’ require respect, opportunity and relevance for education to be effective.

Dr. Sinclair has been working with elementary and secondary schools at Peterborough Victoria Northumberland Clarington Catholic District School Board (PVNCCDSB) over the course of the fall conducting virtual presentations about Truth and Reconciliation. Dr. Sinclair will continue his work with PVNCCDSB by hosting two workshops in February with administration, staff and students.

2. Potential School Visits - Pam Hart

Pam is from a support group called “Kawartha Truth and Reconciliation Support Group” (KTRSG). The members of this group include Indigenous people living in the Kawarthas and the surrounding area, who meet once a month in Peterborough.

Pam presented to the Committee members about the “Quilt Talks” project, which focuses on the legacy of residential schools. The purpose of the quilt is to provide comfort to

residential school survivors. Survivors created a quilt block through art therapy, which helped them to express their thoughts, feelings and memories about the residential school experience. Pam presented the quilt to the Committee and highlighted two squares created by Shirley Williams. Details on the quilt stories can be found on the Kawartha Truth & Reconciliation Support Group website using this link: <http://www.kawarthatruthandreconciliation.ca/quilt-stories.html>

Mike Mooney asked the Committee for input if the “Quilt Talk” project should be presented to PVNCCDSB students. An open discussion followed. Consensus from the Committee was to support the project in schools but to ensure content is presented in a developmentally appropriate manner.

3. Equity Policy Discussion -Mante Molepo, PVNCCDSB Equity Advisor

As the board’s equity advisor, Mante is working on the initial draft of the equity policy for PVNCCDSB. Mante asked the Committee for input regarding the inclusion of Indigenous Education and how to effectively incorporate Indigenous knowledge, ways of being and voices into the Equity policy. In addition, Mante asked how the board can ensure the policy acknowledges Truth and Reconciliation.

Mante shared Ontario Policy/Program Memorandum 119 to the Committee and highlighted items such as accountability, transparency and religious accommodation.

The first draft of the equity policy will be sent out to Indigenous Committee Members for review and to provide further feedback.

4. Protecting the Environment Presentation-Mike Mooney

PVNCCDSB traditionally had Eco schools, however during the course of the pandemic, the board has pivoted and is developing its own system to support environmental initiatives. The 'Protecting the Environment Committee' met a month ago. Mike explained the alternative to Eco Schools needs to engage students and educators, while offering opportunities for monitoring. The system of a bingo card was identified as the mechanism to promote, engage and monitor Environmental initiatives in schools. The bingo card has been brought forward to the IEAC in order to seek feedback on the portrayal of Indigenous knowledge/ learning opportunities embedded within the bingo card. There is an opportunity to connect Indigenous ways of knowing and being to Environmental initiatives. The bingo card will be sent out to Committee members for further comment and feedback.

#### 5. Consultant Report - Mike Mooney

Mike shared the Board Action Plan. Mike discussed the four main objectives in the BAP:

- i. **Supporting Students and Educators.** Recently on September 30th, the Holy Cross community joined together for Truth and Reconciliation Day. Janet McCue is from the Wshkiigamong Women's Hand Drum Group. Janet joined the Holy Cross community to sing and drum for the whole school. Many schools throughout the board also worked with Dr. Niigaan Sinclair during Truth and Reconciliation Week and Treaties Recognition Week.
- ii. **Supporting Educators.** The board is looking at subsidies for additional courses regarding Indigenous Education. In addition, the resource "Listening to Indigenous Voices" was provided to all Principal's and members of the Senior team of PVNCCDSB.
- iii. **Engagement and Awareness.** "Reconciliation Education" is a resource that will now be provided in a virtual format. Reconciliation Education provides a three hour online module that is available to all staff in the PVNCCDSB system. In addition, it is available to any and all community partners of PVNCCDSB. This resource was launched in October of 2021. To date the board has 50 individuals who have completed the course and 160 individuals that have started the course.
- iv. **Using Data to Support Student Achievement.** Mike shared that books have not been circulating well within schools. A suggestion was given to Mike from a Learning Common's Specialist to provide a variety of levelled texts as opposed to investing in individual books for each school. The Mike asked for the Committee's input. Lastly, Mike described the process of looking into EQAO data in an attempt to better understand students who self identify and how to effectively support Indigenous students.

#### 4. Updates, Discussion and Input

##### a. Community Partner Sharing

Alderville First Nation- Jacqueline Gorveatt

Jacqueline was not able to attend the meeting and no community update was provided.

Curve Lake First Nation- Aricka Fleguel

Aricka thanked Niigaan, Pam and Mante for their presentations and expressed that it shows the many consultations and support for Indigenous students at PVNCCDSB.

Curve Lake school which enrolls students from Kindergarten to Grade 3 is developing 2 acres behind the school. This space will be used as a natural area for students to enjoy

and identify the native and innovative species.

As of September 2021, 87 students from Curve Lake were enrolled in post secondary. As of the date of this meeting, there are now 100 Curve Lake students that are registered to start attending post secondary in January.

Hiawatha First Nation - Karrie MacMurray

Karrie expressed her appreciation for the work being done at PVNCCDSB.

Karrie acknowledged and thanked Jeannie Armstrong, Superintendent of Learning and Chair of this Committee, Joan Carragher, Director of Education and Mike Mooney, Indigenous Education Lead Learning Consultant for coming to Hiawatha and visiting the Community in person.

Currently there are no students from Hiawatha registered within PVNCCDSB. Karrie hopes that in the coming years, this will change and they will have students registered within the board.

Hiawatha First Nation is in their 13th year of having a public speaking contest in order to help raise the confidence level of the students. The speaking contest is a big hit within the community and the kids really enjoy it. As of the date of this meeting, 7 students have signed up for the contest. It is an opportunity for students to come before the community to address the audience, introduce themselves and enhance their speaking skills. The length requirements of each speech depends on the age of the student. Mike Mooney will be a judge for the competition.

Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council - Gayelyn Heffernan

Some initiatives are within the local Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council and some within Métis Nation of Ontario.

Street Survival Kits which include backpacks with a water bottle, gloves, hat, socks, toothbrush etc. have been given out to youth in need. 3 kits have been provided to PVNCCDSB for at-risk youth.

On November 14<sup>th</sup> in-person Métis cultural celebration at the Holiday Inn was held with the Oshawa Drum Circle. Festivities included a dot painting activity, teaching about the importance of the buffalo to Métis culture, and food was provided. It was a great success and enjoyed by many.

November 16<sup>th</sup> was Louis Riel Day. Flag raising celebrations took place in Lindsay, Port Hope and Peterborough.

On December 3<sup>rd</sup> a Virtual Information Session on Covid 19 Vaccine for Children was held for all parents and caregivers of First Nation, Métis, Inuit and Urban Indigenous children aged 5-11.

On December 4<sup>th</sup> there was a Sacred Medicine Workshop. This workshop allowed citizens to participate in a teaching about sacred medicines, and the importance of smudging. Smudging kits were provided to participants.

Gayelyn expressed to the Committee that they have been offered an opportunity to access gently used/donated hockey equipment for children in need. Interested citizens are asked to contact [PWMC@metisnation.org](mailto:PWMC@metisnation.org) with the subject line "Hockey Equipment".

Citizens experiencing food insecurity can receive help from the local Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council for Christmas. The council will provide grocery gift cards to those in need.

Gayelyn advised the Committee of the "Métis Language and Culture Documentation Project." This project is aimed at Michif speakers who are connected and are interested in learning more about their culture. Applications are accepted until December 12, 2021 and the project will commence in January, 2022.

b. Indigenous Facilitator and Ojibwe Language Positions-Jeannie Armstrong

Jeannie advised the Committee that the board has posted for two positions. One position is for an Indigenous Facilitator and the other position is for an Ojibwe Language Teacher. Jeannie shared details of each position with the Committee Members and asked if members could share the ads and encourage individuals to apply for both positions. Both positions would start in the new year.

**5. Informational Items**

1. Remaining 2021-2022 Meeting Dates:
  - a. Tuesday, March 8, 2022
  - b. Tuesday, June 7, 2022

**6. Next Meeting**

1. Tuesday, March 8, 2022 – Location: Catholic Education Centre, Large Boardroom
2. Future agenda items are to be forwarded to Shannon Carr
3. Volunteer(s) for next meeting's Territorial Recognition, Opening and Closing Prayer
  - a. Territorial Recognition: Karrie-Lee Langer
  - b. Opening Prayer: Helen McCarthy
  - c. Closing Prayer: Sherry Davis

**7. Conclusion**

1. Closing Prayer- Jeannie Armstrong
2. Adjournment

**MOTION:** Moved by Elaine Devlin, seconded by Karrie-Lee Langer, that the meeting be adjourned - 9:45 p.m.

Carried