



Minutes

THE MINUTES OF THE FIRST NATION, MÉTIS, AND INUIT EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in person or via Google Meet by using: <https://meet.google.com/jmc-vkra-ayx>

PRESENT: Trustee/Members: Mike Ayotte, Sherry Davis, Lisa Heitzner, Laura Hill, Julie Brown, Josh Charpentier, Jeanette Hunter, Karrie MacMurray, Cydney Habraken, Della Stewart-Figueira, Patricia (Trixie) Taylor, Beth Needham

Regrets: April Smoke, Katelynn Brennan, Amy Shawanda, Nick Lockwood, Ashley Cantwell, Kayla Benoit

Administration: Julie Selby, Mike Mooney, Jacqueline Gorveatt

Recorder: Shannon Carr

A. Call to Order:

1. Welcome

Superintendent Julie Selby welcomed everyone and asked committee members to go around the table and introduce themselves. Individuals attending online introduced themselves following the in-person introductions.

2. [Territorial Recognition](#) - Beth Needham

Julie Selby asked Beth Needham to lead with the Territorial recognition. Beth shared a beautiful home video showing the land on which we reside while leading the territorial recognition.

3. Opening Prayer – Lisa Heitzner

Julie Selby asked Lisa Heitzner to lead with the Opening Prayer.

4. Additions to the Agenda

Item 5. Secondary Language/Student Success Teacher- Julie Selby

Item 6. St. Mary Student - Julie Brown

5. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Moved by Lisa Heitzner, seconded by Mike Ayotte, that the Agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

6. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

None.

7. Approval of the [Minutes](#) of the Meeting held on Tuesday, December 6, 2022.

MOTION: Moved by Cydney Habraken, seconded by Lisa Heitzner, that the

Minutes be approved as presented.
Carried

8. Business Arising from the Minutes
None.

B. Presentations:

No Presentations took place during this meeting.

C. Updates, Discussion and Input

1. [Practical Nursing \(PN\) Program at Fleming College](#) - Josh Charpentier

Josh had been asked by Clinical Coordinator, Lesa Fox from Fleming College to share this opportunity with the committee regarding the Practical Nursing (PN) Program. The PN Program is one of many programs included within Indigenous Perspective Designation (IPD). Many students within the Practical Nursing Program choose to graduate with IPD which focuses studies with an Indigenous lens.

Lesla is asking for community involvement in an ad-hoc committee that will provide feedback through discussion on the current clinical curriculum, and ways of providing curriculum that is more inclusive. Ideally, the committee would include a member of each surrounding First Nation communities. There would be three meetings (1 hour each) sometime during the first 12 weeks of Winter 2023. An honorarium will be provided for all committee members

For anyone interested in this opportunity, they are to contact Lisa directly. Following the meeting, Shannon Carr shared Lisa's contact information along with the pamphlet that provided more information.

2. Community Partner Sharing

- a. Alderville First Nation - April Smoke

April was unable to attend this meeting and did not provide an update.

- b. Curve Lake First Nation - Jeanette Hunter

Curve Lake is busy supporting students that are transitioning from on territory school to provincial school and from Grade 8 to Secondary school.

In collaboration with the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School board and the local rotary program Curve Lake is preparing "Connections Camp" that is taking place in May. There will be 20 or more Secondary students participating in the camp. The goal of the camp is to bring recognition, awareness and leadership skills to students so they can use them in their next school year and beyond. The target audience is Grades 9 to 11 and is available to students residing in Curve Lake First Nation.

Jeanette expressed that everyone is looking forward to the March break.

c. Hiawatha First Nation - Karrie MacMurray

On February 7, 8 and 9 Karrie attended the "Language and Education Forum" held in Toronto. Karrie felt this conference was very informative and eye opening as they created an exercise to see how many people within their community know their language by dividing members as an L1 or L2. Karrie outlined the plans Hiawatha First Nation has made to help members learn and engage in their culture and language.

Karrie is busy working on Hiawatha First Nation year end which is March 31. Hiawatha First Nation is working on tidying up the current budget and looking at setting the budget for next year.

Hiawatha First Nation (HFN) is working with Peterborough Victoria Northumberland Clarington Catholic District School Board (PVNC) to facilitate an Education Agreement. HFN and PVNC have worked together successfully for many years, but it is important to have an agreement in place. Karrie stated the agreement is in process and will soon be brought to the Chief and Council meeting for input.

d. Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre- Cydney Habraken

Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre provided a survey to schools and stakeholders to ask questions in the initial stages of their Language Revitalization Plan. Now the Language Revitalization Plan is finished and Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre is currently hosting community sessions. The community sessions allow members of the public, parents and students to come in and provide feedback on the policy.

In April, the Family Language Program will be back and held on Tuesday nights. The program is open to anyone and parents are encouraged to attend to help support kids learn the language and therefore, be able to continue the learning at home.

Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre is hosting four different youth programs over the March break. Participants will do many activities such as laser tag, attend the Science Centre in Toronto, go to the movie theater, coloring contest and participate in On the Land shelter building.

Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre will be putting together Easter hampers in April which will be given out to 150 families. The baskets will provide breakfast to families most in need.

Women sharing circles are taking place again on Thursdays at the Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre.

There were many amazing entries for the logo contest from both parents and kids. Initially one logo was to be picked but Cydney expressed they may have to pick a couple more logo submissions and use it for another purpose.

e. Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council - Josh Charpentier

As of February 2023, the Métis Nation of Ontario signed a new self-government agreement with the Government of Canada. The Government of Canada has officially recognised Métis as having an inherited right to be self-governed. The agreement recognizes that the Métis Nation of Ontario has jurisdiction over citizenship and election matters.

On March 10-12, 2023 Trent University is hosting their 47th annual Elders & Traditional Peoples Gathering. Métis community members have been invited to participate in the gathering. Mitch Case from Council 4 will be speaking about Métis tradition, culture and language. Mitch is an advocate for the history of Métis community and was the Métis representative who met with the Pope when the Pope visited Canada in 2022.

Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council has developed a food pantry at the Peterborough office located on Monaghan Road. The pantry will have food for Métis Nation of Ontario families in need which will include perishable and non perishable food items as well as traditional meat. Julie asked if they are accepting donations? Josh will look into it as they are limited by size and get back to Julie.

Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council is also doing “Stretch Your Dollar Food Kits” which will include food gift cards and meal recipes (at an affordable rate for large groups of people) for people who have requested them.

Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council is going through council elections. Nominations are to be in by April 7th ,2023. The vote takes place on April 27th and will conclude on May 1, 2023.

f. Nijkiwendidaa Anishnaabekwewag Services Circle- Katelynn Brennan

Katelynn was unable to attend this meeting and did not provide an update.

3. Board Action Plan (BAP) Update - Mike Mooney & Jacqueline Gorveatt

Mike reviewed the five sections that outline the BAP. The five sections are Financial Report, Human Resources Details, Co-Development of BAP, Narrative Reports and Initiatives. Mike spent time explaining to the committee that the money comes from Ministry grants and that money funds teaching staff, staff supporting and the BAP.

Mike and Jacqueline reviewed the four Principles that guide their work when doing the BAP. The four Principles are as follows:

- Support Indigenous student well-being
- Indigenous Student transition and safety
- Indigenous parent and community engagement
- System and educator capacity

4. [Consultant Update](#) - Mike Mooney & Jacqueline Gorveatt

Mike and Jacqueline updated the committee regarding their Elementary school visits, how they are supporting school plans, class visits and release time. Mike and Jacqueline updated the committee regarding the Secondary schools about release time, plan support and Infusion through inquiry (focusing school plans that are about engaging Indigenous learning and teaching).

Jacqueline notified the committee she has visited 25 classrooms within 10 schools to engage students and staff in Walking the Path. Depending on the school, this program is from junior to intermediate and the idea is to have the classes take part in this program yearly to build student self-esteem, self-confidence and pride about who they are. Topics are about racism, stereotypes, residential schools, how we can make change for social justice and community awareness. The hope is to have this program in every elementary school and have all teachers take the training.

To date, Mike and Jacqueline have done 9 Kairos Blanket Exercises (KBE) at 3 schools and continue to do more as the year progresses. The purpose of this program is to participate in a history lesson that fosters truth, understanding and respect in Indigenous Education. Participants are asked what they learn and how they can be supported moving forward.

Mike discussed the three "PVNC Listens with Dr. Niigaan Sinclair" sessions that have taken place so far such as "PVNC Listens Secondary-Exploring the Papal Visit" which included 10 participants discussing the papal apology. "PVNC Listens Grade 5 - 8" which includes 42 registration from 15 elementary schools discussing Indigenous ways of Knowing and Being. The third session was "PVNC Listens Grade 5-12" which shared Indigenous Storytelling with Bogiizhik (Isaac Murdoch) and had 30 registrants from 14 Elementary Schools and 4 Secondary. For everyone who registers, they will receive a recording of the session. Many registrants are teachers which then share the recording with their classrooms and therefore the teachings are reaching students.

Josh asked if there are any initiatives that are for students in Kindergarten to Grade 4? Mike and Jacqueline said the younger grades will be participating in the activities the school put forth through their School Indigenous Education plan.

Karrie MacMurray hopes that schools/boards will ensure students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 will learn Indigenous curriculum in all areas. Karrie asked how do we evaluate how much Indigenous Education is being taught for Kindergarten to Grade 12?

Julie pointed out the curriculum for Social Studies is changing and discussions are being held on how we might support teachers with understanding and knowing the revised content. From a ministry level, we are noticing greater connections to Indigenous Education from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

Josh mentioned a program that he is currently working on with students around coding and ultimately tying it in with math, social studies and

possibly science. Earlier this year, students created a video game on Indigenous Education which allows them to learn the teaching cultures for Métis and First Nations. The goal is to include Inuit teachings in the near future. Josh mentioned the science curriculum has updated to a degree which has including pedagogy examples of Indigenous ways of teaching and ways of knowing. Josh is unaware of where that sits right now. Julie said herself and the team will look into obtaining a science update.

Cydney asked if PVNC could prioritize Indigenous Education learning for Kindergarten to Grade 4 given a lot of the focus so far has been on Grades 5 to 12. Cydney suggested taking a more creative approach because the Kindergarten to Grade 4 curriculum is not as regimented. Cydney suggested the focus could be on language and the committee agrees with Cydney. Mike said most recently students from Kindergarten to Grade 4 have been going outside to allow them to learn and engage. Mike agrees this is not centrally supported and is case by case. Therefore, Mike and Jacqueline will look into how to support those grades more effectively from a central perspective.

Lisa H. asked if we have a central database for teachers to contribute ideas and for other teachers to connect regarding Indigenous Education teachings? Lisa said it would be great to be able to also reach out to community partners such as the Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre. Jacqueline stated the current shared database will be moving to a google shared drive for all staff to review. Josh stated board drive is good for dumping information but problematic in terms of organization and pirating. Is someone going to be monitoring that drive? Julie stated that the board and IT department are discussing these items.

Mike and Jacqueline shared some upcoming Professional Development (PD) opportunities coming up. Such PD sessions are:

- Principal PD session in Hiawatha on May 23, 2023
- Secondary Teacher PD on May 18, 2023 part 2
- CEC Learning Support Services staff on May 19, 2023 part 2
- Secondary Indigenous Student Conference on May 25, 2023

In collaboration with KPR, Trillium Board and Trent University, the Secondary Indigenous Student Conference will be held at Trent University on May 25, 2023. The number of participants will depend on the budgets for each board but the event is not limited to only Indigenous students. A number of different sessions will be offered to provide a wide variety of topics to meet student interest. Details regarding the sessions are to be finalized as the team is in early stages of planning and this is the first year that this type of conference will take place. The conference will be advertised through school guidance departments.

Karrie asked Mike and Jacqueline to share the conference information with community partners when available. Mike confirmed the information will be shared when they have finalized all of the details. Jeannette asked if elders would be there? Mike stated a room will be set aside for kids to

go to if they need a moment to process and/or talk to someone.

Mike reminded committee members that they are able to contribute additional feedback after the meeting or at anytime through the jamboard link. Mike shared a [link to the jamboard](#) for those attending virtual and the link has also been included in the minutes.

Indigenous Education Administrative Policy (AP) - Mike reviewed the three questions asked last meeting and the input presented. The three questions were:

1. What actions and/or responsibilities are necessary for PVNC to pursue implementation of the Calls to Action, the recognition of the distinct rights of Indigenous Peoples?
2. How and/or what can we use as progress indicators?
3. What definitions should be included?

In draft form, Mike and Jacqueline took the suggestions made by the committee last meeting and input the information into a responsibility list to show who would be responsible for what.

5. Secondary Language/Student Success Teacher- Julie Selby

Julie stated we have increased enrollment at St John C.E.S. and St. Paul C.E.S. in Lakefield. Currently these schools have a 1.0 permanent position split between the two schools.

Starting in September 2023, St. Peters C.S.S. and Holy Cross C.S.S. will be offering a combined 1.0 permanent position. The position will be shared between both schools and is meant to support students who wish to take an Ojibway language course in secondary, as well as to provide opportunities for student success and wraparound support for Indigenous students. In addition, it is the hope that students currently taking the course in elementary will continue their learning once they reach secondary. The board is hopeful to reach non-Indigenous students who may be interested in taking this language course as well.

Karrie MacMurray asked if there is a possibility for someone from the community partners to sit in on the hiring committee to help select a candidate? Karrie asked if the job posting can be sent externally so community partners can receive a copy? Julie confirmed that we can share that job posting once it is available to community partners. Julie highlighted that if no applicants apply that meet the job requirements, the board will look at individuals who have lived experience.

Beth asked if this individual that is hired has to be a practicing Catholic? Julie confirmed this individual does not have to be Catholic.

Cydney asked if this course will count for a credit? Julie confirmed this course does count for a credit.

Jeannette asked if it would be based on levels? Jeannette expressed that one class would have Grades 9 to 12 students which is harder for the teacher because they are teaching four grades but more beneficial for the student. Julie stated she would not be able to answer that question at this time, as it would depend on the number of students who decide to select the class and course selections are ongoing.

A group discussion took place regarding the position and the expectations of the successful applicant.

6. St. Mary C.S.S. Student - Julie Brown (Lisa H. provided this update on Julie's behalf)

A Grade 12 student from Alderville that attends St. Mary C.S.S is a finalist for the prestigious Loran Scholarship which gives the opportunity for a \$100,000.00 full scholarship for post-secondary students. She is one of the first Anishnabeg students in Canada to be named as a finalist after several months of interviews and presentations.

Julie expressed that this student has been such an inspiration to so many St. Mary C.S.S. and in her home community.

D. Next Committee Meeting:

1. Next meeting: June 6, 2023 at 6:30 in Large Boardroom
2. Agenda items for the next meeting, please contact Shannon Carr
3. Volunteers for meeting duties:
 - Territorial Recognition: Lauren Hill
 - Opening Prayer: Sherry Davis
 - Closing Prayer: Jeanette Hunter

E. Conclusion:

Closing Prayer – Julie Selby
Julie led the closing prayer.

Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Lisa Heitzner, seconded by Sherry Davis
The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.