



First Nation Advisory Committee
Wednesday, June 24, 2020 3:00 p.m.
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present:

Trustees

Judy Manitowabi – Committee Chair
Linda Jamieson

Administration

Anna Marie Bitonti, Director of Education
Nancy Allaire, Nipissing First Nation
Paula Mann, Superintendent of Education
Sue Wardell, Principal Our Lady of Fatima
Audrey Gribbons, Principal St. Alexander
Samantha Andrusiek, English Catholic Curriculum Coordinator
Lorraine Sutherland, Indigenous Graduation Coach
Jody Weller, Superintendent of Education

Regrets

Kathy Fortin, North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre

1. Call to Order

Judy Manitowabi called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Prayer

Judy Manitowabi led the committee in prayer and acknowledged the traditional land and Treaty territory.

3. Agenda/Minutes

a) Approval of Agenda

- i. The agenda was approved as amended to add item #8, School Re-Opening Update

b) Approval of Minutes

- i. The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, April 30, 2020 were approved as presented.

4. NPSC Indigenous Education Initiatives Update:

a) Video

Jody Weller shared a short video prepared by the NPSC Indigenous education, which included a beautiful compilation of congratulatory graduation wishes by SJSH graduates and students, teachers and our Indigenous Grad Coach. The video was shared with all schools to be included in each of their virtual graduation ceremonies.

b) Google Classroom

Jody Weller shared the virtual classroom developed by the Indigenous education team to support the integration of Indigenous culture in the curriculum and as resources for National Indigenous History month and National Indigenous Peoples' Day for use in all our classrooms. The virtual platform includes various areas, such as literacy, numeracy, sacred teachings and sacred medicines, interactive links, as well as videos highlighting the Arts and language revitalization. The virtual classroom platform also includes the creation story as well good information on the role of the Indigenous Grad Coach.

c) Indigenous Grad Coach

Lorraine Sutherland provided an update of the work with students in collaboration with the student success team and the mental health and well-being team as well as cultural and support resources developed to assist students and families. In addition, several examples of specific strategies to assist students and families with distance learning and engagement in order to ensure successful achievement of credits toward graduation. Other projects were shared, including work with the guidance department at SJSH, a resource developed in collaboration with the Experiential Learning Lead (tipaachimowin/tipaachimowina – “story”) and resources that teach the sacredness of stories as representing the Indigenous worldview.

d) Summer Learning – NPSC Programs

Jody Weller and Paula Mann provided a summary of the virtual summer learning programs being offered at NPSC. These virtual, synchronous programs include:

- Grade 5 and 6 literacy and numeracy at, which will include a partnership with Science North for coding, as well as the integration of Indigenous history, perspective and culture;
- Grade 7 and 8 literacy and numeracy;
- Secondary upgrading and credit recovery;
- Special Education synchronous programming focused on life skills, physical activity, music, and specific goal-focused lessons and support;
- Mental Health & Well-being, focused on anxiety related to returning to school and for self-regulation for early learners;
- Transition program to school for special education students focused on routines, re-exposure to the classroom

5) Ministry of Education Update

GSN's were received and based on teleconferences with the ministry and assurances that funding would continue, not all details yet on GSNs and how they impact. The Indigenous education grant (languages amounts, curriculum amounts, per pupil amount and board action plan amounts). Funding formulas have not changed since last year. Still some funding in PPFs that have not yet been confirmed.

6) AES Update

Nancy Allaire shared that given that the AGM will not be taking place, the annual report and financial report will be placed on the KEB site, along with the multi-year action plan, regional priorities and quarterly report. The AES symposium summary, particularly the student voice component, is also posted and available for review and as a planning reference.

7) OCSTA FNAC Update

Judy Manitowabi provided update on the April 30, 2020 meeting. During the COVID closure, they discussed some issues with FN students having to return to their home communities, and issues of connectivity and technology. Other items discussed include:

- Communications from the Ministry to be shared with First Nations communities
- Truth and Reconciliation - ongoing and work with ICE to ensure more resources are available and reflective of Indigenous history. Resources are available on the site for review
- Trustee online PD modules have been updated, including Module 16 "An Overview of First Nation Trustees", and Module 20 "Truth and Reconciliation for School Boards"
- Reciprocal Education Agreement and Education Services Agreement
- Indigenous professional development at next year's AGM

8) School Re-Opening Update

Anna Marie Bitonti provided an overview of Ministry Re-Opening Plan document shared with boards and provided a summary of our next steps as a board; planning for three modalities: conventional, adaptive, online; we will be working internally to plan, working with our parents, transportation and partners to develop a plan.

9) Next meeting

Proposed tentative dates of either October 19 or 23, 2020 to be confirmed.

10) Adjournment

Judy Manitowabi adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.