



**First Nation Advisory Committee
Monday October 19, 2020 4:00 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
Jody Weller, Superintendent of Education

Regrets

Kathy Fortin, North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre
Derek Belanger, Principal St Joseph-Scollard Hall

1. Call to Order

Judy Manitowabi called the meeting to order at 4:00 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 #6 a) Niigaan Education Proposal

b) Approval of Minutes

- i. The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, June 24, 2020 were approved as presented.

4. NPSC Indigenous Education Initiatives Update:

a) Board Action Plan 2019-2020

The 2019-2020 school year was unique and presented with challenging circumstances (e.g. school closure) and therefore Board Action Plan funds were underspent. The remaining funds will be carried over to the 2020-2021 school year. This carry over should not impact the current school year allocation as the funding is derived based on a formula that includes total school board enrolment and Indigenous student self-identification data.

The draft copy of the Final Board Action Plan has been provided to the committee for review and input, which is kindly requested to be submitted to Jody Weller by Friday, October 23, 2020. All input will be collated and included in the action plan, which will be shared with the committee. Once signatures have been gathered the plan will be submitted to the Ministry.

The Board Assessment Tool and Board Action Plan for the 2020-2021 school year has not yet been released to boards by the Ministry of Education. Once received, Jody Weller will share with the committee and survey for some dates for FNAC to reconvene so that we can collaborate and complete as a whole committee.

b) Indigenous Grad Coach

Jody Weller shared that as a result of the IGC recent resignation, recruitment for a replacement is currently underway and we hope to fill the vacancy quickly.

c) NPSC Education Update

Paula Mann shared an overview of our NPSC Virtual School, which included enrolment statistics, structure, program, staff professional development and resources; parent engagement, special education and mental health and well-being.

Elementary

We are pleased to report that the launch of our elementary virtual school on September 25, 2020 has been a success supporting approximately 289 elementary students K–8 in both English and Early French Immersion Programs. It has been a complete team effort in supporting our virtual learners. A total of 12 virtual classes with 12 teachers have been organized K–8, inclusive of a Learning Assistance Centre (LAC) class to support our students with complex special education needs in a differentiated manner. Tony D'Agostino is the interim administrator for our elementary students. Our teachers are supported highly through our program coordinators and system curriculum team. We also have provided a growing library of digital licenses/resources for many program areas such as literacy, mathematics, science, Indigenous education, language resources, social studies, French second language and Phys. Ed. Staffing has required a team approach, using both internal, curriculum team and long term occasional teachers. To ensure we provide parents with an opportunity for their children to return to in-person learning and vice versa, at the beginning of the school year, we communicated two Fall transition dates where students can choose to move from virtual to in-person learning at school and from in-person learning at school to virtual learning. Tuesday October 13, 2020 marked the first transition date for families to move

between learning models. November 16, 2020 marks the second Fall transition date which aligns with the student progress reporting period.

Special Education

As you know, Special Education continues to be a priority, and especially supporting our students who have recently transitioned from in-person to virtual learning, and vice versa. As such, our Special Education team and Student Support Services Team have been collaborating with parents, guardians, principals, community agencies, and educators to provide accurate programming and supports based on individual student needs that is reflective of their respective learning environment. To ensure that our students have every opportunity to succeed, we continue to maintain a wraparound approach to supporting our learners, and especially those who require additional supports and services.

Secondary

At SJSH, as you may know we started the year in an octomester learning model, due to the need of limiting student contacts, our enrolment and on guidance from the Ministry of Education. The Ministry has provided some guidance on assessment and evaluation in not requiring a 30 % final evaluation, which has allowed for a board range of culminating evaluation activities that allows students to most effectively demonstrate their learning. Given the format of the octomester being a 23-day cycle, our teachers did provide a broad range of culminating evaluation activities that allow students to most effectively demonstrate their learning. The second octomester began, October 13, and the next new schedule of courses are now being delivered for approximately 23 days. At this time, for octomester two, there are approximately 79% confirmed for in-person learning and 21% confirmed for virtual learning.

Orange Shirt Day

All NPSC schools participated in Orange Shirt Day activities, which they planned locally and with various partners where possible. SJSH created a beautiful and informative video that was shared with all NPSC schools for their use.

Treaties Recognition Week

All NPSC schools will be learning about Treaties Recognition Week in their schools during the first week of November. A list of school-based activities is currently being gathered by schools

5) Ministry of Education Indigenous Education Update

a) Programs and Funding

Jody Weller provided a summary of the Indigenous Education program funding, which are also outlined in the GSN Technical Paper for 2020-2021, beginning on page 60. In the GSN there are four aspects of the Indigenous Education Grant:

1. Indigenous Languages Allocation
2. First Nations, Metis and Inuit Studies Allocation (Formerly Indigenous Studies Allocation)
3. Per Pupil Amount (PPA) Allocation
4. Board Action Plans (BAP) Allocation

The Ministry of Education has confirmed that there is no change for the 2020-2021 school year funding allocation.

- b) REA
Jody Weller shared key updates to allocations within the REA base fee for 2020-21. For example, the transfer of some program allocations into the base fee structure to mirror similar updates to the GSN. This update helps streamline the ministry's transfer payment footprint while offering recipients greater funding predictability and reducing their administrative burden.

6) AES Update

a) Niigaan Education Proposal

- Nancy Allaire provided an update on the Niigan proposal at Our Lady of Sorrows school. The project is focused on cultural and language revitalization through a blend of traditional Anishinaabe cultural ways of knowing and doing through the use of technology.
- The projected cost of the project is \$ 50, 000.00.
- Nancy Allaire confirmed that this project was planned with the ENDS in mind and is an excellent collaboration between NPSC and NFN.

b) AES REC

AES REC #3 Regional Meeting to be held on October 29, 2020 from 9:00a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

7) OCSTA FNAC Update

Judy Manitowabi confirmed that at this time there hasn't been a meeting. Once activity has resumed she will bring to the next FNAC meeting.

8) Next meeting

Jody Weller will establish a next meeting date with FNAC once the 2020-2021 BAP and Board Assessment Tool is received.

9) Adjournment

Judy Manitowabi adjourned the meeting at 5:01 p.m.