



**First Nation Advisory Committee  
Monday, June 28, 2021 4:00 p.m.  
Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**Present:**

<b>Trustees</b>	Judy Manitowabi – Committee Chair Linda Jamieson
<b>Administration</b>	Anna Marie Bitonti, Director of Education Paula Mann, Superintendent of Education Jody Weller, Superintendent of Education
<b>Members</b>	Nancy Allaire, Nipissing First Nation Marianne Daur, North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre Stacey Malette, Principal – Our Lady of Sorrows Susan Wardell, Principal – Our Lady of Fatima Jordan Mowat, Indigenous Graduation Coach Samantha Andrusiek, Catholic Curriculum Coordinator
<b>Regrets</b>	Derek Belanger, Principal – St. Joseph-Scollard Hall Audrey Gribbons, Principal – St. Alexander

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**1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

**2. Prayer & Welcome**

Judy Manitowabi began by acknowledging the traditional and treaty territory.  
Linda Jamieson led the prayer before the meeting.  
Judy Manitowabi welcomed members present to the last FNAC meeting of the year.

**3. Agenda/Minutes**

- a) Approval of Agenda  
The agenda was approved as presented.
- b) Approval of Minutes of Monday, February 22, 2021 Meeting  
The minutes of the October 19, 2020 meeting were approved as presented.

#### 4. NPSC Indigenous Education Initiatives Update

##### a) Board Action Plan 2020-2021

Jody Weller shared highlights of the Board Action Plan, which included an overview of the 2020-2021 Virtual Indigenous Cultural Retreat. This year the retreat was hosted via Microsoft Teams and participants enjoyed several activities, including painting, a book reading with Jules Armstrong local Nipissing First Nation artist, and video presentations by local Nipissing First Nation Elders George Couchie, June Commanda and Dr. Joan McLeod-Shabogesic. The video presentations were created to facilitate the educator retreat this year and will also be used for future professional learning for students and staff and also supports our work in truth and reconciliation.

Additional highlights include the expansion of Indigenous Studies courses offered at the secondary level. Examples include the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM); Indigenous Studies courses and compulsory Grade 11 English credit course with Indigenous literature, and the partnership with Canadore College where a for-credit Integrated Studies course will be offered and students will attain both a college and secondary school credit with a STEAM focus.

Nancy Allaire shared that Nipissing University has developed a six-video series, titled "Visiting with Anishnaabe and Cree Knowledge Holders". These videos feature knowledge holders from across the region and were produced in support of Nipissing University's Summer Indigenous Institute, a transition program for Indigenous students entering university. These videos support Indigenous Education and can be used with our educators.

##### b) TRC Action Plan

Jody Weller shared with the committee the TRC Action Plan. This item will be reviewed at the next FNAC meeting. Jody Weller encouraged the committee members to review the plan and suggest any new additions or edits.

##### c) Indigenous Grad Coach

Jordan Mowat provided an update on his role at SJSH. Currently there are 150 self-identified Indigenous students, 50 of these students were supported directly by the IGC. Due to the remote learning period, most support occurred online and was focused on mental health, well-being, and credit accumulation. Other updates from the IGC included:

- Challenges resulted in adjustments to the program and learning to support students virtually.
- Extended support to other classes, as teachers reached out.
- Planning and developing a leadership program to be implemented in the new school year, and in support of the Indigenous Studies SHSM certification.
- Overall goal to increasing cultural learning opportunities for all students with a "Learning Lodge" to be constructed in the courtyard, planning is underway.

Nancy Allaire shared her appreciation to Jordan, for his support and presence in the Nipissing First Nation community.

d) Métis Nation of Ontario

Jody Weller provided an update on a recent meeting with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). Highlights of the meeting included:

- A presentation on Métis History provided by Anne Trudel, Education Officer with the MNO.
- Updates on educational resources and supports available that include Métis perspectives, including the Métis Education Kit received, with relevant materials for classrooms.
- We will continue to explore ways to make the education kits available for our schools, and how we can continue to support our Métis students throughout the system.

**5. Ministry of Education Indigenous Education Update**

a) Indigenous Education Officer

Bryon Brisard, who was seconded temporarily with the KEB, has returned to the Ministry of Education and has resumed his responsibility at the Indigenous Education Office (IEO) for the NB/Sudbury region.

**6. AES Update**

a) Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum - May 4-7, 2021

Jody Weller provided updates on this year's virtual forum. This four-day professional development opportunity included authentic opportunities for engagement, partnership and networking. Highlights also included a focus on Special Education, Seven Generations and Cultural Teachings, Niigaan Gdizhaami projects, Racism and Addressing Inequities, Mental Health and Well-Being, and Graduation Coach programs. Nancy Allaire shared that Youth scholarships are available.

b) 2020-2021 Niigaan Gdizhaami Project: "Revitalizing Culture and Language through Innovative Strategies"

Nancy Allaire shared that the team submitted an application for a second year of support of the project in an effort to delve deeper to curriculum implementation and support. Key components of the project include the cultural learning outdoor medicine garden at Our Lady of Sorrows school and a focus on achievement of language acquisition using technology. Jody Weller extended appreciation to Nancy Allaire and Hilary McLeod for their collaboration and facilitation of this project.

**7. OCSTA FNAC Update**

Judy Manitowabi provided an update that a Provincial meeting was scheduled to take place and that additional information will be shared upon receipt.

**8. Next Meeting**

Proposed dates include the third or fourth Monday of September 2021.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.