



**First Nation Advisory Committee  
Monday, October 25, 2021 4:00 p.m.  
Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**Present:**

**Trustees**

Judy Manitowabi – Committee Chair  
Linda Jamieson

**Administration**

Anna Marie Bitonti, Director of Education  
Paula Mann, Superintendent of Education  
Jody Weller, Superintendent of Education

**Members**

Nancy Allaire, Nipissing First Nation  
Marianne Daur, North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre  
Derek Belanger, Principal – St. Joseph-Scollard Hall  
Audrey Gribbons, Principal – St. Alexander  
Jordan Mowat, Indigenous Graduation Coach  
Samantha Andrusiek, Catholic Curriculum Coordinator

**Regrets:**

Stacey Malette, Principal – Our Lady of Sorrows  
Susan Wardell, Principal – Our Lady of Fatima

---

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

**2. Prayer & Welcome**

Judy Manitowabi began by acknowledging the traditional and treaty territory and led the prayer before the meeting.

Judy Manitowabi welcomed members present to the first FNAC meeting of the year.

**3. Agenda**

a) Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as amended, to include items added by Nancy Allaire.

9. Other

a) Resources

b) 2020-2021 Niigaan Gdizhaami Project: *“Revitalizing Culture and Language Through Innovative Strategies”*

**4. Minutes**

a) Approval of Minutes of Monday, June 28, 2021 Meeting

The minutes of the June 28, 2021 meeting were approved as presented.

## 5. NPSC Indigenous Education Initiatives Update

### a) Board Action Plan 2020-2021

Jody Weller shared highlights of the Final Board Action Plan, which included an overview of the 2020-2021 professional learning activities for students and staff and which support our work in responding to the Calls to Action for Truth and Reconciliation. Jody Weller encouraged the committee to review the Board Action Plan and provide any input by November 1, 2021 prior to submission to the Ministry of Education.

### b) TRC Action Plan

Jody Weller shared with the committee the TRC Action Plan, updated to reflect activities that have taken place in September 2021, including Orange Shirt Day and honouring the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in our NPSC schools.

### c) Indigenous Graduation Coach Update

Jordan Mowat provided an update on his role at SJSH. Currently there are approximately 45 students being supported directly by the IGC. Jordan Mowat shared that he is excited to return to the role, in-person, after a difficult remote learning period.

Other updates from the IGC included:

- Build a learning lodge with students in the NSL class. Students learned the significance of the lodge and other classes have also enjoyed using it.
- Developing strong community partnerships to support student-specific needs.
- During Treaties Recognition Week, the IGC and NSL teacher, Tory Fisher, are hosting a panel discussion, which will include Elder George Couchie and students.

### d) SJSH Orange Shirt Day Video 2021

Jody Weller shared a portion of the video that was created by Tory Fisher and his students. This video was shared with the entire SJSH school community on September 30, 2021.

## 6. Ministry of Education Indigenous Education Update

### a) Board Action Plan 2021-2022

Jody Weller shared that due to technical difficulties, the Board Action Plan for 2021-2022 has not yet been released by the Ministry of Education. It is expected to be shared in the near future.

### b) Inuktitut Language Instruction In Ontario Schools

Jody Weller shared a memo from the ministry regarding updates to Inuktitut Language Instruction now being offered in schools with additional funding available to boards who choose to offer this new programming.

### c) Board Improvement and Equity Plan

Paula Mann shared that the ministry released the newly revised Board Improvement and Equity Plan (BIEP), which establishes provincial education priorities, goals and performance indicators to support continuous quality improvement. The BIEP will provide a standardized tool for school boards to identify local actions that will lead to improved achievement, equity, well-being and transitions for all students.

The BIEP is a demographic data-driven tool designed to capture the experiences and outcomes of Indigenous students, Black and other racialized groups of students, students with disabilities and/or special education needs (non-gifted), 2SLGBTQ+ students, and students from low-income households. School boards will provide baseline data and set aspirational targets for each performance indicator laid out in the BIEP, including relevant disaggregated demographic data.

d) Student Demographic Data Collection

Jody Weller shared that as a foundation for board improvement and equity planning, NPSC has begun the process of planning for the collection of voluntary student demographic data. NPSC has gathered a working group to engage in this work and consultations with various groups will occur over the coming weeks.

Key components of this project include:

- Boards must comply with Ontario's Data Standards for the Identification and Monitoring of Systemic Racism Standards (known as the ARDS or Data Standards) in implementing their student data project. The Data Standards provides rules and guidance for the collection, analysis and use of voluntary demographic data in four categories: Indigenous identity, race, ethnic origin and religion.
- Boards must include the content from the student census template in implementing their project. The template includes the race-based data categories required under the ARDS and additional social identities related to protected grounds under Ontario's Human Rights Code. The template indicates where there is flexibility to adapt questions or response options to improve data quality and encourage high levels of participation by communities.
- The gender identity and sexual orientation questions are intended to align with The Ontario Curriculum, Health and Physical Education, as updated in August 2019. Boards that will administer their student census by December 2021, are reminded to ensure that census questionnaires are grade-level appropriate, consistent with the Curriculum. Going forward, for boards administering their student census after January 1, 2022, the ministry requires that the census questionnaires for student in K – grade 8 be sent to parents/guardians to complete on behalf of, or with their child.

## 7. **AES Update**

a) Joint Strategy with AES & DSBs Addressing Racism and Inequities in Schools

Jody Weller shared with the committee that Patrick Case of the Equity Secretariat and Christine Dokis, Director of Education for the AES met with Director of Education, Anna Marie Bitonti and Jody Weller to share news of an upcoming survey that will be sent to boards that have students from participating first nation communities in the AES. The purpose of the survey is to gather data regarding the welfare of Indigenous students in order to better support their student achievement and well-being. Gathering data related to incidents of racism and discrimination will support conversations to address barriers that may exist and how we can collaborate to eliminate barriers and work together to support Indigenous students.

## 8. OCSTA FNAC Update

Judy Manitowabi provided an update that a Provincial meeting was held on September 2, 2021. Judy Manitowabi has been invited to participate in an expert panel discussion at the annual OCSTA AGM in January 2022 and will be contacting members of the NPSC FNAC to seek input from members regarding opportunities, challenges and aspirations of Indigenous Education in the system.

## 9. Other

### a) Resources

Nancy Allaire inquired if there would be interest in creating a shared repository of resources between NPSC and Nipissing First Nation. Nancy Allaire will reach out to Jody Weller to explore the possibility.

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

Nancy Allaire shared that the application for a second year of the project was approved. This project is deepening curriculum implementation and support in the NSL classroom at OLS. Key components of the project include the addition to cultural learning lodge to compliment the medicine garden, in addition to, capturing teachings on video. The focus on achievement of language acquisition using technology and cultural teachings has been deeply appreciated and a welcome addition to the NSL programming at OLS. Nancy Allaire encouraged NPSC principals and staff to consider applying to the Niigaan Gdizhaami Project Proposals in future years.

## 10. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2022.

## 11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.