



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

Present:

Trustees

Judy Manitowabi – Committee Chair
Shelly Warren

Administration

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

Members

Nancy Allaire, Nipissing First Nation
Derek Belanger, Principal – St. Joseph-Scollard Hall
Audrey Gribbons, Principal – St. Alexander
Stacey Malette, Principal – Our Lady of Sorrows
Jordan Mowat, Indigenous Graduation Coach

Regrets:

Marianne Daur, North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre
Susan Wardell, Principal – Our Lady of Fatima
Samantha Andrusiek, Catholic Curriculum Coordinator

1. Call to Order

J. Manitowabi began the meeting at 4:03 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement, Prayer & Welcome

J. Weller led the committee in prayer

J. Manitowabi led the committee with a land acknowledgement and welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting Shelly Warren, Trustee as newest member of the committee.

3. Agenda

a) Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as amended, to include:

9. Other

a) OHRC Right to Read Inquiry.

4. Minutes

a) Approval of Minutes of October 25, 2021

The minutes of the October 25, 2021 meeting were approved as presented.

5. NPSC Indigenous Education Initiatives Update

a) Indigenous Graduation Coach Update

J. Mowat provided an update of SJSH regarding self-identified students population currently at 153 Indigenous students we are supporting.

- The Makwa Dodem student council continue to plan activities for student engagement and awareness, and include beading and drumming activities.
- Indigenous Language and Studies classes continue to use and reflect on the teaching lodge.
- Community Engagement - with NFN and CAS.
- Supporting transition of new students entering Grade 9 - future registrations.
- Some examples of student success stories were shared.

b) Indigenous Studies – Secondary Update

D. Belanger shared updates regarding secondary programming, including the positive impacts the Indigenous Graduation Coach (IGC) has had on SJSH students and staff and highlighted how the IGC is an integral part of the student success team and an excellent addition to SJSH staff.

- SJSH returned to regular semester in February 2022.
- NSL (Native Language) section is running this semester. Other Indigenous Studies courses being offered this semester include: Indigenous values and Aspirations, Indigenous Perspectives in Global Context and the Grade 10 History course. Overall, SJSH has seen an increase in the number of Indigenous studies courses and forecast additional increase as we look forward to the next school year.
- Compulsory Grade 11 English course, with an Indigenous focus was offered this year and another success.
- Indigenous Youth Day in December. Many SJSH students supported at this community event and NPSC was well represented, including students from OLS.
- Virtual Grade 9 Information Evening included information on Indigenous course offerings at SJSH. Teacher Tory Fisher and IGC Jordan Mowat have been featured on an internal video, promoting SJSH Indigenous programming. This video is available on the SJSH website and on Bears TV YouTube Channel.
- Makwa Dodem the Indigenous student council group plans to connect with elementary schools to engage with Grade 7/8 students virtually. Also planning to engage in transitional in-person activities at SJSH in Spring 2022.
- Specialist High Skills Major updates: Arts and Culture – two students are on track to complete the first SHSM in Indigenous Studies for June 2022.
- Grace Couchie, Indigenous Student Trustee, has been nominated in the community for a Rotary Award
- SJSH will be applying Niigaan Ghdizaami Project in support of Land Based programming.
- N. Allaire commented positively on the opportunities for Indigenous youth and all students at NPSC and all students at SJSH.

6. Ministry of Education Indigenous Education Update

a) Board Action Plan 2021-2022

J. Weller reviewed the new electronic BAP format. Timelines for 2021-2022 have shifted as a result of the late release of the BAP.

- b) Extension of Indigenous Graduation Coach Program (Summer 2022)
J. Weller shared the Extension of IGC Program for Summer 2022 and to also include support for Intermediate (Grades 7 & 8) students
- c) PPM 166
J. Weller reviewed highlights of PPM 166 with the committee. Development of our local school board protocol is in the final stages and will be shared once completed.
- d) PPM 167
P. Mann reviewed highlights of the new online learning graduation requirement. Students must successfully complete two online credits to earn their secondary school diploma. Beginning with the Grade 9 2020-2021 cohort, these students will be able to credit one course from the 2020-21 remote learning period. The PPM also requires boards to include an opt-out process for parents. In addition, it will be a key focus to ensure offerings of online learning courses to students reflect our Catholic perspective, faith and Catholic Graduate Expectations. Our system and SJSH team have started planning meetings to plan our board's approach and will continue to bring updates.

7. **AES Update**

- a) Niigaan Ghdizaami Project – OLS Update
S. Malette provided an update of Phase 2 of the Niigaan Ghdizaami project and collaboration with Nipissing First Nation, which included an outdoor learning space and medicine garden. Elder and community support has been integral to the success of the project and the OLS community extended their gratitude for the continue support of the community and for the collaboration.

8. **OCSTA FNAC Update**

J. Manitowabi provided an update on her presentation of her personal journey at OCSTA Trustee seminar. Many positive reflections and comments of the tremendous impact of the presentation on participants was shared by Anna Marie Bitonti. J. Manitowabi shared that she will be presenting at an upcoming Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officer's course in the near future.

9. **Other**

- a) OHRC Right to Read Inquiry
J. Weller shared that the Ontario Human Rights Commission – Right to Read Inquiry Report was released on Feb 28, 2022. She highlighted some of the recommendations of the inquiry on reading instruction and particularly those that are focused on meeting the needs of First Nation, Metis and Inuit students.

10. **Next Meeting**

J. Weller will circulate a proposed April 2022 meeting date and will plan for a final meeting for the 2021-2022 school year in June 2022.

11. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.