



**First Nation Advisory Committee
Monday, June 27, 2022
4:00-5:00 p.m.
Microsoft Teams Meeting**

Present:

Trustees

Judy Manitowabi – Committee Chair
Shelly Warren

Administration

Paula Mann, Director of Education
Jody Weller, Superintendent of Education

Members

Daniel Stevens, Nipissing First Nation
Derek Belanger, Principal – St. Joseph-Scollard Hall
Audrey Gribbons, Principal – St. Alexander
Stacey Malette, Principal – Our Lady of Sorrows
Susan Wardell, Principal – Our Lady of Fatima
Jordan Mowat, Indigenous Graduation Coach
Samantha Andrusiek, Catholic Curriculum Coordinator

Guests

Adam Driscoll, Summer Indigenous Graduation Coach
Hannah Turcotte, Summer Indigenous Graduation Coach
Tory Fisher, Teacher – St Joseph-Scollard Hall
Tricia Renaud, Catholic Curriculum Coordinator, FSL

Regrets:

Marianne Daur, North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre

1. Call to Order

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

2. Land Acknowledgement, Prayer & Welcome

J. Manitowabi opened with a Land Acknowledgement and invited the committee to join her in prayer. With several guests and new committee members, J. Manitowabi invited all to introduce themselves and share a bit about their role.

3. Agenda

a) Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. Minutes

a) Approval of Minutes of February 28, 2022

The minutes of the February 28, 2022 meeting were approved as presented.

5. NPSC Indigenous Education Initiatives Update

a) Mkwa Doodem - Secondary Update

D. Belanger & T. Fisher provided an overview of current and future planned activities and courses at SJSH. Specific areas that were highlighted included:

21-22 School Year

- 2 students to graduate with Specialist High Skills Major Arts & Culture (Indigenous Studies)
- Mkwa Doodem Student Council hosted a variety of successful events over the school year. Some examples included: Treaty Week Speaker Panel, “Share Our Spark” event, and the Speaker Series.
- Indigenous Studies – Current Course Offerings at SJSH

22-23 School Year

- New Indigenous Student Trustee, Lauren Lacelle, is Metis from North Bay and the newly elected Indigenous Student Trustee for the 22-23 and 23-24 school years. Lauren is eager to make a positive and inclusive experience for all students at SJSH.
- Indigenous Youth Retreat – a Niigaan Ghidzammi project was jointly submitted with Nipissing First Nation and NPSC. The project proposal includes Indigenous and non-Indigenous students to engage in land-based, traditional teachings, ceremony and arts and crafts.
- Mkwa Doodem Student Council has planned some exciting new activities for the 22-23 school year. Some examples include: traditional dancing, traditional singing and drumming, a new Orange Shirt Day event and an Indigenous Storytelling Winter Series.

b) National Indigenous Peoples’ Day at Our Lady of Sorrows

- S. Malette shared a video that provided a beautiful summary of the day. Students from MSB and STA joined OLS in the celebration. The day began with an official welcome and remarks by Mkwa Doodem and Principal Malette. Several other guests joined. The theme of this year’s celebration was the Strawberry Moon, and included teachings on the strawberry, water, sacred medicines and

c) Culturally Responsive Classroom Resource

S. Andrusiek and T. Renaud shared with the committee a new resource “Mathology” by Pearson. This resource is being piloted in 4 NPSC schools: OLS, STA, STL, and STT. This math resource is aligned to the newly revised Ontario Math curriculum and embeds Indigenous history, culture and perspective in the classroom materials that are used by the students

d) Nipissing University Programs

J. Weller shared an update with the committee of the Wiidooktaadwin Mentorship Program, the Biidaaban Youth Group and the Biidaaban Academic Support Program. All three programs have expanded despite the pandemic. The Wiidooktaadwin Mentorship Program involved two university student mentors where they hosted students in T. Fisher’s NSL class in a 6-part series of sessions on a variety of cultural topics and activities including medicine wheel teachings, shaker crafts, maple syrup, etc. Both the Biidaaban Youth Group and Academic Support Program were online sessions that were successfully attended by some of our NPSC elementary students. Activities included: reading stories, completing math work, body breaks and arts and crafts.

6. Ministry of Education Indigenous Education Update

a) Summer Transition IGC Program

H. Turcotte and A. Driscoll are the Summer Indigenous Graduation coaches and as per the ministry's requirement their respective roles expire on August 31, 2022. Their summer transition program will take place July 25-August 12, 2022 in the afternoons. Planning is well underway to support a medicine wheel framework to serve the needs of the students and will include cultural and social activities in order to prepare the students for the transition to high school. The program will conclude with a traditional feast.

b) Summer Learning Programs

J. Weller shared an update on our NPSC summer programs. Programs include: Summer IGC Transition Program (as above in item 6a) Primary Evidence-Based Reading Intervention Program, Special Education & Transition Program, Mental Health & Well-Being Support, Grade 7/8 Learning Strategies and Secondary eLearning and in-person credit recovery and accumulation courses (e.g. Dual Credit, Co-op, subject courses, etc.).

c) Indigenous Graduation Coach Update

J. Weller shared the IGC update with the committee via email.

7. AES Update

a) Niigaan Ghdizaami Project – OLS Update

S. Malette shared that Phase 2 of the project has now completed. The culminating activity to the project is the resource document that is currently in its final review and preparations for production.

b) Niigaan Gdizhaami Project – SJSH

T. Fisher shared that the proposal has been submitted and is awaiting approval/feedback from the reviewers of the proposals at the KEB.

8. OCSTA FNAC Update

DEFERRED

9. Next Meeting

J. Weller will confirm with the committee the next meeting date, which is being planned for October 2022.

10. Adjournment

J. Manitowabi extended appreciation to all in attendance and wished the committee a safe and healthy summer. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.