



Minutes of the First Nation Advisory Committee meeting held on Monday, October 17, 2022 in Meeting Room 1, NPSC Board Office.

PRESENT

Administration: Paula Mann, Director of Education
Audrey Gribbons, Assistant Superintendent of Education
Jody Weller, Indigenous Education Lead/Superintendent of Education

Board of Trustees: Judy Manitowabi, FNAC Chair
Shelly Warren

Other: Samantha Andrusiek, English Catholic Curriculum Coordinator
Derek Belanger, Principal SJSH
Beverly Peltier, North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre
Daniel Stevens, Nipissing First Nation, Education Director

Guests: Tory Fisher, Teacher SJSH
Hannah Turcotte, Summer 2022 Indigenous Graduation Coach

REGRETS

Marianne Daur, North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre
Stacey Malette, Principal Our Lady of Sorrows
Jordan Mowat, Indigenous Graduation Coach
Susan Wardell, Principal Our Lady of Fatima

1. Call to Order

J. Manitowabi called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement, Prayer & Welcome

- a. J. Manitowabi opened the meeting with a land acknowledgement and prayer, followed by welcoming all committee members and guests.
- b. Each member introduced themselves and shared a brief description of their role.

3. Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on June 27, 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on June 27, 2022 were approved as presented.

5. NPSC Indigenous Education Initiatives (Board Action Plan/TRC Action Plan Updates)

a. Secondary Update (D. Belanger/T. Fisher)

- T. Fisher shared an update on activities at SJSH, including Mkwa Doodem's leadership in facilitating a school-wide gathering on Orange Shirt Day, the after-school drum and dance groups, and plans are underway to host a school-wide day (May 2023) to honour Truth and Reconciliation in collaboration with local Elders, knowledge keepers, SJSH students (Mkwa Doodem), and the Diocese and local parishes.

- The North Bay Battalion are sponsoring the 2nd Annual Indigenous Youth Day on Sunday, October 23, 2022. Many local businesses and organizations have supported the event by purchasing tickets for Indigenous Youth. Many students of NPSC are also involved in the Opening Ceremony and other aspects of the event.
- b. National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (J. Weller)
J. Weller shared the list of activities that occurred at all NPSC schools the week of September 26 – 30, 2002 in honour of the 2nd annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day.
- c. Resources/Classroom Materials (J. Weller)
S. Andrusiek, English Catholic Curriculum Coordinator, shared a resource, “Connecting - Resilience - Indigenous Truth & Reconciliation CRITR Workbook - Grades 5-7” that has been used to supplement instruction in junior/intermediate classes. Some feedback received from staff include: it is helpful, especially to teachers who don't have an Indigenous background, each lesson is laid out simply and very easy to use, it also contains bar/QR codes to gain more information on certain subjects and access to linked websites and the activities have critical thinking questions that could be done in writing or orally with the class.

6. Ministry of Education

- a. Summer Transition IGC Program (H. Turcotte & A. Driscoll)
H. Turcotte shared with the committee an engaging presentation that provided a thorough overview of the summer transition program. Thirteen students participated in the program, ranging from grade 7-10, and a variety of community partners also supported the program. Program activities were planned within the medicine wheel framework to meet student needs in a holistic way.
- b. Summer Learning Programs (J. Weller)
- J. Weller shared the various summer learning programs that took place in July and August 2022.
 - Programs included: Special Education Transition, Mental Health & Well-Being Primary Grades, Evidence-Based Reading Intervention, CODE Summer STEAM Program, and Indigenous Graduation Coach Transition Program.
- c. Indigenous Graduation Coach – Update (J. Mowat)
J. Mowat sent his regrets.
- d. Professional Activity Day – October 24, 2022 (A. Gribbons/J. Weller)
A. Gribbons shared a brief highlight of the PA Day that will take place on October 24, 2022. This system-wide day of professional learning will focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) with special education and equity threaded throughout. The day features keynote speaker, Michael Furdyk, and an opportunity for staff to attend three different workshops throughout the day. Fr. Francis will celebrate Mass and the Eucharist with us as a community of faith.

e. Indigenous Leads and Graduation Coach Gathering (J. Weller)

The Indigenous Leads Gathering will return to an in-person event again this year and is scheduled to take place November 16-18, 2022. New this year is the addition of the Indigenous Graduation Coaches to attend the gathering. J. Weller and J. Mowat will attend on behalf of NPSC and look forward to sharing updates.

7. AES Update

a. Niigaan Gdizhaami Project – SJSH (T. Fisher)

- T. Fisher, teacher at SJSH, shared preliminary results of the Niigaan Gdizhaami Project. SJSH submitted an application for the Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund to support an Indigenous Youth Retreat, and was successful in their application.
- The goal of the project is to offer rich hands-on, land-based learning opportunities for the students and staff that are afforded with the opportunity to participate. Also, it is hoped to lead to building a stronger school community where the students will be empowered by this foundational knowledge and understanding of the rich diversity of First Nation, Métis and Inuit histories, cultures, perspectives, and contributions, which is particularly important given our contemporary global context.
- From October 3-6, 2022 SJSH students participated in the Indigenous Youth Retreat where they learned from local Elders and knowledge keepers. They also participated in traditional ceremony and make their own hand drums and shakers. The retreat concluded with a traditional feast and included parents and family members.
- We have been privileged to work with NFN on another Niigaan Gdizhaami project and it has enhanced our partnership and collaborative efforts to support our students and their well-being. These projects also serve to deepen our Indigenous Education Action Plan as we respond to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We look forward to continuing our work in partnership with Nipissing First Nation and sharing the best practices and successful outcomes for our students.
- It continues to be an honour to work together with NFN and we look forward to more of these opportunities in the near future.

8. OCSTA FNAC Update

Nil report.

9. Next Meeting

- a. J. Manitowabi announced to the committee that this will be her last official FNAC meeting as she has made the difficult decision to retire from her position as Indigenous Trustee after 25 years of service. As a result, the next meeting date will be determined at a later date.
- b. P. Mann acknowledged and thanked J. Manitowabi for her service as Chair of FNAC, as a Trustee and her dedication to Indigenous students at NPSC.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.