REPORT OF THE FIRST NATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 21, 2020
3:27 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

MEMBERS

C. Antone, Chair
J. Skinner, Trustee
B. Summers, Oneida Nation of the Thames
C. Kechego, Chippewas of the Thames
O. Correia, Munsee-Delaware Nation

Regrets: J. Bennett, E. Young, M. Fisher,

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

D. Macpherson, Superintendent of Student Achievement
B. Nielsen, FNMI Learning Supervisor
S. McGahey-Albert, FNMI Education Advisor
S. Folino, Research and Assessment (-4:43)
T. Langelaan, Principal, H.B. Beal Secondary School
S. Khan, Principal, Saunders S.S.
J. Patterson, Vice-Principal, Saunders S.S.
B. Milne, Vice-Principal, S.D. C. I
C. Kennedy, Student Trustee
S. Smith, Corporate Services

1. Call to Order

The meeting convened at 3:27 p.m. at Saunders Secondary School.

2. Confirmation of Agenda

The agenda was approved, as amended, on motion.

3. Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

4. Report of the Previous Meeting

The First Nations Advisory Committee Report of the 2019 October 15 meeting was provided for information.

Trustee Antone introduced Trustee Skinner to the members and welcomed him to the committee; she further advised Trustee Bennett has rejoined the committee.

a. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

5. Supervised Alternative Learning - Deferred.

6. Sanders Secondary School Update

D. Macpherson reported an additional Graduation Coach will be hired for Saunders Secondary School. Administration is mid-way through the interview process. D. Macpherson advised additional support staff are being hired through a budget initiative.

7. Program Spotlight (Standing Item)

a. Saunders Secondary School

S. Khan presented a proposal for a new Indigenous STEM Program that will be offered in the second semester. The program will run a full day offering project based learning with

a combination of science, engineering, math and technology. This will offer multiple pathways with flexible options for Indigenous students.

8. Learning Support Services Update

a. Board Action Plan (BAP) Update (Standing Item)

S. McGahey-Albert provided an update on the First Nations Advisory Committee Board Action Plan on Indigenous Education. A handout was provided.

B. Nielsen highlighted the progress made with the Ojibwe Language Program. The Raven Program was described.

b. Cultural Funds

B. Nielsen presented an update on the First Nations Cultural Funds 2019-2020 Budget.

Questions of clarification regarding unspent funds were answered by B. Summers.

9. School Counselling and Social Work Services Update (Standing Item)

None.

10. Principal Updates (Standing Item)

Principals/Vice Principals, attending the meeting, referred to the written reports provided to committee members. Initiatives, events and programming were highlighted.

Questions of clarification regarding second language options available for FNMI students, student absentee phone calls, community instructors, volunteer opportunities and Treaty 21 were addressed.

11. Community Updates (Standing Item)

a. Chippewas of the Thames First Nation

C. Kechego advised she is resigning from committee and this is her last FNAC meeting.

b. Munsee-Delaware Nation

O. Correia reported on the success resulting from the annual roast beef dinner, where teachers and community members gathered to collaborate on ways to improve the school experience and student outcomes.

O. Correia reported K. Mosca is teaching Lunaape at the Language Centre. Munsee-Delaware Nation has received a grant for a teacher to teach a Lunaape language course within TVDSB. O. Correia is collaborating with B. Nielsen and staff at Strathroy District Collegiate Institute, noting the program is in the early stages. K. Mosca has a Provisional certificate to teach Lunaape and will be fully certified to teach in June 2020.

It was noted bullying on the school bus is an on going issue and that students are going to school but not attending class. The Education Committee is hosting a forum on 2020 February 6 within the Community to address the concerns and source solutions.

Questions of clarification regarding a timeline for implementing the Lunape Language Course and inviting Principals to the forum were addressed

c. Oneida Nation of the Thames

B. Summers requested support hosting an education forum to address issues at Oneida Nation of the Thames. Information was provided on a grant received from Indigenous Service Canada to fund a project to help support students transitioning to Secondary school and focus on numeracy by coordinating tutors and offering internet access issues in alternative learning spaces. It was noted there are current contracts with the Oxford Learning Centre and Sylvan Learning Centre as part of the grant and extended the services to all the communities.

B. Summers reported Oneida Nation of the Thames received Jordan's Principle project approval for an early years program in the community for parents and staff.

B. Summers advised that a comprehensive community plan is in progress as a result of a community survey.

B. Summers advised that two classes of grade six student will integrate to TVDSB in 2020 September, noting this is double the usual amount

12. Other Business

C. Kechego provided information on Indigenous resources for families. Discussion considered the potential to develop an Indigenous department, required supports, and the process to advocate for its development.

Questions regarding the completion of Jordan's Principle paperwork were answered by Administration.

Trustee Antone extended her appreciation to C. Kechego for her work and dedication to FNAC.

13. 2019-2020 Meeting Dates

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 (Lambeth).

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. by motion.

7. Program Spotlight (Standing Item)

b. Indigenous Student Trustee Announcements

Student Trustee Kennedy announced the Indigenous Student Trustee Election is on 2020 February 26. It was noted that Indigenous Student Trustee Announcements will be added as a standing agenda item moving forward.

Carol Antone
CHAIRPERSON