

**THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
FIRST NATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

October 16, 2024, 3:02 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.
London Room

MEMBERS

G. McGahey, Chair
M. Larsen, Trustee
L. Pizzolato, Trustee
B. Summers, Oneida Nation of the Thames
O. Correia, Munsee-Delaware

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

L. Westlake, Indigenous Student Trustee

ABSENT

A. George-Antone, Oneida Nation of the Thames
J. Kennedy, Oneida Nation of the Thames
C. Kecheho, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
S. Styers, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation

NON-MEMBERS

B. Mai, Trustee
S. Vimal, Student Trustee

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

K. Wilkinson, Acting Associate Director
K. Auckland, Superintendent
G. Doxtator, System Principal
C. Giannacopolous, Superintendent
M. Keyes, Learning Coordinator for Indigenous Education
S. McGahey-Albert, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Advisor
K. Doxtator, Learning Coordinator, Indigenous Education
N. Kecheho, Secondary Student Advocate
T. Woollings, Principal, H.B. Beal S.S.
J. Hicks, Principal, Lambeth P.S.
B. Nielsen, Principal, Saunders S.S.
M. Sanders, Principal, Strathroy D.C.I.
R. Shave, Principal – TVDSB Adult, Alternative & Continuing Education
K. Lambert, Manager of Professional Services
S. Gingras, Communications
J. Meyer, Board Services
M. Young, Human Rights Equity Advisor
K. Banman, Human Rights Policy Advisor
A. Bervoets, Human Rights Specialist
S. Hickson, Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Chair McGahey called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Round table introductions were completed.

2. Confirmation of Agenda

Without objection, the agenda was approved as printed.

3. Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Without objection, the minutes of the 2024 June 18 meeting were approved as printed.

5. Presentations

a. Human Rights Policy and Procedure

Human Rights Equity Advisor Young and Human Rights Policy Advisor Banman and Human Rights Specialist Bervoets presented the new Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) Human Rights Policy and Procedure for feedback. It was noted feedback can be submitted to the Human Rights Department via email at: hrao@tvdsb.ca

Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding whether a mechanism exists that documents incidents reported by specific groups.

Administration committed to providing a link to the policy to facilitate feedback following the meeting.

Chair McGahey extended appreciation to the presenters.

The meeting stood at ease for the next presenter to join the meeting.

b. Transition to Teams Channel

Chair McGahey introduced Coordinator Hickson who provided a demonstration of the First Nations Advisory Committee Microsoft Teams Channel, noting the purpose of the channel was to create a central repository for FNAC resources, for communication, and for posting meeting material.

Questions of clarification were addressed by the presenter regarding adding members to the channel and availability of meeting materials.

Chair McGahey extended appreciation to the presenter.

6. Principal Updates - Information Only (Standing Item)

Principals and Vice Principals who were in attendance highlighted initiatives, events and programming.

Administration committed to providing written reports following the meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

None.

8. Items Up for Public Input - Information Only (Standing Item)

Chair McGahey noted the Director of Education Performance Appraisal Policy (2031) is currently posted for public input on the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) website. The deadline for input is 2024 October 23.

9. Program Spotlight (Standing Item)

Committee members provided suggestions for future meeting agendas. Feedback was captured by Administration.

10. Indigenous Student Trustee Announcements (Standing Item)

Superintendent Auckland welcomed Indigenous Student Trustee Westlake. Indigenous Student Trustee Westlake indicated there is no report.

11. Learning Support Services Update (Standing Item)

a. Indigenous Education Portfolio Update

Administration provided an Indigenous Education Portfolio update highlighting activities and events. An update on the Grade 11, English: Understanding Contemporary First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Voices NBE course was shared, noting resources and professional development sessions have been created to support staff.

Age-appropriate resources have also been developed to support student learning about the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Staffing updates were provided, and Administration committed to providing the Indigenous Education Portfolio organizational chart to committee members.

Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding a possible presentation on the NBE course to the committee and the potential of an Indigenous programming update from Clarke Road Secondary School.

b. Board Action Plan (BAP) Update

No update was provided.

c. Alternative Education Site Update

Principal Shave provided an Alternative Education Site update noting new Science equipment has been purchased for the Oneida Classroom. Staffing updates were shared.

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

Manager Lambert provided an update on School Counselling and Social Work referrals received from students identifying as First Nations, Métis, and Inuit. An update on summer mental health supports was provided. It was noted staff are involved in student re-engagement activities.

There were no questions of clarification.

13. Jordan's Principle (Standing Item)

Superintendent Auckland provided an update on Jordan's Principle request data noting requests for acknowledgement letters have increased from previous years. As a result of knowledge gained at a recent Jordan's Principle information session, it was noted the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) will be updating its guidelines for Jordan's Principle requests. It was suggested a presentation on Jordan's Principle be provided at a future meeting.

Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding positions and qualifications of Educational Assistants (EAs) funded through Jordan's Principle, application wait times, and the process for families wanting to follow up on the status of their application.

14. Community Updates (Standing Item)

a. Chippewas of the Thames First Nation

None.

b. Munsee-Delaware Nation

Committee Member Correia provided an update noting the three Indigenous communities recently appointed Gina McGahey as the TVDSB First Nations Trustee. It was reported that Superintendent Auckland led a TVDSB delegation to the Munsee-Delaware Nation.

c. Oneida Nation of the Thames

Committee Member Summers provided an update noting upcoming engagement events in the community, staffing changes, and capital planning projects.

It was suggested that community events be forwarded to the Superintendent Auckland's office to be shared out to the Indigenous communities.

15. Other Business

Suggestions for future agenda items were brought forward. Feedback was captured by Administration.

16. Next Meeting Dates

The next meeting will be held 2024 November 19.

17. Adjournment

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Recommendations: None.

Gina McGahey
CHAIRPERSON