

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD FIRST NATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 21, 2025, 3:04 p.m. – 4:42 p.m.

Saunders Secondary School, Library Presentation Room

MEMBERS

G. McGahey, Chair
M. Larsen, Trustee
L. Pizzolato, Trustee
B. Summers, Oneida Nation of the Thames
C. Antone, Oneida Nation of the Thames
O. Correia, Munsee-Delaware
S. Styers, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
R. Smith, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

L. Westlake, Indigenous Student Trustee

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

K. Auckland, Superintendent
T. Vacante, Superintendent
S. Builder, Superintendent (-4:00)
C. Giannacopolous, Superintendent
M. Keyes, Learning Coordinator, Indigenous Education
S. McGahey-Albert, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Advisor (-4:05)
K. Doxtator, Learning Coordinator, Indigenous Education
C. Breen, Principal, Delaware P.S.
J. Staba, 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
S. Gingras, Communications Specialist
J. Meyer, Board Services
E. Park, Student Trustee
C. Camillo, Teacher, Saunders S.S. (-3:30)
K. Overeem, System Principal (+3:10)(-3:40)

1. **Call to Order**

Chair McGahey called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

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 November 19, 2024, meeting were approved as printed.

5. Presentations

a. New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) Update

Superintendent Auckland introduced System Principal Overeem who gave a PowerPoint presentation on the New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP), highlighting program eligibility and components, and the various NTIP learning platforms. It was noted Indigenous courses within the program are mandatory.

Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding registration in the Fall carousel and program funding.

Chair McGahey extended appreciation to the presenter.

6. Terms of Reference Update

Superintendent Auckland introduced Superintendent Vacante who will be assuming responsibility for the Indigenous Education portfolio in the coming months.

Superintendent Auckland provided a progress report on the review of the committee's Terms of Reference (ToR). Once complete, the ToR will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval.

7. First Nations Advisory Committee Work Plan Update

Superintendent Auckland noted the First Nations Advisory Committee (FNAC) workplan is currently under review and will be shared at a future meeting.

8. Program Spotlight (Standing Item)

a. Saunders Secondary School Indigenous Education Classroom Programming

Principal Nielsen introduced C. Camillo, teacher at Saunders Secondary School who presented information on Indigenous history courses as part of the Indigenous programming offered at Saunders Secondary School.

Committee members participated in a photo analysis activity led by C. Camillo which highlighted topics covered in the grade 10, 11 and 12 Indigenous history curriculums.

Questions of clarification were addressed by the presenter and Administration regarding the availability of online courses and options for non-Saunders students to enrol in courses offered at Saunders.

Chair McGahey extended appreciation to the presenter.

9. Principal Updates - Information Only (Standing Item)

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

It was noted principal reports have been uploaded to the FNAC Teams channel.

Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding the number of Indigenous students currently attending Saunders Secondary School and whether Indigenous Graduation Coaches continue to host information nights within the Indigenous communities.

10. Unfinished Business

None.

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

a. Naming of Schools

Chair McGahey noted the public feedback forms regarding the Naming of Schools for the new Belmont Public School, new Lucan Public School, new Southeast London Public School and new West London Public School are currently posted on the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) website. The deadline for input is end of day, January 24, 2025.

Superintendent Auckland noted the 2025-2026 TVDSB School Calendar survey is currently posted for public input on the TVDSB website. The deadline is February 12, 2025.

12. Indigenous Student Trustee Announcements (Standing Item)

Indigenous Student Trustee Westlake provided an update highlighting her work on the Indigenous Relations working group from the Student Advisory Council.

13. Learning Support Services Update (Standing Item)

a. Indigenous Education Portfolio Update

Administration provided an Indigenous Education Portfolio update highlighting events and activities. It was noted the full report will be available in the FNAC Teams channel.

b. Board Action Plan (BAP) Update

Superintendent Auckland provided a Board Action Plan update noting a working group has been formed to discuss current and future initiatives for Indigenous students. A report will be brought to a future FNAC meeting.

c. Alternative Education Site Update

Principal Shave provided an Alternative Education Site update noting referrals continue to be received for the Oneida site. Field trips are being planned, and staffing updates were provided.

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

None.

15. Jordan's Principle (Standing Item)

Superintendent Auckland provided an update on Jordan's Principle requests for acknowledgement letters.

It was noted the current Jordan's Principle guidelines are being reviewed. Updates will be brought to a future meeting for feedback.

Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding support provided by Educational Assistants.

16. Community Updates (Standing Item)

a. Chippewas of the Thames First Nation

Committee member Styers provided an update highlighting activities including a karate program, Kids Kicking Cancer, and a movie event. It was noted a framework is being developed to support non-Indigenous teachers in providing Indigenous education.

b. Munsee-Delaware Nation

Committee member Correia provided an update noting elementary students were provided breakfast during the most recent school Professional Activity (PA) Day.

Without objection, the meeting was extended until 4:45 p.m.

c. Oneida Nation of the Thames

Committee member Summers provided an update highlighting various community programs and staffing.

17. Other Business

Superintendent Auckland and Chair McGahey extended appreciation to Principal Nielsen for hosting the meeting.

18. Next Meeting Dates

The next meeting will be held February 19, 2025. Location to be determined.

19. Adjournment

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Recommendations: None.

Gina McGahey
CHAIRPERSON

Recording Secretary: JM