

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 30, 2024

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Members:
<p>K. Maracle B. Godkin</p>	<p>Present:</p> <p>Mandy Smart (LDSB Cultural Advisor) Crystal Loft (LDSB Cultural Advisor) Deb St. Amant (Queen’s University & Grandmother’s Council) Jonnathan Marconi (Highland Waters Métis Council) Cristina Warner (HomeBase Housing) Taylor Day (Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre) Jessi DiRocco (LDSB – Elementary Indigenous Reengagement Teacher) Liv Rondeau (LDSB – Vice Principal of Indigenous Education) Tasha Wallace (Parent/Caregiver Representative) Deb St. Amant (LDSB Cultural Advisor) Alice Johnston (LDSB – Elementary Indigenous Reengagement Teacher) Taylor Tye (KNCLN – River Program) Constance Carrierre-Prill (Kingston Native Centre and Languages Nest) Christina Michie (LDSB – Secondary Indigenous Reengagement Teacher) Garnet Armand Ruffo (Parent/Caregiver Representative) Shannon Tyner (LDSB – Principal – Ernestown Secondary School) Scot Gillam (LDSB – Superintendent) Christina Michie (LDSB – Secondary Indigenous Reengagement Teacher) Zackary-Georges Gagne Liz Coates (Kingston Frontenac Public Library)</p>

Regrets:

Lindsay Rogers (Highland Waters Métis Council)
Sandy Maracle (Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte)
Pat Brinklow (Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte)
Lindsay Morcom (Queen's & Ardoch First Nation)
Kristen Lemay (Kingston Public Library)
Danka Brewer (Shabot Obaadjiwan Omaamiwininii Community)
Alison Billings (Parent/Caregiver Representative)
Lorrie Larock (HomeBase Housing)
Jayme Blondin (Sexual Assault Centre – Kingston)
Kristen Lemay (Kingston Frontenac Public Library)
Kaycie Brant (Parent/Caregiver Representative)
Mel Urquhart (Parent/Caregiver Representative)
Mary-Jane Vincent (LDSB – Indigenous Support Worker)
Nathan Cheechoo (Parent/Caregiver Representative)
Linda Cory (Kagita Mikam)
Lindsay Rogers (Highlands Water Métis Council)
Martha Duncan (LDSB – Elementary Principal)
Lauren Smart (ITEP – Queen's University)
Bond Strand (LDSB – Elementary Teacher – Bridge Program)
Martina Kataquapit (Parent/Caregiver Representative)
Romaine Mitchell (Ministry of Ontario)
Emily Eckloff (Indigenous Student Trustee)
Michelle Nyamekye (LDSB – River Teacher)
Mary-Ann Lyons (St. Lawrence College)
Willow Prue (LDSB – Indigenous Student Support Counselor)

Limestone District School Board

Limestone District School Board is situated on traditional territories of the Anishinaabe & Haudenosaunee.

SEE YOURSELF IN LIMESTONE

1. WELCOME

Deb St. Amant opened meeting.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made around the circle.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOVED BY: Deb St. Amant that the agenda be approved. Carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1. IEC Minutes – September 26, 2023

MOVED BY: Deb St. Amant that the September 26, 2023, SEAC Minutes be approved. Carried.

4.2. IEC Minutes – November 30, 2023

MOVED BY: Deb St. Amant that the November 30, 2023, SEAC Minutes be approved. Carried.

5. TEAM UPDATES

Vice Principal Liv Rondeau shared a PowerPoint with updates from the Indigenous Team. Updates included information on the following topics:

- Lake Ontario Days with Christina Michie, Mandy Wilson, Mandy Smart, and Crystal Loft.
- Allyship Café – monthly meetings for non-Indigenous educators to learn about Indigenous Education.
- We are All Learning Together – Indigenous Education Course monthly meetings to learn about Indigenous-informed pedagogies.
- NAC 10 PD – the LDSB Indigenous Team met with NAC 10 art teachers to support learning of Indigenous art and artists. Authors Gail Brant-Terry and Dianne Sedore supported the learning.
- Language Leads PD included Indigenous pedagogies and how to use Indigenous resources to support holistic teaching methods.
- The annual hide scraping and preparation day was held in partnership with the Kingston Native Centre and Languages Nest – lots of student and community participation.
- Indigenous Student Leadership Circle has been busy and is steadily growing.
- Métis Workshops with Alyssa Delbaere Sawchuck at several LDSB schools.

6. BOARD ACTION PLAN

Superintendent Gillam shared the information gathered from IEC Members at the November IEC Meeting. The information was sorted, and ideas were put under headings that align with the work being completed in the system by the Indigenous Education Team. Please see the information gathered below:

Community Member Supports

- Community liaison for all people to access.
- More mental health supports.
- Helping Indigenous families apply for status cards or Métis cards while their children are young.
- One Roof offers Indigenous programming every Thursday from 5-7 pm.
- Bring in more Indigenous youth ages 12-24 from the schools.

Family Support and Engagement

- School-based feasts for Indigenous students and families.
- Teaching parents how to support children at home.
- Bring back Indigenous Family Nights.
- Plan activities for Indigenous families to learn together and other Indigenous families.
- Full day social with parents/caregivers and community members invited.
- Glaude Report Educators.

Land-Base Initiatives

- Gould Lake on the Land Learning for all students.
- Wildlife conservation and assisting species at risk through land-based learning.
- Encourage classes to go outside – model things they can do in their own spaces.
- Hold tree planting events.
- Create shoreline clean-up events with the youth.
- Kayak/canoe tours of local water and ecosystems.
- Summer camping with Elders and teachers.
- Week-long culture camp.
- Community gardens supporting class visits and working groups.

Teacher Professional Development

- Two Spirit/Gender Diverse education and deeper understanding.
- Indigenous programs support for teachers.
- Anti-racism workshops.
- Culture days to fill Indigenous teachers' cups.
- Indigenous PD for all subject areas and grade levels.
- Indigenous PD for teachers who are teaching N courses.
- Indigenous cultural diversity teachings.
- Continue sending monthly teacher ideas to staff to keep learning ongoing.

Student Voice

- Indigenous Leadership and Indigenous Student Council.
- Advocacy groups for secondary students.
- Events where Indigenous students meet others from within the area, and a day of Indigenous activities at a local park--Gould Lake or Elbow Lake
- Anonymous online drop box or Padlet.
- More elementary “get together” opportunities to link kids from different schools.

Summer Programming

- Trips to powwows.
- Summer day camps to offer more spaces, expanded programs.
- Language camp.
- Creative song, writing, storytelling workshops.
- Partnering with Turtles Kingston to help protect the turtles.
- Expand summer camp – days, different grades, etc.
- Culture camp.
- Canoe build and student portage trip.
- Workshops learning traditional skills (breeding/hide work).

Alternative Education

- Land-based learning (hunting, cooking, ceremony, foraging).
- More land-based learning and have alternative classrooms for Intermediate Grades.
- On the land overnight camps.

Integrating Indigenous Knowledge into the Curriculum

- Gardens with medicines and foods that students care for and learn from.
- Hunting, fishing, survival for a GLE credit.
- Indigenous ways of knowing in all grades, in all subjects.
- Indigenous language programming.
- Tipi, Wigwam, longhouse construction.
- Indigenous music classes, singing, instruments.
- Indigenous art classes, Indigenous inspired crafts (painting).

Language programming

- Holiday plays and skits in Mohawk/Nish/Michif.
- Take home resources for elementary and secondary families to learn language.
- Continue offering language programming.
- More language visible in schools – posters, materials.
- Learning language on the land.
- Offer Mohawk and Ojibwe classes as a subject with credits.
- Offer Indigenous language as a second language for elementary and secondary students.

Student Leadership Initiatives

- Choices at 7 for Indigenous students.
- Encouraging Indigenous students to train with Elders to lead cultural activities.
- Hunting camp, field trips, traditional cooking.
- Provide opportunities for Indigenous students to see themselves in leadership roles, mentoring, shadowing, etc.

Superintendent Gillam reviewed the process for the Indigenous Education Board Action Plan (BAP). He reviewed the new priorities for the use of funds and discussed the timelines. The BAP is due later in February 2024, but with technical difficulties, it is unlikely to be completed in its final version until after the March 19, 2024, IEC Meeting.

New this year is the requirement that two IEC members, who are not Board staff, also sign off on the plan. The plan will be shared with IEC prior to submission and the approval of two IEC members. The priorities discussed by Superintendent Gillam included the following:

- Student Achievement and Preparing Students for the Future.
- Indigenous Language Revitalization.
- Land-Based Learning.
- Engagement and Collaboration with local Indigenous partners, communities, and organizations.
- Culturally responsive, well-being supports.

7. PROTOCOLS FOR SHARING

Superintendent Gillam shared that IEC Members will be receiving protocols to review prior to the next IEC Meeting in March. The protocols will be emailed later in February 2024, for IEC Members to review and provide feedback prior to the posting of the IEC Agenda and Minutes on March 12, 2024. At this time, the feedback will be shared and final decisions on the protocols will be finalized. The protocols that will be shared are as follows:

- Indigenous Education Tobacco Protocol 2023-24
- Smudging Ceremonies 2023-24
- Indigenous Community Member Protocol 2023-24
- Indigenous Education Referral Form 2023-24

8. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Superintendent Gillam shared that the Terms of Reference (TOR) annual review is slated for the March 19, 2024, IEC Meeting. A copy of the TOR will be provided to IEC members so that any suggested changes can be brought to the March 19th meeting for possible edits or amendments. IEC members can provide feedback at anytime to the Indigenous team or Superintendent Gillam.

9. MEMBER UPDATES

Several members of IEC provided community and organizational updates. Updates will be posted in the Minutes as provided to the Indigenous team prior to, and after IEC meetings.

10. REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent Gillam reviewed correspondence that was forwarded from the Chair of the Board. The correspondence was responded to by members of the Parent/Caregiver selection process along with Jonathan Marconi. Superintendent Gillam also provided a summary of the proceedings since the September 2023 IEC meeting with respect to the current membership contingent.

11. CLOSING

Deb St. Amant closed meeting.