

Indigenous Education Committee

Location: LDSB Education Centre – Boardroom – 220 Portsmouth Ave, Kingston, ON

Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2024

Time: 11:30 AM - Meal, 12:00 NOON – 2:00 PM, Meeting

Agenda

- I. 11:30 am – Commitment Strings – Mandy and Crystal – and Meal**
- II. 12:00 pm - Opening – Deb St. Amant**
- III. Introductions**
- IV. Agenda Confirmation**
- V. Approval of September and November IEC Minutes (Pages 2-12)**
- VI. Team Updates – Scot, Liv, and Team**
- VII. Board Action Plan (BAP) – Update and Member input shared**
- VIII. Protocols for Sharing**
- IX. Terms of Reference – Updates/Adjustments?**
- X. Review of Correspondence**
- XI. Closing - Deb St. Amant**



INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 26, 2023

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Members:
K. Maracle B. Godkin	Present: Mandy Smart (LDSB Cultural Advisor) Crystal Loft (LDSB Cultural Advisor) Candace Lloyd Deb St. Amant (Queen's University & Grandmother's Council) Jennifer Kehoe (Parent Rep) Romaine Mitchell (Ministry of Ontario) Jonnathan Marconi (Highland Waters Métis Council) 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)
	Staff:
	Present: O. Rondeau, Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education and Reconciliation Lead S. Tyner, Principal, Ernestown Secondary S. Gillam, Superintendent, C. Michie, Indigenous Secondary Teacher
Guests:	Recorder:
None at this time.	J. Senior, Administrative Assistant

1. WELCOME

Deb St. Amant opened meeting the meeting in a good way.

2. COMMITMENT STRING

Crystal Loft and Mandy Smart provided the teachings on Commitment Strings. All IEC members in attendance completed their own personal commitment string. A sign to all walk together in a good way for the Indigenous students and their families.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOVED BY: Mandy Smart that the agenda be approved. Carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were taken at the Strategic Planning session with Director Burra.

5. TEAM UPDATES

Superintendent Scot Gillam presented the following team updates:

Summer Programming

From July 31st to August 4th the Indigenous Education Team ran a land-based summer camp for self-identified Indigenous students. We had 25 students register to attend the camp and each day they travelled to a different location including Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area, Elbow Lake Conservation Area, Belle Island Park, The City Park Indigenous Food Sovereignty Garden, and Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory. Each day focused on a different element of building a relationship with Mother Earth including plant relatives, water, trees, animals, and more. We were joined by a local Grandmother, Deb St. Amant each day to support with cultural teachings and learning as well as a variety of Indigenous community members from different nations throughout the week. The camp was overall very successful, and we look forward to running it again this summer, hopefully extending the weeks offered.

Language Instruction

Tahnee Bennett will continue to provide instruction in Kanyen'kéha starting in October. Danka Brewer is supporting Algonquin instruction weekly at GREC and will expand out to Sydenham High School and potentially other SHS family of schools. Unfortunately, Kim Debassige, our most recent Anishinaabemowin Language Instructor left us in mid-August for a wonderful opportunity for her and her family. We have been trying to locate another instructor(s) and will hopefully have a solution soon. In the meantime, we will be working with the Kingston Native Centre and Languages Nest on a variety of strategies and opportunities to expand Indigenous languages across the LDSB. We are always actively recruiting Indigenous language teachers, but it is extremely difficult to find them. We will continue to adjust our strategies and work with local partners to meet needs as best as we can.

River Program

This year, we are no longer operating through the Métis Nation of Ontario. Instead, River is now being served through the (OFIFC) Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centre's Alternative Secondary School Program, run by the Kingston Native Centre and Language Nest. This partnership brings with it a fresh perspective and new resources, which we are positive will enrich the program.

About KNCLN - the Kingston Native Centre and Language Nest

The Kingston Native Centre and Language Nest (KNCLN) is a local Friendship Centre under the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC). Before becoming a Friendship Centre earlier this year, the organization was the Kingston Indigenous Language Nest (KILN).

There is a new River Coordinator, Taylor Tye, who is supporting the program. We are very excited about this new partnership and will provide classroom updates to IEC regularly.

Bridge

The goal this year is to expand the Bridge program to support students in Grades 7 and 8. We are currently working with KLC administration on securing a location. We anticipate that this program will be able to be operational in early 2024. The current Bridge program is up and running and is doing great. Future updates for IEC will include classroom activities and opportunities.

Indigenous Coaching Position

LDSB has added an Indigenous Coaching Position to support literacy and numeracy instruction practices with LDSB teachers using an Indigenous Education perspective. This individual will also support the other coaches in supporting both their practice and the practice of the teachers they are supporting in using Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and doing to support both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. Interviews were conducted earlier this week, and we anticipate announcing this later this week.

Professional Development

Right now, we are planning at least 4 sessions of Professional development workshops for teachers and staff across the board. In collaboration with multiple program team members, we are currently in the process of providing specific PD days with the following:

- NAC 10 teachers, which focuses on how to teach and learn about Indigenous Art and Artists in a good way
- Literacy coaches
- Experiential Ed. Educators
- Core French Teachers
- New Teacher Induction Program
- TRC Leads

Skátne Yonkwateweyénhstha (We are all learning together) - Indigenous Education Course

This course is open to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous staff and educators from across K-12. This is an opportunity to explore topics within Indigenous education, such as:

- Terminology that is accepted today
- Understanding the 4 R's (Respect, Relevance, Reciprocity, Responsibility)
- Understanding Positionality and Our Roles in Indigenous Education
- Exploring Art and Culture as a Form of Literacy, while addressing cultural appropriation.
- Vetting Resources and Taking a Culturally Sustainable Approach to Indigenous Education
- Treaty Education – Understanding Our Roles as Treaty People
- The Land as First Teacher – Understanding our Responsibilities to All Our Relations
- Past and Present Manifestations of Colonialism
- Decoloniality

Allyship Café

This course is dedicated to those who are committed to learning about meaningful allyship and what it looks like in action. We are dedicated to creating a safe space where individuals can ask questions or express concerns they have related to Indigenous education. We hope to help non-Indigenous educators feel prepared to support Indigenous education in their schools. We will explore topics such as:

- Holistic teaching and nourishing the learning spirit through teaching and learning.
- Acknowledging and moving past mistakes in a good way.
- Understanding how to bring community members into your classroom in a good way.
- Relationship building with community.
- Understanding the difference between decolonization and Indigenization.
- Decolonizing STEM

Curriculum Changes in Depth

There have been multiple changes to curriculum with the last few months that specifically discuss Indigenous peoples and Indigenous education. We are gathering these changes and recommending explicit activities that teachers can do with their students, in response to these changes.

Lake Ontario Park Days

This is a continued project from the last few years, where we invite teachers and classes to come to Lake Ontario Park to learn from Community Members and Land. Topics for these days usually include interconnectedness, All Our Relations, Living in Right Relations, and students also get to experience Indigenous games and dances. The next Lake Ontario Park days are happening at the end of October.

Truth and Reconciliation Activities and Supports

The system was supported by resources and online opportunities, sent out to the system earlier in September.

Terms of Reference – IEC

Section 6.0 – Facilitator and Co-Facilitator

For the 2023/24 term, Scot Gillam will be the Facilitator of IEC and Kelly Maracle, LDSB Indigenous Trustee will be the Co-Facilitator.

Section 5.0 Term

According to the Terms of Reference, the length of a term for the Indigenous Education Committee is from September to June of any given school year. Members are required to establish their continued interest in maintaining a seat with the Indigenous Education Committee each June for September of the upcoming school year. IEC members will re-evaluate membership annually. As this was not completed last year, Superintendent Gillam outlined a process so that Indigenous Community members, community organizations and parents/caregivers could establish their commitments to IEC for this upcoming year. Once established, the IEC could look at establishing numbers and maybe a longer term to provide for consistency on IEC and lessen the need for expressions of interest to every other year, or every three years. This will be determined by IEC prior to June 2024.

Indigenous Community representatives expressing their interest to remain on IEC will provide an explanation of why they want to be on IEC and provide supporting documentation from their community.

Community organizations will provide confirmation of the individual nominated, an expression of interest and supporting documentation from the organization lead. Parents/caregivers will provide expressions of interest and their commitment to IEC. All parents/caregivers are still welcome to attend but won't be officially part of the Committee. The timelines discussed were to have Indigenous community members and community organizations completed during the month of October and parents/caregivers completed in early November.

6. FLAG PROTOCOL, BRIDGE EXPANSION, COMMUNICATION

6.1 Flag Protocol

Jennifer Kehoe discussed having an official ceremony for the raising and taking down of the Every Child Matters and Survivors Flags. Several community members discussed treating the flag with respect but not ceremony. Superintendent Gillam and Vice Principal Rondeau to send out reminders to schools to treat the flags with respect at all times.

6.2 Bridge Expansion

Jennifer Kehoe discussed the need for the Bridge Program to expand so that it also includes Grade 7 and 8. Superintendent Gillam provided an update that this is the goal for February of 2024 and may also include Grade 6 students.

6.3 Communication

Jennifer Kehoe discussed her concerns of not being able to communicate with other IEC members due to the use of "bcc". Superintendent Gillam discussed security issues with not using the "bcc" and committed to ensuring that communication will be open and transparent despite having to use "bcc."

Limestone District School Board

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

SEE YOURSELF IN LIMESTONE

7. CLOSING

Deb St. Amant closed the meeting in a good way.



INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 30, 2023

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Members:
K. Maracle B. Godkin	Present: Mandy Smart (LDSB Cultural Advisor) Crystal Loft (LDSB Cultural Advisor) Deb St. Amant (Queen's University & Grandmother's Council) Lindsay Rogers (Highland Waters Métis Council) Sandy Maracle (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 (Youth Diversion) Mary-Jane Vincent (LDSB – Indigenous Support Worker) Nathan Cheechoo (Parent/Caregiver Representative) Cristina Warner (HomeBase Housing) Linda Cory (Kagita Mikam) Taylor Day (Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre) Lindsay Rogers (Highlands Water Métis Council) Jessi DiRocco (LDSB – Elementary Indigenous Reengagement Teacher) Liv Rondeau (LDSB – Vice Principal of Indigenous Education) Martha Duncan (LDSB – Elementary Principal) Lauren Smart (ITEP – Queen's University) Tasha Wallace (Parent/Caregiver Representative) Deb St. Amant (LDSB Cultural Advisor) Alice Johnston (LDSB – Elementary Indigenous Reengagement Teacher) Bond Strand (LDSB – Elementary Teacher – Bridge Program) Martina Kataquapit (Parent/Caregiver Representative) Taylor Tye (KNCLN – River Program)

Regrets:

Constance Carrierre-Prill (Kingston Native Centre and Languages Nest)

Romaine Mitchell (Ministry of Ontario)

Pat Brinklow (Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte)

Emily Eckloff (Indigenous Student Trustee)

Michelle Nyamekye (LDSB – River Teacher)

Shannon Tyner (LDSB – Principal – Ernestown Secondary School Mary-

Ann Lyons (St. Lawrence College)

Willow Prue (LDSB – Indigenous Student Support Counselor)

Scot Gillam (LDSB – Superintendent)

Christina Michie (LDSB–Secondary Indigenous Reengagement Teacher)

Garnet Armand Ruffo (Parent/Caregiver Representative)

Jonnathan Marconi (Highland Waters Métis Council)

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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: Mandy Smart that the agenda be approved. Carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 26, 2023, IEC Minutes had the following changes needed to make before approval:

Add the following attendee:

Danka Brewer (Shabot Obaadjiwan Omaamiwininii Community)

5. TEAM UPDATES

Vice Principal Olivia Rondeau and Trustee Kelly Maracle gave the following team updates:

September

- We created a twitter page and newsletter to provide more transparency to Indigenous caregivers, students, and community members around the initiatives and supports that are happening across the district and broader community.
- We hosted an Orange Shirt Day contest in collaboration with the Kingston Native Centre and Language Nest where Indigenous students were invited to design an orange shirt. The goal of this initiative was to empower youth and provide an opportunity for community members to support youth art and wear something that honours both Orange Shirt Day and will contribute to the Native Centre's newly established intergenerational strength and resiliency program which supports residential school survivors and their families as well as the Indigenous youth program.

October

- Started two new initiatives - Allyship Café and the Indigenous Education course.
- Hosted schools at the Faculty of Education where students learned about all our relations and interconnectedness from Haudenosaunee and Anishinabek community members.
- We started a collaboration with Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre to encourage further support for post-secondary pathways. We hope to collaborate with St. Lawrence College, as well to support multiple pathways.

November

- Hosted professional development for Literacy Leads, Art Teachers, Core-French Teachers, and new teachers to the board.
- Started the Indigenous Student Leadership Circle for students in Grades 9-12. As an extension of this we will be continuing to support the Knowledge Sharing Program which contributes to mentorship opportunities between secondary students who self-identify as Indigenous.
- We are hosting a weeklong hide camp at the Katarokwi Learning Centre.
- We are working towards organizing a week-long visit with a Métis community who will provide workshops in eight schools. This is a continuation from last year when she visited five schools.
- On Monday, December 2, 2023, we are hosting an event with a 2S Elder who will be sharing their knowledge and teachings with students who have registered in K-12.
- In the New Year we have Marsha Ireland from Oneida Nation of the Thames coming to share her knowledge about sign-language and their efforts to create opportunities to learn Oneida language through sign-language. We look forward to inviting members of the deaf community and Indigenous students, caregivers, and community members to participate in this great learning experience.

We continue to support referrals that come into the team. Currently, we have received over 100 referrals to date that contribute to language programming, visits from Indigenous community members, and student support initiatives across the district.

6. BOARD ACTION PLAN

Vice Principal Liv Rondeau explained the process for gathering IEC input on the Board Action Plan (BAP), a Ministry mandated document that is due in February of 2024. This process has been in

place for the last several years. Liv reviewed potential categories and IEC Members were encouraged to place their thoughts and ideas under the categories which included:

- Community Member Supports
- Family Support and Engagement
- Land-based Initiatives
- Teacher Professional Development
- Resource Development
- Student Voice
- Summer Programming
- Alternative Education
- Integrating Indigenous Knowledge into Curriculum
- Language Programming
- Student Leadership Initiatives

A BAP update will be provided at the January 30, 2024, IEC Meeting.

7. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Deferred to next meeting.

8. CLOSING

Deb St. Amant closed meeting.