

Indigenous Education Committee (IEC) Meeting Minutes

March 26, 2026

Public Meeting

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Members:
<p>J. Maracle G. Elliott</p>	<p>Present: Crystal Loft (Mohawk Traditional Knowledge Keepers from Tyendinaga) Mandy Smart (Mohawk Traditional Knowledge Keepers from Tyendinaga) Alison Billings (Parent/Caregiver Representative) Rena Petrick (Parent/Caregiver Representative) Liz Coates (Kingston Frontenac Public Library) Scot Gillam (LDSB – Superintendent) Tasha Wallace (Parent/Caregiver Representative) Martha Duncan (LDSB – Elementary Principal – Fairfield Elementary School) Michelle Nyamekye (LDSB – River Teacher) Taylor Arndt (KNCLN – River Program) Lindsay Morcom (Queen’s & Ardoch First Nation) Tyler Brinklow (FNMI Consultant and Grad Coach) Jessi DiRocco (LDSB – Elementary Indigenous Reengagement Teacher) Liv Rondeau (LDSB – Vice Principal of Indigenous Education) Amber Bryant-Peller (City of Kingston) Laura Callow (Providence Care)</p>

Trustees:	Members:
R. Hutcheon	<p>Regrets:</p> <p>Rachel Kolosov (LDSB Indigenous Student Trustee) Bond Strand (LDSB – Elementary Teacher – Bridge Program) Brandon Maracle (Kingston Native Centre and Languages Nest) Cristina Warner (HomeBase Housing) Jayme Blondin (Sexual Assault Centre – Kingston) Kristen Lemay (Kingston Frontenac Public Library) Mary-Jane Vincent (LDSB – Indigenous Support Worker) Willow Prue (LDSB – Indigenous Student Support Counselor) Sandy Maracle (Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte) Patty Brinklow (Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte) Lorrie Larock (Youth Wellness Hubs of Ontario – One Roof) Lindsay Rogers (Highland Waters Métis Council) Géorgie Gagné Mel Urquhart (Youth Diversion) Shannon Tyner (LDSB – Secondary Principal – Ernestown Secondary School) Danka Brewer (Shabot Obaadjiwan Omaamiiwininii Community) Gillianne Mundell (Elementary Land Based Indigenous Education Teacher) Kaycie Brant (Parent/Caregiver Representative) Deb St. Amant (Queen’s University & Grandmother’s Council, LDSB Cultural Advisor)</p>

1. WELCOME

Crystal Loft and Mandy Smart (Mohawk Traditional Knowledge Keepers from Tyendinaga) opened the meeting. Members who had not completed their commitment string were able to do so from 5:30-6 pm with Crystal and Mandy.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made around the circle.

Limestone District School Board

Limestone District School Board is situated on traditional territories of the Anishinaabek and Haudenosaunee.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOVED BY: Consensus of IEC that the March 26, 2026, agenda be approved. Carried.

4. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 10, 2026, IEC MINUTES

MOVED BY: Consensus of IEC that the Minutes from February 10, 2026, be approved. Carried.

5. TEAM UPDATES

Vice Principal Rondeau shared the following updates:

- Chad Solomon, a puppeteer from Henvey Inlet First Nation, visited six schools recently.
- Monique Gray Smith delivered a community lecture (approximately 100 attendees), and 100 students participated in a workshop with her.
- Professional development sessions were led for history teachers with Marie Wilson and Stephen Kakfwi.
- A third professional development session for TRC Leads was held, focusing on land acknowledgements, land-based learning, and art, alongside Dianne Sedore McCoy and Gail Brant Terry.
- The Indigenous Student Leadership Circle, along with Indigenous students across the Board, participated in the 2026–2027 Indigenous Student Trustee election.
- Secondary Indigenous students travelled to Montreal to visit the extraordinary *Kent Monkman: History Is Painted by the Victors* at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.
- Tyler Brinklow shared information on rabbit harvesting and cooking at KSS, along with ongoing college and university collaboration supporting Indigenous students in Grades 9–12.

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE APPENDICES – CODE OF CONDUCT

- The draft Code of Conduct was further discussed in circle. Minor edits (e.g., spelling) were identified, and discussion focused on the section regarding repeated or egregious breaches of the Code. It was confirmed that any recommendations in this section should reflect the voice of the circle, rather than the Co-Facilitators. One bullet was also significantly revised to read “undertake counselling,” without additional direction.
- Updates to this section, along with the final version of the Code of Conduct, will be shared prior to the May meeting for final circle approval.
- Follow-up discussion occurred regarding Terms of Reference Item 4.0 – Meetings. The two caregiver representatives were contacted and expressed appreciation for participating in the circle; however, they are unable to continue. The group discussed the resulting vacancies, reviewed options to fill them, and reached consensus to revisit previous expressions of interest,

Limestone District School Board

Limestone District School Board is situated on traditional territories of the Anishinaabek and Haudenosaunee.

rank remaining candidates, and select new members for September, ensuring a transparent and inclusive process. This process will take place at the May 2026 meeting. LDSB staff did not participate in this decision.

7. BAP 2025-2026 and Budget 2026-2027

- Vice Principal Rondeau provided an update on the BAP meeting with James Groat, the Ministry Lead for Indigenous Education. Liv reported that James recognized many of our initiatives as innovative and truly deepening an understanding and embedding of Indigenous Education.
- Superintendent Scot Gillam and Vice Principal Rondeau discussed the anticipated surplus in Indigenous education funding, the cautious approach to spending, and the expansion of professional development, particularly for Truth and Reconciliation Teacher leads, with plans to present detailed budget breakdowns in May and September.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

- Liz Coates (Kingston Frontenac Public Library) announced the opening of the Isabel Turner Branch in June, featuring a new art installation and outreach to students from Alderville First Nation, including providing library cards and organizing visits.
- Laura Callow (Providence Care) shared plans for Pride events and Two-Spirit awareness initiatives, including partnerships with the Friendship Centre, and encouraged the use of personalized land acknowledgements following training.
- Michelle Nyamekye and Taylor Arndt (River Program) reported that River students are participating in dual credit courses, placements, and skilled trades competitions, including one student's acceptance to St. Lawrence College.
- Lindsay Morcom (Queen's University and Ardoch First Nation) announced the World Indigenous Studies and Education Master's program at Queen's, inviting applications and contributions to a publication reflecting on ten years since the TRC report.
- Alison Billings (Parent/Caregiver Representative) shared that the MNO is supporting a workshop with Shelley Moore on The Evolution of Inclusion on May 14, 2026. The link will be re-circulated.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

- Tuesday, May 26, 2026

10. CLOSING

Crystal Loft and Mandy Smart (Mohawk Traditional Knowledge Keepers from Tyendinaga) closed the meeting.

Limestone District School Board

Limestone District School Board is situated on traditional territories of the Anishinaabek and Haudenosaunee.