



REPORT

***First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education
Advisory Committee***

- *Minutes of the First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Advisory Committee meeting October 17, 2016.*



**First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Advisory Committee Minutes
Education Centre
October 17, 2016 – 12:15 p.m.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Tracy Jensen, United Native Friendship Centre; Heather Campbell, Director of Education; Dorothy Friday, Gizhewaadiziwin Health Access Centre; Brent Tookenay, Seven Generations; Dan Bird, Vice-Principal, Fort Frances High School; Angela Mainville, Indigenous Education Leader; Bob Kowal, Indigenous Education Leader; Dianne McCormack, Chair (teleconference); Sarah Vandermeer, Student Representative-FFHS

STAFF PRESENT: Nancy Taggart, Recording Secretary

REGRETS: Wanda Botsford, Métis Nation of Ontario; Will Windigo, Trustee; Shawnte Anderson, Student Representative-AHS

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair Tracy Jensen at 12:16 p.m.

2. Approval of agenda

A motion to approve the agenda as circulated was moved by Bob Kowal and seconded by Dan Bird.

3. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

There was no conflict of interest disclosed.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of September 12, 2016 FNMI Education Advisory Committee meeting were amended to include Donna Kowalski in the members present. A motion was made by Bob Kowal and seconded by Dan Bird to approve the minutes as amended.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

a) Next Steps for First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Plan for 2016-17

The Indigenous Education Leaders provided the Committee with a summary of their report on the First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Plan for 2016-17. The following items were highlighted:

- Self-identification, of both students and staff, will continue to be a focus this year. The Connections videos will be used in presentations to promote self-identification.
- The development of a localized curriculum within Social Studies/History curricula will be



ongoing.

- The book *Stolen Lives: The Indigenous Peoples of Canada and The Indian Residential Schools* is proving to be a valuable resource.
- It is hoped that Cultural Competency sessions can be continued.
- Math for Young Children will continue at Robert Moore School and Donald Young School this year.
- Native Language PLCs will be held. The first one was last week.

It was noted that there is a need for the Native Language course to be offered to students in the program at UNFC. The Indigenous Education Leaders will research the possibility of this being done through elearning.

6. New Business

- a) Procedure 8.26 Elders, Senators, Knowledge Keepers Honoraria

The Committee reviewed the proposed changes in Item 2.1 regarding the amount of honoraria for an opening or closing prayer, as well as an hourly honoraria for a half day. Discussion took place and a recommendation was made to approve the changes and refer the procedure to the Policy Committee so that it may be converted to a policy.

- b) Contact List of Elders, Senators and Knowledge Keepers

The Committee had a short discussion about the contact list and Angela Mainville asked that Committee members forward her any names to add and she would update the list before it is distributed to educators.

7. Correspondence

- a) Stakeholder Input on Board Policy Memo

Policies that are currently out for stakeholder input were shared with Committee members and they were asked to relay any feedback regarding these policies to Sandra Ward, Executive Assistant to the Director, at sandra.ward@mail.rrdsb.com, by Monday, October 24, 2016. All feedback will be brought to the attention of the Policy Committee.

- b) Fall 2016 Newsletter

The Committee received the Fall 2016 Newsletter. The newsletter is at the printer and will be distributed in the near future. It has been posted on the website.

- c) Letter from Bluewater DSB to The Honourable Mitzi Hunter, Minister of Education
Discussion took place regarding the letter which is requesting that the Ministry of Education



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expedite and report on the progress that is being made to update relevant school curricula to include the true history of the colonization of Canada's Indigenous Peoples, and the legacy of residential schools.

A motion was made by Dorothy Friday and seconded by Angela Mainville to write a letter of support for the Bluewater DSB and include reference to the Indigenous veterans that have been forgotten in respect to land and benefits. A draft letter will be provided at the next meeting.

8. Future Meeting Dates

Future meeting dates will be at 12:15 p.m. on the following dates:

- Monday, November 7, 2016
- Monday, December 12, 2016
- Monday, February 13, 2017
- Monday, March 6, 2017
- Monday, April 10, 2017
- Monday, May 8, 2017
- Monday, June 12, 2017

9. The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Gaa-izhi-gikendamaan noongom

What I've learned today – First Nation, Métis and Inuit education highlights for fall 2016

PROJECT SUNSET

Project Sunset is an innovative program designed to help build the self-efficacy, and resilience of participants, giving them the confidence, and the tools needed to succeed.

Project Sunset is providing a youth development curriculum based on experiential learning. The aim is to prevent substance misuse and related problems through classroom based problem solving activities, outdoor experiential activities, adventure camps, and community-oriented service learning. The curriculum relies on indigenous traditional values to help youth develop positive self-concept, effective social interaction skills, a community service ethic, internal locus of control, improved decision making, and problem solving skills. Students are identified from classroom groups for the afterschool, weekend and summer activities.

A regional initiative, Project Sunset first piloted this program within Crossroads School, from January to June 2016. The Rainy River District School Board looks forward to continuing our involvement, and helping participants continue to grow as individuals, preparing them for success.

GRADUATION RATES IMPROVING

The RRDSB Indigenous Education Strategy is targeted to supporting student achievement and well-being of indigenous students. Based on data analysis, we are proud to report that the RRDSB has seen improvement in a number of key areas.

Indigenous learners have demonstrated increased success with EQAO assessments, and credit accumulation. We are particularly pleased

to see an increased graduation rate. Over the past five years, more indigenous students have crossed the stage to receive their diploma, with graduation rates for both Métis and First Nation students, increasing by 6 percentage points and 20 percentage points, respectively.

While these results are encouraging, the Rainy River District School Board commits to prioritizing continued improvement in the provision of services to Indigenous students.

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION LEADERS

The Board employs two Indigenous Education Leaders, Angela Mainville and Bob Kowal. One of these positions is shared through our long standing partnership with Seven Generations Education Institute. Our partnership has provided continued support for Indigenous student success and well-being. In addition, the local Métis associations and several First Nation communities have assisted with staff development, as evidenced by the Anishinaabe 101 and 201 sessions held several years ago which focused on residential schools, treaty history, and First Nation and Métis culture.



Indigenous Education Leader, Bob Kowal

Indigenous Education Leader, Angela Mainville

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MATH FOR YOUNG CHILDREN (M4YC)

The program is designed to build teachers' knowledge in spatial reasoning, while recognizing, honoring, and drawing on indigenous knowledge to expand the teaching and learning of math. Research results shared in February 2016 by the University of Toronto revealed that improvements in spatial sense, through practice, positively impact all other fundamental areas of math abilities. In its third year, the Math for Young Children initiative has also demonstrated increased student numeracy development and enhanced teacher knowledge within the context of indigenous culture, and math.



STUDENT WORK STUDY TEACHER

At the June 2016 Meeting of the Rainy River District School Board, the Board of Trustees approved the funds necessary to continue the Student Work Study Teacher initiative for the next two years. This initiative supports students, and staff through the development and delivery of lessons and resources that embed First Nation and Métis culture, history and perspective within the curriculum.

TREC EDUCATION

In partnership with Seven Generations Education Institute, from May 10 to 13, Grade 5 students from McCrosson-Tovell, Riverview, Nestor Falls, Sturgeon Creek, and Donald Young Schools, and Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program, participated in a full day Renewable Energy Design Challenge provided by TREC Education. During the session, students were guided by one of TREC Education's expert facilitators to design, construct, and build their own functioning model wind turbine that would generate electricity. TREC Education is a charitable organization that leads innovative programming using solar, wind and biogas technology delivered through hands-on learning to promote energy conservation, and to explain the science of climate change, and benefits of clean energy.

TIM HORTON'S CAMP DAY

Offered at no cost to kids and their families, Tim Horton's Camp Day allows participants to experience a wide range of top-tier programs and activities designed to build self-confidence, self-esteem, and leadership skills. Children who attend camp often return home with a more positive outlook and greater confidence about their future. With the help of funds raised on Camp Day, Tim Horton's restaurant owners sponsor kids directly from their community to attend camp, and work closely with local youth organizations and schools to identify children who would benefit most from the experience.

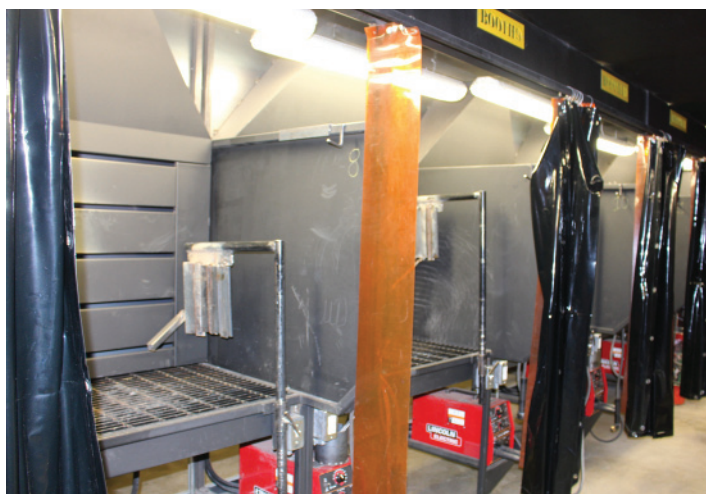


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WELDING PROGRAM

In February 2016, the Rainy River District School Board and Seven Generations Education Institute celebrated the grand opening of a Welding Program facility located at Fort Frances High School. The facility features 12 welding booths engineered to meet today's safety standards to ensure that students and staff learn and work in a safe environment. The welding booths consist of a designated welder, lighting and ventilation. The Rainy River District School Board looks forward to students taking advantage of this exciting new opportunity.



EARLY YEARS CAMP

The Early Years Program nurtures students' understanding of their connections to each other, to the environment and to all living things. This year, Mine Centre School's Early Years team has taken outdoor learning to a new level by developing an outdoor classroom that the students consider as Camp. Teacher, Marjorie Hale, enlisted the help of Gail Jones, Cultural Co-ordinator for Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation, in developing a long range plan for this inquiry based, experiential learning project. The

Rainy River District School Board is excited for younger students to have the opportunity to learn in this unique environment.

LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP

The Rainy River District School Board, Northwest Catholic District School Board, Seven Generations Education Institute and the Rainy River District Library Cooperative announced a pilot project that provides full library access to all Early Years (EY) to Grade 12 students of the Rainy River District, regardless of residence, including all Rainy River District area First Nations Communities. If families live in an area that requires payment to use the local library, they now can get student memberships for their children at no cost. Please contact your child's school for more information on how to get a no cost membership. More information can be found on the Rainy River District School Board website at:

<https://www.rrdsb.com/about-us/initiatives>.

RRDSB INDIGENOUS EDUCATION WEBSITE

For more information on Rainy River District School Board Indigenous Education Initiatives, please visit our website at:

<http://www.rrdsb.com/indigenous-education>.

CONTACT US

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