



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

MINUTES

FIRST NATION, METIS, INUIT COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.
Main Boardroom – Catholic Education Centre

- Chair: Dr. Frank Leddy, Superintendent of Education
- Representatives: Jodi Quinn, Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Summer Sands, Walpole Island First Nation
- Regrets: Cathy Hampshire, Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nations
- Present: Gerri Brown, Principal – Ursuline College Chatham
Steve DeGurse, Principal – St. John Fisher Catholic School
Chris Kehoe, Principal – St. Elizabeth Catholic School
Caroline VanRoestel-Seward, Board Aboriginal Lead
- Recording Secretary: Brenda Courey

1. Opening Prayer - All

Frank Leddy, chair of the meeting, welcomed and thanked those in attendance. He opened the meeting with a welcome prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus as presented.

3. Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework

The Ontario FNMI Education Policy Framework was distributed and the vision and goals of the document were reviewed.

Discussion took place regarding Strategy 2.2 “Provide additional support in a variety of areas to reduce gaps in student outcomes.” located on page 15 in the Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework.

From the policy framework recommendations, we discussed that Native languages are very important to First Nation People. First Nations communities encourage more schools to offer language classes such as Ojibwe but recognize the difficulty in obtaining a qualified teacher. As a Board we have noticed several staff members have self-identified as First Nations People.

4. *Report on the Implementation of Policy 3.24*

Copies of the Board Policy 3.24 – Voluntary and Confidential Aboriginal Self Identification, were distributed and reviewed.

5. *Reports from the First Nation Communities*

It is very important that First Nations students see themselves in their curriculum and in their schools and that students are able to share their culture with their classmates and schools.

The LKDSB Native Advisory Committee has been meeting monthly for some time due to the large number of students from the First Nation in their schools. Jodi Quinn reported on the work of this committee in providing services and programs for their students.

Examples included:

- Third annual Student Symposium in Ridgetown during which The First Nation Communities conduct 12 different workshops attended by students from history or a native studies classes. The day provides a transition activity for Grade 8 students from First Nations schools who are invited to attend.
- A list of contacts has been developed, providing First Nation speakers' names and expertise that they are willing to share with schools. Jodi will see if this list can be shared with us as well.
- In schools that have a higher percentage of First Nation students a Native Education worker has been employed to work with students and schools to provide cultural support. At this time three are employed by the Board/First Nations communities.

6. *Reports from School Principals*

Report from SCCDSB activities: Caroline distributed the documents outlining the FNMI initiatives funded by the Ministry:

- Elementary school example: Steve DeGurse shared resources used in the schools following a PD session with teachers (from all schools) and how they could be linked to the curriculum.
- Elementary school example: St. Elizabeth activities: Chris Kehoe spoke about the Pow Wow held at St Elizabeth, the Residential school symposium that was hosted

last year, and this year's activities that include the Native drum making and other arts and crafts planned with our First Nations Community at Walpole.

Secondary school example: Gerri Brown spoke of the work that Suzette Jacobs does with our students, including the establishment of a First Nations Leadership Club planning the camps and activities in which they actively participate. The logo they created is shown below:



7. *Report from the Board on First Nation, Métis and Inuit Initiatives*

Other Board programs/projects: Caroline VanRoestel-Seward highlighted several other activities described in detail in the distributed handouts, including: Sagamok Mission Trip, World Religions class tour of the Ojibwe Legends Trading Company, attendance at the Muskoka Woods Leadership Camp, school visits by Métis author David Bouchard, Grade 12 Issues of Indigenous Peoples in a Global Context course running at St. Christopher.

Caroline is investigating the availability of a DVD that shares the stories of survivors of residential schools.

Both Jodi Quinn and Summer Sands commented that they were impressed with the range of activities supporting First Nations students.

8. *Self-ID Policy Brochure*

The draft brochure was reviewed and suggestions for improvements were made.

- First Nations Communities may be able to help with pictures, but they highly recommend that we use photos of students, including those of students that may not show typical First Nations features.
- Completed brochures will be shared with the First Nation Communities so they can make them available.
- Once the brochure is available in the schools, it was suggested that training be provided to teachers, principals and secretaries to answer questions about the policy and how data is collected.

9. *Projects for 2012-2013*

Caroline VanRoestel-Seward asked for feedback on next year's project proposals. The theme of the Environment was considered appropriate. These ideas were discussed as possibilities:

- Follow-up on a local story in the Grade 9 Science book about the Aamjiwnaang Territory called the Bucket Brigade.
- The Enviro Education site at Moraviantown is an excellent resource.
- Clint Jacobs at Walpole Island is available for assistance with some of the many diverse environments at Walpole such as marches, oak Savannahs, Carolinian Forests and Fresh water coastal environments. Clint is also an expert on the Species at Risk on Walpole Island.
- Kettle Point First Nation would be an area to talk about the mines etc. and the damages done to the environment and how they are cleaning up their area. They also have the sand dunes which is an ecological sensitive area.
- The Aamjiwnaang Community has an awareness program for water and air pollution.

10. *Next Meeting and Future Agenda Items*

The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 11, 2012 starting at 12:30 p.m. in the main Boardroom at the Catholic Education Centre. Lunch will be provided.

Topics will include:

- Sharing of 2012-2013 FNMI project proposals for submission on June 30, 2012.
- How to incorporate more awareness opportunities in our courses and increase the enrolment numbers in our Native Studies courses.
- Sharing contact lists and resources available to our schools.