



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

MINUTES

First Nations, Métis, Inuit Communities Committee

Monday, May 30, 2016 at 5:30 pm

St. Patrick's Catholic High School

1001 The Rapids Pkwy., Sarnia

Present: Carol Bryden, Deb Crawford, Dan Parr, Scott Johnson, Steve DeGurse, Margaret Palmer, Ray Power, Caroline VanRoestel-Seward, Judy Hubbard, Tyler White, Tiffany Vermast, Anne Fournier, Joanne McCreery, Mike Beechey, Christine Preece, Sue Bressette, Beverly Bressette

Recording Secretary: Cathy Calvert

1. *Welcome and Introductions*

Deb Crawford welcomed and thanked those in attendance. Caroline VanRoestel-Seward lead us in our opening prayer. Introductions were made.

2. *Review and Approval of Minutes*

Motion: (Carol Bryden and Ray Power) that the Minutes for the First Nation, Métis, Inuit Communities Committee Meeting of October 28, 2015 be approved. Carried.

3. *Agenda Setting and Approval of Agenda*

Additions to Agenda:

- Development and Peace Report – Margaret Palmer
- Information Item – Mike Beechey

4. **Motion: That the Agenda as revised for the First Nations, Métis, Inuit Communities Committee Meeting of Monday, May 30, 2016 be approved by consensus.**

5. *Reports from Schools*

Ursuline College Chatham – *Ray Power, Principal & Tiffany Vermast, CYW*

- Graduation – good number of First Nations students will be graduating and will be having their families attend the ceremony. Most of those graduating will be attending Lambton College in various programs.

- Pow Wow at WDSS this month. UCC First Nations students will be attending this event.
- Tiffany works closely with Tyler White in connecting students with outside resources and supports for the funding of their post-secondary education.
- FNMI Leadership Camp – Tim Hortons – Onondaga Farm May 3-6, 2016 was attended by UCC students. This camp was hosted by London District Catholic School Board. The theme was “The Spirit Awakes”. There were students in attendance from London, Sarnia, Windsor and Chatham. Last year (2015) the camp was for students from grade 7 to 12. This year the format changed and it was for students from grade 9 to 12. Five students from UCC and two students from St. Pat’s attended the camp. They enjoyed the experience and they wanted to stay longer. The feedback was very positive and it was felt it was better with Grade 9 to 12 only. This year all hands on activities i.e. leadership, drum making, drum stick making and wampum belt making. These were felt to be much better activities than last year.

St. John Fisher – *Joanne McCreery, Acting Principal*

- This year the school had Brenda Collins come and make a Mosaic Medicine Wheel. Brenda incorporated the teachings of Medicine Wheel while assembling it with the students.

St. Elizabeth – *Anne Fournier, Adult Supervisor*

- The students and staff were greatly supported by the school’s community and board partners during a time of great tragedy at the school this year.
- One time stood out as especially moving for Anne was when she asked the students in the class most affected if they wanted to go outside to pray. The entire class and parish priest went out to a “special place” in school yard and had prayer.
- Children learned to make prayer ties and they were taken to the Walpole Island for their Pow Wow
- School is still grieving

6. *Report from the First Nation Communities*

Tyler White – Walpole Island

- Pow Wow was last weekend
- Students at UCC being well served by Tiffany Vermast
- Walpole Island Solidarity Day celebration is scheduled for Monday, June 20, 2016. There will be games, food and fireworks everyone is welcome.
- Sept. 30th is Orange Shirt Day for Residential School Survivors – Wear Orange in support of this day.

Beverly Bressette – Kettle and Stoney Point

- Hillside School has a Pow Wow coming up – June 17
- National Aboriginal Solidarity Day – June 21 all day – everyone invited food, games, talent show, day ends with fireworks display.
- Sarnia Friendship Centre will be offering some training on FNMI culture.

Susan Bressette, grandmother of Charles, student at St. Pat's High School

- Reported that Charles is very happy and doing very well at the high school.

Mike Beechey

- Very pleased with Medicine Wheel teaching in our schools
- Mike has an aviation background and now would like to share the aviation industry with students in this area.
- Would like to partner with our school board regarding the aviation industry.
- Would like a smudge ceremony during one of our meetings as this goes with the Medicine Wheel teaching.
- Shared his smudging bundle with the committee and believes a smudge ceremony would be a great way to begin the fall 2016 meeting.

7. *Report from the Board – Deb Crawford, Superintendent of Education & Caroline VanRoestel-Seward, Consultant – Secondary Curriculum*

a. Board Policy

- As part of the process of cyclical review of board policies the ***Voluntary and Confidential Aboriginal Self-Identification (First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students)*** has been updated but with no major changes to this policy.
- A new pamphlet is being created by UCC students and Caroline which will reflect our revised policy will make it easier for students and parents to self-identify.
 - Dan Parr requested that the **Board Mission Statement** be added into the new pamphlet.
- The number of self-identified FNMI students 2012 was about 124 today we have about 185 who are self-identified. There has been a funding change and our funding is now tied to our self-identification numbers which makes it so important for parents and students to self-identify.

b. 2015-2016 Projects

- ***St. Elizabeth*** - Language development – teachers come in to teach Ojibway language.
- ***Holy Family and Christ the King*** – Joint staff retreat to learn about residential schools facilitated by Susie Jones.
- ***Holy Family*** - cultural teachings i.e. Medicine Wheel with Brenda Collins.
- ***St. Patrick High School*** – Lambton College Pow Wow and Reviving Our Roots Student Symposium at SCITS – Librarian trying to add more First Nations books to school library - special room in library which can be booked for student/staff use with First Nations artifacts
- ***Georges P. Vanier*** – John Snake facilitated the students making Dream Catchers and taught the students the teachings of the Dream Catcher.
- ***St. Ursula*** – *Heartspeak* and *Shannen's Dream* - safe schools, equity and inclusion.
- ***Board*** – All Grade 3 teachers - FNMI integration into Social Studies. Christ the King/Holy Family/St. Elizabeth/St John Fisher - JK – 3 inquiry using FNMI cultural artifacts. Michael White presented on May 3, 2016 to Principals and Vice Principals on Cultural Competency Training (OFIFC). Lacrosse Tournament on June 17, 2016

for Grade 5 students from Holy Family/Christ the King/St. Elizabeth and Sacred Heart Port Lambton.

c. 2016-2017 Proposals

- Only 2 or 3 schools put in proposals for funding when we first began in 2013
- This year we have 10 schools applying for funding for next year coming from teachers and students and not board directed.
- **St. Elizabeth** – 7 Grandfather teachings
- **Holy Trinity** – PLC integration of Indigenous Teaching into the curriculum – Medicine Wheel
- **St. Michael, Ridgetown & Monsignor Uyen** – Field studies to Ska Nah Doht
- **Monsignor Uyen** – Pow Wow & cultural teaching/events leading up to the Pow Wow
- **St. Anne, Sarnia** – Cultural teachings: Medicine Wheel
- **St. John Fisher** – PLC and school library around the Medicine Wheel
- **Holy Family** – Received an additional grant for FNMI Robots Team for this year
- **Board** – Social Studies: Grade 6 curriculum focus on FNMI perspectives
- **UCC and St. Pat's** – Introducing Indigenous authors into the English curriculum. Grade 10 Native Studies course at UCC. Lacrosse tournament. Forum for student voice at secondary level - What do the students see as their needs in our schools. Cultural day for students who attend our school with few FNMI students.

8. *Other Business*

Margaret Palmer, System Chaplaincy Leader

- Development and Peace are now looking at the areas in Canada which need to be included in their mandate.
- Blanket Activity is being looked at and we will need to bring in an Aboriginal facilitator for this. Margaret would like to have someone from this committee attend a workshop in London.

Beverly Bressette – Kettle and Stoney Point

- Kettle Point and Walpole Island would like to invite board administration and teaching staff to each of their communities where they could learn their teachings, They would provide a community tour as well as local history – 1 day event – could accommodate up to 150 people. They are also able to accommodate Student groups.

Chris Preece, Mental Health Lead

- The School Climate Survey which has been done this year will be able to provide some good data which could tie in with the Student Voice Forum

9. *Next Meeting Date*

Fall of 2016 – *TBD*

The meeting was adjourned:

Motion: To adjourn the First Nation, Métis, Inuit Communities Committee Meeting at 7:15 p.m. Carried.