



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

*Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey*

## MINUTES

### INDIGENOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.**  
**Aamjiwnaang First Nation Band Office**

Chair: Carol Bryden, Trustee

Present: Lisa Demers, Ray Power, Liz Gibson, Cortnee Goure, Beverly Bressette, Mark Bernard, Steve DeGurse, Debbie Millward, David Plain, Vicki Ware

Recorder: Cathy Calvert

**1. Welcome:** Cortnee Goure welcomed everyone.

**2. Educational Session:**

- David Plain presented a short history of the Aamjiwnaang people.
  - David welcomed everyone to the Aamjiwnaang Community Building.
  - David shared the Aamjiwnaang people's traditional lifestyle going back to the 1700's to the present.
  - The meaning of Aamjiwnaang is "place of the running water" and this refers to their location on the St. Clair River.
  - Land Treaties as they pertain to the Aamjiwnaang people were discussed.

**3. Opening Prayer**

Beverly Bressette lead the opening prayer.

**4. Review and Approval of Minutes of October 10, 2018 – Carol Bryden**

***Motion: (Ray Power, Mark Bernard). That the Minutes for the Indigenous Education Committee Meeting of October 10, 2018 be approved. Carried.***

**Review and Approval of Minutes of January 23, 2019 Teleconference Meeting – Carol Bryden**

***Motion: (Liz Gibson, Cortnee Goure). That the Minutes for the Indigenous Education Committee Teleconference of January 23, 2019 be approved. Carried.***

## 5. Review of Agenda and Approval – *Carol Bryden*

*Motion: (Debbie Millward, Ray Power) That the Agenda for the Indigenous Education Committee Meeting of Thursday, March 21, 2019 be approved. Carried.*

## 6. Updates from Committee Members

- **Beverly Bressette – Kettle and Stoney Point:**
  - Changes in Leadership which has been the reason why we have not signed the Action Plan. Hopefully we will be able to sign shortly.
  - We have been welcoming many community groups.
  - Pow Wow is scheduled for June.
  - SCCDSB Pathways teachers have been out to our school as well as the Walpole Island school. They are presenting the same program to those schools as we give to our SCCDSB schools.
  
- **Debbie Millward - Aamjiwnaang Friendship Centre**
  - Debbie has had the opportunity to go into classrooms and participate with Experiential Learning.
  
- **Vicki Ware – Aamjiwnaang**
  - Aamjiwnaang have no Education Services Agreement with St. Clair Catholic District School Board.
  - They would like to provide support to their students who are attending St. Clair Catholic District School Board schools because we know we have some students at St. Patrick's and St. Joseph in Corunna.
  - Our work continues with funding for school boards to partner with Indigenous Communities.

## 7. Updates from Schools

### **St. Elizabeth - *Liz Gibson, Principal***

- Treaty Week – Knowledge Keeper Cecil Isaac did some teachings about treaties and created Wampum strips with 6/7 & 5/6 classes to reinforce the learnings about treaties.
- Drumming – connected to Music class for 7/8, 6/7. Cedric Isaac came in and did Teachings about Drumming. Students were invited to bring their Hand Drums to the class, if they had them.
- Classes K/1 & 3/4 participated in Storytelling with Cedric & Leigh Ann Isaac.
- Classes 7/8 & 2/3 went on an excursion to the sugar bush on Walpole Island.

### **Ursuline College – *Ray Power, Principal***

- UCC has provided a group of students opportunity to join on a regular basis to recognize and celebrate indigenous experiences. This leadership group has grown in size and purpose.
- A major accomplishment for the leadership group was to select a new name for the group. The guidance of Cecil Isaac, his brother and Cecil's immediate family, as well as Joanne, Margaret Palmer, John Larsh, Celeste Noah, Cortnee Goure, Jeff Phaneuf, Greg Mallette, and our entire leadership group.

- Kidwin Zhingwaak – was officially accepted by the group prior to the March break. Kidwin Zhingwaak means “Voices of the Pines”
- The leadership group and the First Nations Caring Society held a heart campaign for Valentine’s Day. Group members gave out treats in exchange for a heart to be posted around the school by someone.
- UCC is looking to attend the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Pow Wow at Lambton College.
- UCC is planning to hold a water walk. The leadership group will be instrumental in developing what this event will look like.
- The St. Clair Catholic District School Board will welcome Susan Dion to speak to all our staff on April 5<sup>th</sup> PD day.
- In May, we are considering holding a community walk that will culminate with walking around the school track, drumming occurring the middle of field and all students coming together for a small teaching.
- UCC is looking to send a few students to the LEAD (leadership, entrepreneurship, and design thinking) conference at the University of Waterloo. It is open to grade 11 and 12 Indigenous students across Ontario.
- Our leadership students have collaborated with our wellness committee in the Speak Up Grant initiative and are looking to collaborate with student council to building stronger student voice.
- Celeste Noah will continue to meet with the group on a weekly basis until the end of April and hopefully May.
- English Department is working with Cortnee on a professional learning day to explore how Indigenous authors and literature can be incorporated into curriculum to increase the student body’s awareness and understanding of Indigenous culture.
- On February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 5<sup>th</sup> Grade 11 World Religions students and Grade 12 Challenge and Change students had the wonderful opportunity to participate in experiential learning. We were honoured to be in the presence of Cecil Isaac on both occasions who allowed us to participate in a Smudging Ceremony, the Blanket Exercise, the use of the Talking Stick to debrief our activity. The students were able to make Wampum Strings that went along with the Seven Grandfather Teachings.
- Our Religion department head shared feedback that the students expressed the fruitfulness of these activities to open communication about the horrific events surrounding the Residential Schools.
- Many connections were made in the broader perspective of how the messages of the Seven Grandfather Teachings are echoed in the Beatitudes and connections were made to the various religions of the world. He also shared and how the perspective of the Residential Schools Blanket Activity aligned with the loss of the Jewish faith during the holocaust and how our world struggles with abortion and the loss of the unborn.
- The department would like to have annual experiential learning opportunities like this to continue to build cultural awareness and recognize connections to our Catholic faith.

### **Holy Family – *Mark Bernard***

- Mr. Cedric Isaac and his daughter joined us, visited the Year 2 Kindergarten and Grade 1/2 class, and shared history through his artistic and musical talents.

- Mr. Cedric Isaac and his family came into the Grade 7/8 classroom, provided some education on treaties during Treaties Week, assisted, and guided the students to create small Wampum Belts.
- The ***Leave Your Mark Lacrosse Group*** came to our school to work with all classes for workshops.
- Year 2 Kindergarten and Grade 1/2 class will be visiting a sugar bush on Walpole Island on Tuesday, March 26, 2019.
- Grade 1/2 class is planning a trip to observe wildlife including Purple Martins on Walpole Island.
- Grade 4/5/6 will be visiting the Heritage Community Centre at Aamjiwnaang for a day of cultural activities.
- We are hoping for our Kindergarten Students to attend a powwow later in the spring.

#### **St. Michael-Bright's Grove – *Steve DeGurse***

- Dylan from the Friendship Centre visit the Kindergarten classroom and tied his one hour presentation into all areas (belonging, identity, community, sharing).
  - Discussion about the Inuksuk.
- Currently Grade 7/8 students working on water management and the negative effects of pollution on clean water supplies
- Conversations about recent newspaper articles about Indigenous Communities and water supply issues many other Social Justice issues have come out of these conversations.
- A Water Walk is being planned for May
- WE Water initiatives

Carol Bryden thanked Cortnee for her work. Everything we are doing is fully immersed into the curriculum and is not just a one day event. Indigenous Education is becoming part of our culture. There will be a section of Indigenous Education at the Catholic Leadership Meeting in March.

#### **8. Land Acknowledgement Committee – *Lisa Demers***

- About partnerships and working together
- Calls 62 and 63 involve education and how we need to ensure that we recognize the land that we stand on.
- We want to create a Land Acknowledge Committee. Looking for volunteers from this group as well as people outside in the community.
- We need to determine how will we roll this out in our schools.
- Volunteers from this committee:
  - Mark Bernard
  - Liz Gibson
  - Beverly Bressette
  - The Indigenous Communities will be asked to appoint someone to this committee.

#### **9. Student Data Review – *Cortnee Goure***

- The data presented by Cortnee was:
  - Number of Self-Identified Students in our schools.
  - Elementary student data – Attendance, Mathematics, and Learning Skills, Language, and French in our French Immersion Schools.

- Secondary student data – Attendance (trends are about the same as the whole school), Average Marks, Courses Successfully Completed (Credit Accumulation per year).

**10. Establish Next Meeting Date – Lisa Demers**

May 29<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Location: TBD

- Cortnee will receive emails with preferred date and the date will be selected by most preferred.

**11. The meeting was adjourned:**

*Motion: (Liz Gibson, Ray Power) to adjourn the Indigenous Education Committee Meeting at 4:35 p.m. Carried.*