

IEAC Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2021

Teams Meeting – Hosted by Niagara Catholic

ATTENDANCE

Niagara Catholic District School Board	Ted Farrell, Krista Moscato, Marco Magazzeni, Hanna Jones (student rep), Brian Kon
District School Board of Niagara	Angela McClary, Marian Reimer-Friesen, Geraldine Davies, Helen McGregor, Tamara Lockhart, Georgie Groat, Jamie Groat
Brock University	Sandra Wong, Cindy Biancaniello
Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre	Gary Parker, Shannon Cotter
Niagara Chapter of Native Women	Louise Hickey
Niagara College	Ashley Buck, Emily Schutt
Niagara Region Métis Council	Derrick Pont
Niagara Regional Native Centre	Karl Dockstader, Willow Shawanoo
NPAAMB	Alkie-Babe Froman
Honoured Guest	Dave Labbe (Elder)
Honoured Guest	Fran Hill (Elder)
Regrets: Wendy Sturgeon	

1. WELCOME & OPENING:

- a. Brian Kon welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting.
- b. Dave Labbe provided an Opening and welcomed everyone in a good way.
- c. Karl Dockstader lead introductions of members and guests in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- a. Agenda approved as previously circulated.

3. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18, 2021

- a. Minutes were previously distributed. No corrections. Approved by consensus.
- b. Note: Update to member list since the February meeting:
 - i. Willow Shawanoo represents NRNC

- ii. Gary Parker represents FENFC
- iii. Alkiie-Babe Froman represents NPAAMB

4. CO-CHAIR PRESENTATION – KARL DOCKSTADER

- a. Since the last IEAC meeting, the Indigenous caucus met separate from the two Board representatives about concerns they had about the two Boards. As a result, letters were circulated among the Indigenous Caucus and forwarded to both Directors of Education. Among the issues raised was transparency of the BAP process. The Co-Chairs were uncomfortable signing the BAPs for this year because they felt rushed and that the plans didn't appear to use of skillsets of the available committee members. A second concern was the reporting of Finances, however since the letters, the information has been provided. Final concerns reflected the turnover of Indigenous staff at one school boards and not enough Indigenous representation at the other, leading to inconsistencies
- b. Developed a framework for the Terms of Reference, looking at "spirit of law" rather than the "letter of the law". 12 points suggested and shared in the meeting Chat (included here copied from the chat window):

- 1. Add stronger language in the preamble about the accountability of the boards to the partnership with the IEAC*
- 2. Strengthen accountability specific to the BAP, the BAP needs to come to the committee for review in a timely fashion. The BAP must be viable. Updates on the BAP need to be provided regularly.*
- 3. The Directors must commit to meet with committee on an annual basis; when the Directors are not present it is understood that the designate is someone empowered to act on the Director's behalf*
- 4. Need to add a whole section for financial accountability*
- 5. There needs to be a measurement of success/report card on the BAPs (grad rates, engagement rates, etc.)*
- 6. Mirror the language and support the findings of UNDRIP, TRC, and MMIWG recommendations*
- 7. We need to ensure community voices are aware of the work of the committee*
- 8. Only people who need to be at IEAC should be at IEAC (building off point 3); if someone doesn't have a designated purpose why are they at this meeting?*
- 9. Students in attendance need a voice - they need the maximum support to be successful and contribute*
- 10. We need to know what is being distributed to the students.*
- 11. The meetings must be afforded the amount of time that is needed to complete the tasks on hand - not rushed*
- 12. Terms for Indigenous people in Indigenous positions, "using the equity model to ensure that Indigenous student success is in the hands of Indigenous leaders." something to word smith; To ensure Indigenous student success it must be in the hands of our Indigenous Leaders through an equitable Indigenous hiring process."*

- c. Karl stressed the need for communication from both sides of the table to ensure IEAC doesn't become a "check box" for compliance.
 - i. Karl opened the discussion to the Committee.
 - 1. Sandra asked for an update on DSBN's change of Indigenous staff positions over the past year – responses given by Helen McGregor and Marian Reimer-Friesen.
 - 2. Sandra asked that more time be given by both Boards for the BAP process and inclusion of Committee members.
- d. DSBN appointment of a Student Trustee is part of the Terms of Reference for the Committee. DSBN has put forward Student Trustee Kya Steinbach Parker for a 2-year term.
 - i. Approved by consensus.

5. ELECTION OF COMMUNITY CO-CHAIRS – KARL DOCKSTADER

- a. Karl thanked Ashley for working together in a good way over the past year as Ashley's position comes to an end of its two-year term.
- b. Karl asked for nominations for a secondary Co-Chair as a two-year term. Two nominations brought forward:
 - i. Willow Shawanoo (Nominators: Jamie/Marco)
 - ii. Ashley Buck (Nominator: Karl)
- c. Presentation by nominators, candidates and committee members support both women as strong leaders in the Indigenous community.
 - i. Willow offered that Ashley has IEAC work yet to be finished and she supports Ashley moving into a second term.
- d. Ashley appointed by consensus for a second two-year term.

6. SUB-COMMITTEES

- a. FINANCE – MARCO MAGAZENNI
 - i. Notes previously shared about funding sources currently available.
 - ii. A meeting will be called in September to develop a plan moving forward.
- b. TERMS OF REFERENCE – KARL DOCKSTADER
 - i. Meeting occurred in spring with minor amendments. However, the meeting turned into an Indigenous Caucus meeting which had been presented in Karl's Co-Chair address to this meeting.
- c. BOARD ACTION PLAN – KARL DOCKSTADER

- i. Need to call meeting in September for review of past year (2020/2021) and forward plan (2021/2022).
- d. Karl suggested that until September, the existing committee structures and members remain in place, but new committees will be set at the first meeting in the new school year.

7. COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE

- a. NRNC – KARL DOCKSTADER
 - i. Graduation planned as drive-through June 26th, 30 families will participate.
- b. NIAGARA REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL – DERRICK PONT
 - i. Second Early Years Family Camp planned during the summer (August 6-8).
- c. FENFC – GARY PARKER / SHANNON COTTER
 - i. Announcing a virtual program for National Indigenous Day, on FENFC Facebook page
 - ii. Raising Pride Flag later today. Two new flag poles will be erected so that the Pride flag can be a permanent display.
 - iii. Planning further acknowledgements for the children recently found at IRS sites.
 - iv. Shannon created community project to make 215+ children’s moccasins and welcomes others to participate.
- d. BROCK UNIVERSITY – SANDRA WONG
 - i. National Indigenous People Day being acknowledged from June 21-25 – check Facebook for details as multiple events are planned throughout the week.
- e. NIAGARA COLLEGE – EMILY SCHUTT/ASHLEY BUCK
 - i. Asked the College’s community to identify five virtual ways to celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day. Results will be shared on Facebook.
 - ii. Two Spirited Q&A panel June 29th with Stephanie Stephens will be available through Facebook live.
 - iii. Hired Indigenous Garden Tech working on both campus sites, looking for other community gardens to keep them connected. The Tech will be developing a garden protocol, identify medicines and guides of how to care for plant/medicines.

8. CLOSING & ADJOURNMENT

- a. Dave Labbe provided closing address to send everyone off in a good way.