

IEAC Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2020
Hosted by NCDSB
Virtual “Teams” Meeting

District School Board of Niagara	Ronda Menard, Jamie Groat, Erica Zombolas, Deana Davies, JoAnna Roberto
DSBN Student Trustee	Ness Griffin
Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre	Gary Parker, Shannon Cotter
Niagara Catholic District School Board	Brian Kon, Ted Farrell, Marco Magazzeni, Krista Moscato
Niagara College	Ashley Buck
Niagara Regional Native Centre	Mia Bakker
Niagara Region Métis Council	Kelsey Dick
Brock University	Sandra Wong
Inuit Council	Cindy Biancaniello

Regrets: Tammy Givens (NCDSB Parent Representative), Hanna Jones (NCDSB Student Representative)

1. Opening, Welcome

1.1. Brian opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the first virtual meeting.

1.2. Gary provided the Traditional Opening.

2. Approved of Agenda & Minutes

2.1. The agenda was approved.

2.2. Minutes of the last meeting were approved by consensus.

2.2.1. Review for any action items.

2.2.1.1. Terms of Reference - extended the invitation to Amos Key from Brock University - Brian sent the initial invite, and send him the minutes for this entire school's year in preparation of his joining.

2.2.1.2. There was a question about point 2.2. - about who will be representing Brock University. Sandra stated that she and Amos are in the same department. Tecumseh Centre has appointed Sandra to be the official primary representative but Amos is invited to be a guest/advisor.

3. Subcommittee Reports

3.1. BAP

3.1.1. We need to have another meeting when the Ministry provides direction for finishing this year and plans for next.

3.1.2. There was a discussion of how the Committee will function moving forward; whether it is better to set up separate meetings with the Boards or to continue as one. Consensus was to keep as is for now – single meeting.

3.1.3. Need to verify who will be part of the committee, which will be formed for the coming year. This will be based on the 2020/2021 membership participants.

3.1.4. The two Leads shared that during a virtual meeting with the Leads and Ministry back in April, the Ministry stated that BAP for 2020/2021 will continue with same format but she did indicate that by 2021/2022 may be looking at multi-year plans. During the meeting it was also announced that funding from this year will be carried over for next year but what budget will be for next year was not available.

3.2. Term of Reference

3.2.1. The final committee meeting of the year was postponed. Deanna, as the Chair will organize during the summer.

3.2.2. However, in preparation for next year the full IEAC discussed **Membership**:

- The members listed as information only need to be re-invited with the option of joining as full members or remaining as “for information only”. Brian to contact.
- Brian will reach out to NPAAMB to see if they are coming back to the table.
- DSBN will create an electronic Membership Form that community organizations can complete. The completed forms should be sent to both Board Leads.
- Sandra suggested involving students from Brock and NC so they can become mentors for Secondary students through our IEAC.
 - Consensus among participants; therefore, Terms of Reference for 2020/2021 year will need to be updated.

- Student representation should be former students of either NCDSB or DSBN.

3.3. Finance

3.3.1. No meeting held.

4. Meeting Dates for IEAC 2020/2021

- Third Thursday of the month
 - September 17, 2020
 - November 19, 2020
 - February 18, 2021
 - June 17, 2021

5. Community Round Table

Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre (FENFC)

- Courses are still happening online over the summer.
- Singing group is large and continues to grow.

Niagara Region Métis Council (NRMC)

- Provincial elections for the MNO were held in May, there are some changes from the previous Council.
- Sent out a poster that agencies can share - Metis learning kit, they are free. Contact Kelsey while supplies last and they will be mailed.
 - Kits are geared to elementary level.
- Post-secondary support program fund is still open - funding for Metis students for any student in Ontario - please share with students - also covers graduate education - applications are open until July 3, 2020.
- Brian Kon is one of the speakers in the Niagara Falls History Museum Four Direction Speaker Series as part of National Indigenous Month.

Brock University

- Aboriginal Student Services – its been a struggle to support students during COVID.

- Lot of communicating with First Nations - to find out what barriers students are facing.
- How could we continue to make connections, students said via Instagram and Facebook provided with kits with enough materials for them to make a craft - they have made over 700 kits and are sending them coast to coast.
- Some schools are having students do the research that goes with the craft.
- Will also be making video tutorials to go with the kits.
- Will be offering a virtual Elders program - 4 are involved (Nunavut, Nipissing and 2 from Six Nations also looking for a Métis Elder). The program is called **Planting the Seed**, its intended so that student can have the medicines at home to get through the COVID and Elder teachings to go with the medicines. There is a small fee of \$5.00 for non-Brock students to fund the creation of the kits.

Niagara Regional Native Centre (NRNC)

- Still providing services virtually and food drop-offs.
- Planned a graduation and sent letter to all of IEAC - 30 students have registered - June 27 there will be a drive through ceremony at the centre - will get medicines, cake certificate, teachings.
- Are looking to have a virtual summer camp - for 6 weeks in July and August - should be posted in the next week on their site.

Gary (FENFC)

- Making calls to support mental health needs of students:
 - some of our youth are doing well, but there are a lot of community members who are struggling. We all need to extend a helping hand to those as best we can.

Niagara College

- Looking for elder support, have a male and female elder who are available 3 hours a week for students.
- Have a NPAAMB lounge and NC Indigenous lounge for students to connect.
- Have a quarantine challenge - pic of how they are practicing their culture while in quarantine.
- Partnering with sustainability and horticulture doing some strawberry teachings.
- Videos with elders harvesting sweet grass which will be shared with community.

Other

- DSBN announced that Ronda Menard and Erica Zombolas will not be continuing in their roles with IEAC next year. The positions will be posted.

6. Closing & Adjournment of Joint Meeting

- 6.1. Brian closed meeting and wished everyone a safe summer.
- 6.2. Gary provided Traditional Closing.