

Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2023
Hosted by DSBN
Hybrid Meeting

Honored Guests	Roger Vickers (Elder), Father Paul McNeil (NCDSB), Michael Vanderperk, Robin Lakeit (DSBN)
Inuit Council	Cindy Biancaniello
Niagara Chapter of Native Women	Wendy Sturgeon
Niagara College	Leah Hogan
NPAAMB	Jason Shawana
Niagara Region Métis Council	Lorraine Martin
Niagara Regional Native Centre	Willow Shawanoo, Veronica Orozco
Niagara Catholic District School Board	Pat Rocca
District School Board of Niagara	Georgie Groat, Ann Gilmore, Marian Reimer Friesen, Kya Steinbach Parker
Regrets: none	

1. WELCOME AND OPENING

- Willow welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Roger Vickers provided the traditional opening and welcomed everyone.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Agenda approved by consensus.
- Quorum was established.

3. MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2022, MEETING

- Willow reviewed the minutes from June 9th meeting.
- Minutes from June 9, 2022, IEAC meeting were approved by consensus.

4. ESTABLISH MEMBERSHIPS AND REPRESENTATIVES

- Brock University - Cindy Biancaniello is looking into a representative
- Inuit Council – Cindy Biancaniello
- NPAAMB - Jason Shawana
- Niagara College - Leah Hogan / Alternate - Emily Shutt
- Niagara Chapter of Native Women - Wendy Sturgeon / Alternate – Louise Hickey
- NRNC - Willow Shawanoo
- Niagara Region Métis Council - Lorraine Martin / Alternate - Derek Pont

- ❖ Some Organizations are still looking for an alternate representative
- ❖ The Membership form will be sent out in June for the 2023-2024 year.

5. ELECTION OF CO-CHAIR

- Willow and Georgie explained the Co-Chair role.
- Wendy Sturgeon volunteered for the position.

6. MEETINGS FOR YEAR

- The remaining meetings for the 2022-2023 are scheduled for April 6th and June 8th.

7. SET SUB COMMITTEES

- **BAP Committee:** The members will be Georgie Groat (DSBN), Pat Rocco (NCDSB), Lorraine Martin (NRMCC), Cindy Biancaniello (Inuit Council), Willow Shawanoo (NRNC) and Jason Shawana (NPAAMB). The committee meets once a month.
- **TOR Committee:** Georgie will send out the Terms of Reference. If there are no changes, we may not need a committee.

8. BAP

➤ **DSBN 2021-22 Update**

- Georgie shared the final 2021-2022 BAP with Willow. There are some financial pieces that the Ministry needs to change. Once this is done, the BAP will be signed by all parties.

➤ **2022-2023 BAP**

- Boards received the 2022-2023 BAP template in January from the Ministry of Education.
- Both Boards are waiting to meet with the Committee members to review.

9. BOARD PRESENTATIONS

NCDSB

Student Voice

- NCDSB is working with their Student Senate to increase student voice.
- NCDSB has received OYAP funding and working with NPAAMB to invite the graduating Indigenous students to attend a Pathways presentation in March. They are looking to provide opportunities for mentoring and for Pathway Planning for the post-secondary students.

Presentation on TRC Diocesan Initiative (Father Paul McNeil)

- Father Paul McNeil shared apologies and commitment to reconciliation.
- The Catholic Church has agreed to donate 30 million dollars over 5 years for Truth and Reconciliation. This is still in the preliminary stages. The church of Canada has asked the diocese to form a committee to discuss the funding initiatives. Father McNeil mentioned that the church would like the committee to involve the Indigenous Community.
- There were discussions around the initiatives being sustainable and having an impact on the Indigenous community, as well as making sure it is Indigenous led.
- If anyone is interested in being a part of the committee, they can reach out to Pat Rocca.

DSBN

Indigenous Student Trustee Update (Kya Steinbach Parker)

- There are 18 students participating in the Indigenous Student Leadership Circle. DSBN is planning to host their first virtual meeting in February. They have a full day meeting in March to do some planning. In April, DSBN will host a 3-day retreat located at Northern Edge Algonquin in South River. While at the retreat, the students will create a process and host elections to select the new student trustee.
- Kya also highlighted her work she is doing on the Ontario Student Trustee Association (OSTA). She serves on the executive council as the outreach coordinator. Her main goal was to reach out to other Indigenous Student Trustees and establish a Student Trustee Indigenous network for them and build their confidence in the position.

Co-op Presentation

- DSBN guests Michael Vanderperk and Robin Lakeit presented on the work they are doing to establish a co-op program for the students who are actively participating in Indigenous events and activities.
- Co-op is available to all students from grades 9-12 and is designed to cater to the diverse population. It provides an opportunity for students to reflect on their experiences within the community.
- There are two components to the co-op program, the classroom component, and the community component. The community component involves collaboration with a supervisor or community member.

Grade 4 Social Studies Unit- Heritage and Identity: Early Societies to 1500CE

- Teachers must teach and report on the Heritage and Identity: Early Societies to 1500CE in grade 4. Finding quality resources is a real challenge.
- DSBN consultants worked with Rick Hill to create a resource for teachers to use. This was piloted by a few teachers. The resource will go out to the system within a few weeks.
- The goal is to release a resource that is teacher friendly with local context, and to connect students to the local history and the Treaty Partners.
- This resource is Haudenosaunee focused but DSBN would like to take this model and work with someone from the Anishinaabe community so that teachers would be able to choose either one or both of the resources.

Parent Engagement Sessions

- The next parent engagement session will be on March 8th from 5:00-7:00pm at Greater Fort Erie Secondary School. Dinner is provided.

10. ROUND TABLE

Brock University

- Had a welcome back luncheon in January
- Partnering with A-Z Learning Services, they are working together to provide lunch for all students. A-Z Learning provide teachings and workshops over the lunch hour.
- Tuesday Twilight has started back up. They are open Tuesday evenings until 7pm for students that cannot attend during the day.
- Brock started a pantry for students and purchased gift cards for Christmas for all the self-identified

students with funds from a donation.

- Interviewing on Friday for a recruiter, event planner and coordinator

FENFC

- Events that are coming up are the Youth and Elders, the Pow Wow and the Community Engagement night.

MNO

- Education Support Advocacy Program -The goal is to identify and provide support for Métis students. There are two more sessions for parents.
- Workshops coming up are the Covid Gift Card (email to Métis citizens), Garden Boxes and Canning

Niagara College

- Niagara College offers an Indigenous Admissions Pathway Program which supports the students to be granted offers into competitive programs. The deadline is March 1st.

NPAAMB

- Programming is now in person as well as all staff are working in-person.
- After hours programming has started one night a week with youth success mentors
- Expanding on “The Stay in school” initiative and focusing on students that have an IEP, and less likely to obtain their high school diploma.

NRNC

- Partnering with Brock for the March Break Camp.
- Brock booked a new venue for Pow Wow. It will be held at the Canada Sports Park.
- Boys’ basketball Team had 50 student’s tryout and will be taking 15 students.
- Day of pampering coming up and being offered to over 100 women.

11. CLOSING AND ADJOURNMENT

- Willow adjourned the meeting.
- Roger Vickers provided the traditional closing.