



Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee Minutes

November 18, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.
Timmins High and Vocational School

COMMITTEE (QUORUM) MEMBERS PRESENT

Howard Archibald	First Nations Trustee, District School Board Ontario North East (Chair)
Shelly Charette	Director of Education, Timiskaming First Nation
Dennis Draves	Trustee, District School Board Ontario North East
Brianna Moore	Education Portfolio Counsellor, Beaverhouse First Nation
Larry Wiwchar	Trustee, District School Board Ontario North East

COMMITTEE (QUORUM) MEMBERS ABSENT

Margaret Edwards	Director of Education, Apitipi Anicinapek Nation
Neil Iserhoff	Education Director, Taykwa Tagamou Nation
Dereck McKay	Education Director, Mattagami First Nation
Lynn Mongrain	Representative, Temagami First Nation
Velma Stanger	Education Director, Matachewan First Nation

RESOURCE PERSONS & GUESTS PRESENT

Chris Acton	Métis Nation of Ontario Temiskaming Council
Aiesha Hindle	Student Trustee, District School Board Ontario North East
Bob Brush	Trustee, District School Board Ontario North East
Lisa Edwards	Superintendent of Business

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Lesleigh Dye	Director of Education, District School Board Ontario North East
Jill Plaunt	Indigenous Lead, District School Board Ontario North East

RECORDING SECRETARY

Melanie Demers	Executive Assistant to Director Dye
----------------	-------------------------------------



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:09 a.m. by Howard Archibald, Chair of the Committee.

The meeting opened by respectfully acknowledging being situated on the Traditional Territory of the

Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Draves Seconded by Moore

THAT the Agenda for the Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee meeting dated November 18, 2024.

CARRIED

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Draves Seconded by Charette

THAT the Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee approve the minutes of the meeting held September 23, 2024.

CARRIED

Business arising from the Minutes

Trustee Wiwchar discussed future item of food and the lost skill to process food, how teachers are being educated to process animals and birds of the land. Coastal communities harvest geese twice a year, with a long history for the harvesting. Director Dye will include in the Director of Education update for January 2025.

Chair Updates (Howard Archibald)

Trustee Archibald commented on the topic of game harvesting. When discussing harvesting, northern coastal communities, and families harvest as a way of life. The April hunt continues, and the community shuts down for the week while families go out on the land to harvest geese. The game is harvested and used as a source of food, where meat is smoked, canned. There have been changes now where indigenous communities are invited to farmer's land to hunt geese. Families continue to connect with each other and the land as the hunt continues, which learning conservative ways to harvest and use all parts of the animals.

Concern from school budget perspective, given the increase in food prices and an opportunity to learn indigenous ways of life.

MOVED by Wiwchar Seconded by Moore

THAT the Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee receive the Chair Update.

CARRIED

Community Partner Updates

Beaverhouse First Nation

- Beaverhouse held their election
- Wayne Wabie was elected as chief
- Connecting with newly elected council members. Brianna is happy to have a chance to continue working with students, they are without an Education Director, complicating the role, but finding ways to reconnect with the education committee to support students.



Taykwa Tagamou Nation

- TTN is working on the community Strategic Plan
- A tentative date will be scheduled December 4, 2024, for DSB1 Strategic Planning meeting in the community
- Planning in place to add four small homes. Roadways are being built, with an update required to water and lagoon system.
- There are no bussing concerns

Timiskaming First Nation

- Land based education is a large component at the school, will review how it can be shared with surrounding communities
- A Child and Youth Worker has been secured to work out of TDSS
- A parent information session will be held next Friday, with staff from TDSS to encourage interaction
- Monthly key performance indicators are being provided to guide progress

Métis Community Council

- Fall is a busy time for moose hunting, harvesters in region 3 pooled moose and had it packaged and divided between the councils in region 3 for community freezers for families in need.
- Celebrated Louis Riel day along with family gathering and annual meeting.
- Families activities included large pictures of animals on the wall with Michif words.
- A kiosk and trapper tent will be set up at Village Noel this coming week
- A Christmas party will be held with activities for families

MOVED by Draves Seconded by Wiwchar **THAT** the Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee receive the Community Partner Updates.

CARRIED

Indigenous Lead Update

Jill Plaunt, Indigenous Leads, provided a [presentation](#) surrounding the successes and direction of the Indigenous Portfolio.

Trustee Wiwchar inquired about designated spaces for lodges in schools. Englehart is the only without a designated space. This will be further explored.

Student Trustee Hindle inquired about an indigenous focused physical education, with an emphasis on songs and dances, beauty and brilliance, as students who do not identify as indigenous in particular are learning about the trauma from the history in the English course.

7 courses are offered in DSB1, NAC10, grade 9 art course, includes the culture perspective. Will review interdisciplinary studies, to incorporate indigenous contributions.

MOVED by Charette Seconded by Draves **THAT** the Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee receive the Indigenous Lead Updates.

CARRIED



Director of Education Update

Director Dye provided an update on items for the Indigenous Portfolio.

TTN/DSB1 Partnership in draft form for an alternative education program and will be finalized in the near future.

Attendance for students who identify as Indigenous has had a 5% increase, with a goal for all students set at 88.5% for daily attendance rate. Persistent absenteeism in DSB1 is defined as missing at least 10% of school. Last year the rate was 64%, this school year is has decreased to 50%, over the past four years there has been a 30% decrease.

Kindergarten students and students in grade 12 have the highest rate of absenteeism. If a student is persistently absent, data indicates they are not earning the credit.

MOVED by Moore Seconded by Draves

THAT the Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee receive the Director of Education Updates.

CARRIED

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Meetings are from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and at least 4 meetings a year are encouraged.

The next meetings are scheduled as follows:

Monday, January 13, 2025 – Virtual

Monday, March 24, 2025 – Virtual

June 2, 2025

Other Business

Special Education Advisory Committee Representative: Shelley Charette

Trustee Draves attended the Northern meeting in Thunder Bay, where all sessions had an indigenous focus. He will provide presentations when they are received.

Adjournment

MOVED by Draves Seconded by Moore

The meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.