

## COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Committee Name: Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee

Date: October 20, 2015

Time: 6:00 pm

**Present:** Trustee Co- Chair Pamela Gough; Trustee Alexander Brown; Trustee Jerry Chadwick; Natasha Glesson ( Teacher); Andrea Olson (Community member); Dawn Maracle (Ryerson); Bernadine Baskin ( Native Child and Family Services of Toronto); Melissa Abotossaway ( Council Fire); Marilyn Hew ( Métis Nation of Ontario – Toronto & York Region Métis Council); Elder Joanne Dallaire; Roselinda Furlan (OISE); Aliesha Arndt (OISE); Chris Loreto (Miziwi Biik) Elizabeth Foody ( Miziwi Biik) Chris Loreto ( Mizwi Biik) Phillips; Nancy Martin (Director Miziwi Biik); Rita Dagenas

**TDSB :** Executive Superintendent Jim Spyropoulos ; Superintendent John Chasty; Superintendent Louie Papathanasakis; Barbara Felschow (Central Coordinating Principal, AEC); Bonnie Johnston (Community Liaison); Tessa Sill (Community Liaison); Tanya Senk (AEC Program Coordinator) Tasha Smith ( Teacher & Parent);

**Regrets:** Susan Dion (Associate Professor, York University); Elder Duke Redbird; J’net Ay Ay Qwa Yak Sheelth (Co-Chair) and Rob Lackie (Co-Chair)

**Committee Assistant & Recorder:** Latha John (Parent and Community Engagement Office)

| ITEM                | DISCUSSION   | RECOMMENDATION/MOTION |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Traditional Opening | Trustee Co- Chair Pamela Gough called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Traditional opening by Elder Joanne Dallaire, welcome introductions followed. |                       |
| Approval of Agenda  | Agenda to be amended with the following items to be  |                       |



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|  | deferred to next meeting :<br>4. Community Check-In<br>a) New Co-Chair for transitioning year<br>b) ACAC Terms of Reference<br>Agenda approved as amended. All in favour of the agenda   |                       |
| Approval of Minutes  | Approval of September 15, 2015 Minutes. Motion to approve by Trustee Jerry Chadwick. All in favour. Motion carried.  |                       |
| Community Check-In<br>a) New Co-Chair for transitioning year   | Deferred to next meeting.  |                       |
| ACAC Terms of Reference  | Deferred to next meeting.  |                       |
| South Etobicoke Aboriginal Celebration ACAC booth- October 24, 12-5pm  | The event details were shared with the committee and invitation to attend the event to help promote the ACAC and AEC. AEC Community Liaison Team to focus this year's outreach in the Etobicoke area of Toronto.   |                       |
| Staff Updates:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jim Spyropoulos, Superintendent, Equity and Inclusive Schools.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Work to Action at schools.</b><br/>           Bargaining and negotiating are ongoing for elementary teachers and support staff workers. Schools are impacted. Secondary schools teacher have reached an agreement hence secondary schools aren't as affected.</p> <p><b>First Nations School of Toronto</b><br/>           Motion at the board meeting relocation of the First Nations School of Toronto to Eastern Commerce as a centre of excellence for Aboriginal Education. The move in dated for the</p> |                       |




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|   | <p>AEC will be September 2016 and FNST will be in September 2017.</p> <p>The feedback from the community gathered was for the expansion of school from K - 8 to K- 12 school.</p> <p>Architectural firm Two Rows to construct the space where learning can take place in ways which are culturally responsive and respectful of Aboriginal cultures and traditions.</p> <p>Design plan to be put together with representative from the school, AEC , ACAC and community</p> <p><b>Opportunity Plan Gap Action plan</b></p> <p>A second version of the three year Opportunity Plan Gap Action plan to include AEC with actionable &amp; measurable goals.</p> | <p><b>Action:</b> Research reports documenting achievement specific group of students (Somali, Portuguese, Spanish and self-identified Aboriginal Students) to be sent to ACAC.</p> <p><b>Action :</b> Invite Two Row to present to ACAC</p> |
| <p>Aboriginal Education Centre-<br/>Barbara Felschow Central<br/>Coordinating Principal</p> | <p><b>Truth to Reconciliation Call to Action</b></p> <p>AEC team is working on Residential School Education bound by an understanding of land and treaties. Instructional leaders continue to work with schools when invited by teachers at schools.</p> <p><b>Capacity building &amp; sustainability-</b></p> <p>Recent job positions are clearly stated for First Nations, Métis &amp; Inuit peoples.</p> <p><b>Invitation to Trustee</b></p> <p>Trustees are invited to AEC on for November 12<sup>th</sup> for knowledge building.</p>   |  |



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|      | <p><b>Indigenous Arts Festival</b><br/>AEC partnership with ImagineNATIVE Arts Festival.<br/>Aliessa Arndt- Designed the resource packages for 7 youth shorts of which one film was co-created with Tanya Senk.</p> <p><b>The Truth and Reconciliation: Calls to Action</b><br/>A statement on behalf of the TDSB will be drafted by AEC staff (Tanya Senk) in collaboration with ACAC membership.</p> <p><b>Orange Shirt</b><br/>AEC distributed orange shirts centrally to be worn on September 30th. The relevance and the significance of the orange shirt is a reminder of our shared past as Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in Canada, and provides an opportunity for dialogue between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in shaping our shared future.</p> <p><b>Community Events</b></p> <p>Tuesday October 27- Community fall Drum Social &amp; Fall Feast at the AEC.<br/>Wednesday October 28 -Wab Kinew Author to present his book.<br/>Wednesday November 4 – Eastview School in Scarborough<br/>Drum Social &amp; pot luck</p> | <p><b>Action</b> – Tanya Senk will write the statement and gather feedback for Joanne and Duke and then forward to ACAC at a meeting for final approval.</p> |



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|  | <p><b>November ACAC Meeting</b><br/>The ACAC committee group to meet at Eastern Commerce for November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.</p> <p>The meeting to have a tour of the Debwewin exhibit -TDSB collection of art exhibited at the Eastern Commerce. Elder, Dr. Duke Redbird is the curator, designed the setting for the Debwewin and has some of his own art exhibited. He will lead the ACAC through the exhibit on November 17.</p>  |  |
| <p>New and Other Business</p> <p>a) Miziwe Biik Partnership Proposal</p> | <p>Presentation to the ACAC Committee Miziwe Biik Partnership Proposal.</p> <p><b>Feedback / Discussion</b><br/>The Proposal was presented to TDSB staff prior to presenting at the ACAC.</p> <p><b>The demographic represented in the Miziwe Biik proposal</b><br/>The proposal is Anishnaabe focussed and the term Aboriginal in the proposal is misleading, the diversity of the Toronto Aboriginal community needs be met. There are diverse needs of the community which needs to be focused and reflective of the diversity in Toronto. There needs to be research done on the Aboriginal demographic of Toronto as currently nothing exists.</p> <p><b>Access of service at the hub</b><br/>The services are available to all Aboriginal people who self-identify.</p> | <br>Miziwe Biik_Education Partnership Proposal_ |



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|  | <p><b>Proposal of Miziwe Biik similar to TDSB</b><br/>The services offered are to be complimentary to what is offered through TDSB rather than a duplication of service.</p> <p>Miziwe Biik looking to gain endorsement from the ACAC and TDSB.</p> <p><b>Staff Response</b><br/>TDSB will not stop any opportunity that could support the fastest growing youngest demographic group in the system. The ultimate benefit is to the community and input is required from ACAC for TDSB to be in conversation with Miziwe Biik. The conversation of the proposal needs to be presented to ACAC prior to having a partnership and/or endorsement.</p> <p><b>Feedback</b><br/>TDSB and Miziwe Biik to find ways to work together that do not duplicate services already provided.</p> <p><b>**Motion to receive (not endorse) the Miziwe Biik presentation by Dawn Maracle. All in Favour Motion carried.</b></p> |                       |
| Ministry of Education to answer questions re: Voluntary Self-identification (tentative). | Deferred to next meeting   |                       |
| Next Meeting Date  | November 17, 2015 at Eastern Commerce.   |                       |
| Traditional Closing/Adjournment  | Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm   |                       |

