



COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee

Date: November 17, 2015

Time: 5:30 pm

Present: Trustee Pamela Gough; Trustee Jerry Chadwick; Trustee Alexander Brown; Chair J’net AyAy Qwa Yak Sheelth; Chair Rob Lackie; Melissa Abotossaway (Council Fire); Marilyn Hew (Métis Nation of Ontario – Toronto & York Region Métis Council); Elder Joanne Dallaire; Aliesha Arndt (OISE); Landy Anderson (Native Child and Family Services of Toronto); Natasha Gleeson(Student); Bob Phillips; Elder Laureen(Blu) Waters (Seneca College) Elder Dr. Duke Redbird; Katherine Fietas; Darlene King (Native Women’s Resource Centre of Toronto);

TDSB Staff: Executive Superintendent Jim Spyropoulos; Superintendent John Chasty; Barbara Felschow (Central Coordinating Principal, AEC); Bonnie Johnston (Community Liaison); Tessa Sill (Community Liaison); Tanya Senk (AEC Program Coordinator) Tasha Smith (Teacher & Parent); Roxanne Chee(TDSB Teacher); Adrienne Plumley(TDSB); Greg Mckinnon (Manager/Archivist, TDSB)

Regrets: Judy Anne Rheaume

Recorder: Latha John (Parent and Community Engagement Office)

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/MOTION
Call to Order	Meeting called to order 5:50 pm by Chair J’net AyAy Qwa Yak Sheelth. Elder Joanne Dallaire started the meeting with the traditional prayer, welcome introductions followed.	
Approval of Agenda	Agenda Items. Ministry of Education to answer questions re: Voluntary Self-identification deferred to January. Byron Bissard who works with the Ministry of Education is in Sudbury, therefore AEC staff will consult with a local rep from Ministry of Education	Action: Future ACAC meeting topics- COPA- First Nation Metis Inuit preventing abuse campaign.



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	<p>who can answer question on self-identification. Two Row Architects are not present for the meeting and the agenda item is deferred. Agenda is approved. All in favour.</p>	
<p>Debwewin Collection.</p>	<p>Tour of the Debwewin exhibit for ACAC members guided by Elder Dr. Duke Redbird. Superintendent John Chasty welcomed the committee to Eastern Commerce - Museum and Archives of the TDSB. The exhibit was publically open in May 2015 and to educators in the fall of 2015. Elder Dr. Duke Redbird was approached by TDSB to curate the Debwewin exhibition. The exhibit displays an extensive collection of First Nations Métis, Inuit artist work. Elder Dr. Duke Redbird was involved in the development of the Debwewin program information guide for K-12. The Museum and Archives of the TDSB at Eastern Commerce also houses the exhibit on the history of the board which is led by Greg McKinnon, Manager.</p>	
<p>Review and Approval of the Minutes – October 20, 2015</p>	<p>Approval of the October 20, 2015 minutes by Bob Phillips, seconded by Natasha Gleeson. All in favour. Motion Carried.</p>	
<p>Community Check-In New Co-Chair for transitioning year</p>	<p>The ACAC is still looking to recruit a new (transitional) Co-Chair. The new ACAC Co-Chair will be determined in January 2016.</p>	
<p>ACAC Terms of Reference</p>	<p>ACAC's Terms Of Reference draft was reviewed by the committee.</p>	



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	<p>The committee noted that ACAC is not bound by formal quorum as compared to other CAC's of the board, and the Terms Of Reference reflects the same.</p> <p>Motion to approve the Terms of Reference as final by Bob Phillips, seconded by Landy Anderson. All in favour.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>	
<p>Staff Updates: Jim Spyropoulos, Superintendent, Equity and Inclusive Schools.</p>	<p>Prospective project - TDSB is working on a partnership agreement with Miziwe Biik and Anishnaabe Health (known as "Block 10"). For the project to move forward they require an education component. The deadline for the project is in January 2016. If an agreement is not initiated they will be at risk of losing the land (i.e., Block 10).</p> <p>The Board was engaged in conversation last spring in the preliminary stages of the proposal. As per feedback, the project had gone through a very extensive consultation process in the Aboriginal community.</p> <p>The request to the board is to sign a preliminary memorandum of understanding. A letter of Intent to partner.</p> <p>Discussion & Feedback</p> <p>The proposed partnership agreement appears to duplicate work already being accomplished within TDSB?</p> <p>Why was this brought to ACAC at the last minute and what do they want ACAC to do?</p> <p>Community consultations on the project which have been documented should be presented to the board before there is an agreement.</p> <p>What is the urgency for the project to start and be done in Jan 2016?</p>	



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	<p>Response: This has been a process has been ongoing for years. There is a timeline for the project; it is part of the agreement for the project to get started.</p> <p>The proposal is forcing the agenda on the board and ACAC with minimalistic engagement with communities, time restrictions and no proper consultations.</p> <p>This project is very political and lot of pressure from various levels of Government.</p> <p>The proposal is not transparent and not community driven as the majority of ACAC reps were not aware of “Block 10”. There is no reciprocity. They should be available at ACAC meetings to meet and to discuss with ACAC.</p> <p>What is the trade-off for TDSB with the proposal? Are they looking for financial support from TDSB? Guidance? Staff? What is their commitment to education as a whole and has the Catholic School Board been approached?</p> <p>Why is there no document on the partnership with George Brown?</p> <p>Miziwe Biik has partnership with George Brown why do they need TDSB.</p> <p>“First Nations” is misleading as it doesn’t include all nations and languages.</p> <p>The Education component is needed to create pathways.</p> <p>TWO Row Architects Phase one design plan to be presented to ACAC</p>	<p>Action: ACAC committee member to meet Miziwe Biik</p>



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	<p>Director Donna Quan Director Quan has accepted a secondment opportunity with Ministry of Education and York University. Director Quan was very committed to Aboriginal Education which is noteworthy and profound. Committee of Trustees formed to select an Interim Director of Education.</p> <p>Trustee Vacancy Trustee Shaun Chen has been elected as a member of parliament. By-election to be held in January 2016 to fill the seat.</p> <p>Board policy on parent and community volunteer The board is working on a policy for parent volunteers to be screened for Criminal Background Checks and have the requisite training for certain activities. Parents who have gone through the processes will be covered by TDSB insurance and the policy will allow parent volunteers to oversee activities even when there are no staff in place.</p>	
<p>Aboriginal Education Centre- Central Coordinating Principal</p>	<p>Announcements Elder Joanne Dallaire is the recipient of two awards. The Future Aces for Courage and the Access Equity and Human Rights-Award of Aboriginal Rights, City of Toronto. Elder Vern Harper was involved in the TDSB November 11</p>	



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	<p>Veterans Day Ceremony. The AEC hosted a book launch in October for Wab Kinew. Michelle Corneau led Iroquois Junior Public School with a repatriation ceremony of a traditional Pipe. The AEC will host a Drum Social & Winter Solstice Ceremony on Dec 15th. Representatives visiting from Nunavut will be visiting the TDSB in February 2016. Staff participated in 4 day digital story telling experience.</p> <p>Community Youth and Care Program - Registration is still being accepted. It is a credit program for grade nine students. Hiring Practices at TDSB -Capacity building to have internal & external postings. There is continuous consultation on the verbiage in the postings at employee services.</p> <p>The Truth & Reconciliation Commission and United Nations declaration clearly states that Indigenous people have the right to determine the education for their own communities.</p> <p>TDSB has an infrastructure in place with AEC and ACAC to make the decisions collectively as a place of knowledge. Process of consultation with AEC and ACAC are critical and the recommendation should come from AEC and ACAC.</p> <p>Workforce Census – Pardeep Nagra Manager Equity can be invited to ACAC present the data on self-identified employees of the board.</p>	



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	<p>**Motion from ACAC to recommend that Dr. Duke Redbird be hired as a curator for the Debwewin Exhibition located at Eastern Commerce 16 Phin Avenue, Toronto. All in Favour Motion carried.</p> <p>The letter of support for Truth of Reconciliation Call to Action The letter to be send to Minister of Education Liz Sandals. Draft letter to be prepared in consultation with Elder Bob Philips, Elder Joanne Dallaire and Elder Duke Redbird and will be brought to ACAC for approval.</p>	
Next Meeting Date	Next meeting is scheduled on January 19, 2016 at Eastern Commerce Collegiate.	
Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm	

