

Meeting: June 4, 2013 2-3 pm

Present: Co-chairs – Bela McPherson and Christine Monague-Dament, Elder – Ed Sackaney,
Superintendent – Jim Spyropoulos

Meeting was requested by Jim Spyropoulos to address concerns of ACAC co-chairs and resident Elder from previous meeting May 28, 2013. The main issues of concern raised are: hiring of AEC central coordinating principal (CCP) and future direction of ACAC as an advisory body.

- Jim noted that the pressing concern he had understood from the May 2013 meeting was “process” and ultimate goal of this additional meeting was to begin developing a strategic plan to assist in the creation of a process that is unique and respectful of the TDSB Aboriginal community.
- Jim gave a brief background of previous community involvement in hiring practices of individual school principals. 15 years ago the old Toronto School Board had a policy which stated that parents could sit on the hiring committees of their local school for the hiring of principals.
 - This framework changed with the creation of the TDSB.
 - Currently there is nothing in place which involves parents in the selection of Central Coordinating Principals
- We inquired as to what are the primary requirements for one to be a candidate for CCP position
 - Jim stated that candidate must be a principal for a minimum of 5 years. This was the requirement that limited the choices for qualified candidates.
- We also inquired to what process of consultation was completed:
 - Jim said he spoke to various community members and sought out the advice of an individual, who he considered a mentor in Aboriginal Education. He also considered this individual to be an Elder in the community.
 - The decision to follow this process was a private decision made by Jim and is not a part of formal process within hiring procedures.
- Ed, Christine and Bela agreed that the above process, followed by Jim, raises concerns that there are no formal procedures for consultation in place. Formal procedures are essential to be in place to avoid future issues, not just for hiring practices, but all issues concerning Aboriginal education.

The next topic of discussion involved the creation of an Aboriginal subcommittee to work on a document that would be a policy to advise in future processes involving Aboriginal education.

- Elder Ed Sackaney suggested that a working group be created in order to develop a policy/treaty document that will assist TDSB on a multiplicity of issues and processes that require an Aboriginal approach and creativity.

- It was noted by all present that this document would need to have strong adherence policy and be the standards of future practice when there is a question regarding Aboriginal education in the TDSB
- Ed, Christine and Bela agreed to bring this idea forward at the first ACAC meeting in September 2013.
- Jim agreed to follow up with his office (Those individuals in position of power) that could commit to this working document and give the ACAC a guarantee that all work on this would be honoured by the TDSB.