

# Name of Committee: Urban Indigenous Community Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date**: **Tuesday, March 23, 2021**

**Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

## Attendance: via Zoom:

**Core Voting Constituents:**

Present:), Dr. Duke Redbird (Elder), Dr. Susan Dion (YorkU), Mary Doucette (OA), Robert Durocher (Instructional Leader, TDSB), Marilyn Hew (TYRMC), Tracy Mackenzie (Community Liaison, TDSB), Dr. Bob Phillips (Community), Adrienne Plumley (Instructional Leader, TDSB), Christina Saunders (CAVP, TDSB), Tanya Senk (P, TDSB),

Waabshka-Mkwa (2Spirits), Brandie Wilson (Native Learning Centre - NCFST), Ixchel Bennett (VP, Eastview), Joe Rock (City of Toronto), Robert Phillips (Community),  Natasha Gleeson (SST), Robert Durocher (Instructional Leader), Adrienne Plumley (Instructional Leader), Paige Kreps (T.I.A), Shannon Judge (Parent), J’Net Ayayqwayaksheelth (ROM)

**TDSB Trustees:**

Present: Trixie Doyle, Dan MacLean, Jennifer Story, Alexander Brown

**TDSB Staff:**

Present: Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent, TDSB), Barbara-Ann Felschow (Retired Principal, TDSB), Michael Griesz (Principal, TDSB), Elise Twyford (VP, TDSB), Saby Chandi (TDSB Principal), Michael Sanders (Principal @ Eastview),

**Guests**: Stephen Hepburn, Jacq H. Vulpe, Melissa Hamonic

## Regrets: Dr. Joanne Dallaire (Elder), Pauline Shirt (Elder)

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| **ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **RECOMMENDATION / MOTION** |
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| Call to Order, Traditional Opening, Meeting Etiquette/Code of Conduct/ | Tracy Mackenzie chaired.  Tanya Senk opened. |  |
| Approval of Agenda | The agenda of March 23rd, 2021  Elder Duke Redbird approved and second by Robert Phillips |  |
| Review and Approval of the minutes | February 16th, 2021  Robert Phillips approved and second by Marilyn Hew |  |
| Declaration of conflict of interest and Terms of Reference | None declared |  |
| UICAC Priorities for 2020-21 Re-visited:   1. Facility, 16 Phin – Mobility, Accessibility, Health & Safety, Renovations. 2. Indigenous TDSB Trustee and Student Trustee. 3. Hiring practices, recruitment, retention and mobility. | UICAC Priorities:   1. Facility, 16 Phin – Mobility, Accessibility, Health & Safety, Renovations.   **Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent)**   * Phase 1 completed. * Phase 2 - Moving forward with discussions later in the week. Reports will be provided at our next meeting.  1. Indigenous TDSB Student Trustee.   **Tanya Senk (CAP)**   * Isaiah Shafqat is the Indigenous youth trustee. * We look forward to having Isaiah at our May meeting.   **Jennifer Story (Trustee – Ward 15)**   * The three student trustees are working well together.  1. Hiring practices, recruitment, retention and mobility.   **Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent)**   * We are preparing for our second annual equity report. Pardeep to be invited to the next meeting to further discuss the findings in more detail to the Board. * We have a great amount of work to do in hiring Indigenous Administrators. We need to start with systemic changes within TDSB. We are behind and need to make further progress on making these changes today. * One item that I would like to bring forward for discussion is that fact that we still have not had conversations surrounding a Board Trustee. * How are the Board strengths to self determination and sovereignty of Indigenous Communities and to those connected to the Board? * Do we need to revisit or have more info at our next or May meeting to move it along, with the permission from Elder Dr. Joanne Dallaire.   **J’Net Ayayqwayaksheelth (ROM)**   * The Mississauga of Credit have a land purchase/Treaty relationship with this area, we don’t live close enough to rate a seat at the table. What it comes down to, is systemic and legislation changes are needed before we can move forward with an Indigenous Board Trustee. Maybe it is time to have the conversation with the Ministry of Education.   **Bob Phillips (Community)**   * How is it that many other cultures have Trustees and we as Indigenous Peoples do not? I fully support Jim and J’net with the actions that are decided to be taken.   **Waabshka-Mkwa (2Spirits)**   * Maybe we need reflect to having a ceremony to help guide us with these discussions surrounding the creation of a Board Trustee position.   **Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent)**   * I can engage with the Elders Council for guidance and advise to move forward in any direction as recommended by the Board.   **Dr. Susan Dion (York U)**   * The best thing to do is to create a sub committee for further discussions surrounding the position of an Indigenous Trustee. * I would like to have the master students do some research on this topic and see what is going on within other jurisdictions with a follow up report on the findings. * We need to write a proposal to the Ministry and make a very strong argument on the position of Board Trustee, once we have completed the research and are able to present. * I would like to move forward with creating the sub committee with a call out for interest in holding a seat moving forward.   **Elder Dr. Duke Redbird**   * Motion to move forward to create a sub committee to work on the appointment regarding an Indigenous Trustee.   **Tanya Senk (CAP, TDSB)**   * As the Elders will lead the discussion, I would ask that we defer at this time to the next meeting when Elder Joanne is present. |  |
| Staff Update: | **Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent)**   * Today is a historical day at TDSB. I would like to congratulate Tanya Senk on her new appointment as the first self identified Indigenous Systems Superintendent of Indigenous Education. * Congratulations to Christina Saunders on her new appointment from Centrally Assigned Vice Principal to Principal at Wandering Spirit. Your growth, achievements and commitment to the students and staff is greatly appreciated and we look forward to your new journey as Principal. * The official announcement will be live on March 24th. Link has been provided in the chat for those who which to attend. * Elder Pauline Shirt has advised that there will be a ceremony and feast for Tanya and Christina scheduled shortly.   **Elder Dr. Duke Redbird**   * We have been waiting a long time for this and are very happy to have Tanya in the position representing our community and education at the table where decisions are taken. * Thank you to Jim for being there with your support and carrying the torch and leading the way. We have had many challenges that we have overcome that affects the Indigenous community. Tanya Senk is where she needs to be to do this job and we look forward to her work as System Superintendent.   **Tanya Senk (CAP, TDSB)**   * We also need to do a lot of work with removing the barriers for Native Language teachers. TRC commission of Canada speaks to Language revitalization. We need to work together with the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) to remove the barriers and to also recruit Native Language Teachers. * Thank you to Melissa who is new to Native Child and Family Services and who has been working closely with Saby so we could provide Native Language with a partnership for our students at the NLC East.   **Saby Chandi (P) Sir Wilford Laurier and Native Learning Centre East**   * Melissa has been amazing to work with and we are thankful for the support and how quickly Melissa responded with finding us an Ojibwe Language teacher. Without the filling the gap would have resulted in our students not obtaining the credit that they were missing in order to pass and or graduate.   **Melissa Hamonic (Native Child and Family Services)**   * Language is a critical part of our communities at Native Child and we were able to connect NLC with an Elder who teaches Ojibwe for the students at NLC.   **Tanya Senk (CAP, TDSB)**   * Language revitalization is critical.   **Elise Tywford (VP, TDSB)**   * We continue to connect and support our students who are currently in the virtual school. We have had a large increase with the virtual students returning to school and it is nice to see them back in the building and the friendships that they are making. * We have also introduced STEAM learning. We have purchased Lego kits for coding with a resource called Rig-a-mi-gig that allows the younger students to build in the classroom and we look forward to seeing what is going to be happening in the classrooms moving forward.   **Christina Saunders (CAVP, TDSB)**   * At Kapapamachakwew we continue to build high expectations for student learning. This month we picked up our collaborative learning circles with our teachers and have had critical discussions regarding ensure that our students are reading at the appropriate grade level. This is a high expectation and goal for us, and we have made sure that our teachers are aware and supported. We will continue to closely monitor student achievement and ensure we are providing teachers with the proper resources. * We are also highly supported by the UIEC on initiatives, including mental health wrap around and well being support for students as well as the weekly big drum socials and student circle teachings.   **Michael Sanders (P) Eastview**   * My official start date is April 19th and I look forward to working with the staff at students at Eastview. * Thank you to Ixchel and Steve for all their hard work this far and we will continue to work closely moving forward.   **Ixchel Bennet (VP) Eastview**   * We have implemented our Code to Care circle this month and its is going well. * Our monthly Caregiver Circle continues with a great response from the community. * We have started our after-school tutor program and will continue with the support to our students. * The Girls empowerment group has been going well and we are looking at starting the Boys empowerment group shortly.   **Brandie Wilson - Native Learning Centre (Central)**   * There has been a change in direction towards student support for those working from home. * Continue to do wellness checks and walks with students and caregivers. * Student attendance has been exceptionally well during the pandemic. * Students are adapting as well as can be expected.   **Tanya Senk (CAP, TDSB)**   * The work with Aanse is continuing with UIEC Instructional Leaders and with the Student Success Team. As well as the work with NAC10 and NBE3U with Robert and Lee together * The SST is doing a lot of work with Mental Health through a wholistic approach. The continued work is focused on addressing anti-Indigenous racism, cultural safety, trauma and informed and strength-based approaches.   **Robert Durocher (Instructional Leader, TDSB)**   * We have been working with NAC10 teachers in a different way, for example NAC10 teachers are engaging and learning with the McMichael Gallery to see the Christi Belcourt exhibit. * Christina and I will be teaching ABQ courses virtually in the spring at York University and we are subsiding 40 spots for TDSB teachers. * Plans are underway for our first 2S Pride event. I am working with Isiah on the planning of this initiative.   **Natasha Gleeson (SST, TDSB)**   * The team continues to work closely with the students and families at various schools and provide them with the support that they need. * We are planning our May conference Creating Safe Places and we look forward to having community members engaging with our conference.   **Adrienne Plumley (Instructional Leader, TDSB)**   * Working on developing an Indigenous Education Topic guide which will be a centralized location through the TDSB library where all staff can access Indigenous resources in print, digital and films. * Worked on the Awesome Table which is also play based and centers on 45 Indigenous author picture books with curriculum expectations and connections that teachers from K – 3 can use in their classrooms.   **Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent)**   * It is a pleasure to have Jacq with us and for representing the LGBTQ community.   **Jacq H. Vulpe – (LGBTQ2S CAC)**   * Miigwetch to everyone for allowing me the opportunity to speak this evening. * We have been having many conversations as what a LGBTQ2S CAC would like by ensuring that we were doing proper outreach and had adequate and meaningful representation from different communities. This is something that we are still working on and recognizing the importance of what it can mean by putting the 2S in front of LGBTQ. There is a really important recognition in the truth of understanding the process of colonization and reconciliation and what it means for different communities to move the 2S to the front and this is something that is really important in the work that I do with the founding team and work that we are doing internally. * We look forward to any suggestions, comments, and guidance from Elders on how we can build our relationship with opening up the conversation with putting the 2S in front. * If we make the recommendation thru this particular CAC then, we will be making the recommendation to the Board to change the language from LGBTQ2S to 2SLGBT2Q. * Please feel free to reach out to me directly by email at jvulpe@the519.org   **J’Net Ayayqwayaksheelth (ROM)**   * I would agree to have the change of putting the 2S in the front as it really makes a clear statement on recognizing the sense of place for Indigenous Peoples.   **Trustee Alexander Brown (TDSB)**   * I like the comments that J’net made and would like to know where people can forward their comments.   **Christina Saunders (CAVP, TDSB)**   * It is important for our Advisory Committees to work together. As we think about our 2S students across the system and how we have to best mobilize and best support, as well as recognize the gifts the students bring.   **Tanya Senk (CAP, TDSB)**   * Briefly, I would like to speak on how the community advisory committees work together. Passing a motion on an initiation or initiative that will provide an opportunity for staff to investigateand take the opportunity to look into how we can bridge the work of the community Advisory Committees and share knowledge as to what we are doing. * There currently are 11 Advisory Committees to date. * Maintaining the Indigenous Sovereignty and the Governance model that has been set up through the UIECAC having an opportunity to share what we have been doing and collaborate.   **Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent)**   * I would like to welcome a motion from this committee which would pass so staff could investigate any potential opportunity for Community Advisory Committees to collaborate. The importance in having that in a motion would be directed right to the Board Trustees, so that they also see how important that work is and then at the next meeting through that motion, perhaps I could bring back some follow up to you on how we can best accomplish.   **Tanya Senk (CAP, TDSB)**   * We need to bring Elder Joanne Dallaire into the conversations once she is back to help move this forward.   **Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent)**   * That staff investigate opportunities for Community Advisory Committees to work together in support of priorities that are identified as in common   **Dr. Susan Dion (York U), – Motion to Forward**   * I would like to move forward with passing the motion for staff to investigate opportunities for collaboration between Community Advisory Committees. * Bob Phillips seconded the motion |  |
| New and Other Business | No New and other business |  |
| Future Topics: | Indigenous Board Trustee  Motion for staff to investigate opportunities for collaboration between Community Advisory Committees. Discussion to be tabled with Joanne Dallaire. |  |
| Traditional Closing: | Tanya Senk closed. |  |
| **Adjournment** | The next UICAC will be on April 20, 2021 @ 6:00pm on Zoom. |  |