

# Name of Committee: Urban Indigenous Community Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date**: **Tuesday, November 23rd, 2021**

**Time: 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

## Attendance: via Zoom:

**Core Voting Constituents:**

Present: Elder Dr. Joanne Dallaire, Elder Pauline Shirt, Elder Dr. Duke Redbird, Tanya Senk (System Superintendent, Indigenous Education, TDSB), Christina Saunders (Principal, TDSB), Robert Durocher (Centrally Assigned Vice-Principal, TDSB), Isaiah Shafqat (Indigenous Student Trustee, TDSB), Tracy Mackenzie (Community Liaison, TDSB), Bonnie Johnston (Social Worker, TDSB), Natasha Gleeson (Instructional Leader, TDSB), Sean Gale (Student Success Teacher, TDSB), Adrienne Plumley (Instructional Leader, TDSB), Ryan Neepin (Teacher, TDSB), Marilyn Hew (TYRMC), Dr. Susan Dion (York University), Joe Rock (City of Toronto, Early ON), Dr. Bob Phillips, Mkwa – Waabshkaa (2 Spirited People of the 1st Nation)

**TDSB Trustees:**

Present: Trustee Michelle Aarts (Ward 16), Indigenous Student Trustee Isaiah Shafqat

**TDSB Staff:**

Present: Ixchel Bennett (Centrally Assigned Vice-Principal), Michelle Blackie (Vice-Principal), Barbara-Ann Felschow (Retired Principal), Michael Griesz (Principal), Michael Sanders (Principal), Stephen Hepburn (Vice Principal), Danielle Noel (Vice Principal), Saby Chandi (Principal)

**Guests**: Aakitri Kapoor (Research Coordinator, TDSB Research and Development), Janet O’Reilly (Research Coordinator, TDSB Research and Development), Margaret Alexander (Researcher, TDSB Research and Development)

**Regrets:** Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent, Human Rights, and Indigenous Education TDSB), David Cameron (Senior Manager, TDSB Research and Development)

| **ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **MOTION /RECOMMENDATION**  |
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| Call to Order, Traditional Opening, Review of Meeting Etiquette, Code of Conduct | Elder Dr. Joanne Dallaire chaired, conducted a traditional opening with Elder Pauline Shirt. Code of conduct reviewed for UICAC members and guests. Introductions from the membership in attendance.  |  |
| Approval of Agenda | The agenda of January 18, 2022 |  |
| Review and Approval of the Minutes | The minutes of November 23, 2021 |  |
| Declaration of Conflict of Interest, Terms of Reference |  |  |
| UICAC Priorities for 2020-21 Re-visited:* Facility, 16 Phin – Mobility, Accessibility, Health & Safety, Renovations.
* Indigenous Trustee
* Hiring Practices, Recruitment, Retention, and Mobility.
 | UICAC Priorities:Facility, 16 Phin – Mobility, Accessibility, Health & Safety, Renovations**Tanya Senk (System Superintendent, Indigenous Education, TDSB)**  * Scaffolding at 16 Phin is now dismantled. Main entrance to the building is now accessible.
* New windows have been installed in the front of the building.
* A meeting is being scheduled with the Ministry of Education. Shannon Judge and Elders Council to discuss how we move forward with the facility. Date and time will be announced shortly.

Indigenous TDSB Trustee (Vacant/Not Established)**Tanya Senk (System Superintendent, Indigenous Education, TDSB)*** To date we have; Tanya Senk, Isaiah Shafqat and Tracy Mackenzie as part of the committee. There is still room for members to participate.

Hiring Practices, Recruitment, Retention, and Mobility is Highlighted. **Tanya Senk (System Superintendent, Indigenous Education TDSB*** Pardeep Nagra is scheduled to present and provide updates at our January 18th meeting.
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| Elders Update: | **Elder Dr. Joanne Dallaire*** Discussed the importance of maintaining self care and positivity during these challenging times.
* Discussed the importance of maintaining patience with new admin and staff at our school and centre as they transition into their roles.

**Elder Pauline Shirt*** The Elders are here to support the UIEC, school and staff. Elders can be reached through the Community Liaison Tracy MacKenzie.
* The Elders Council want a new school. As there are repairs that need to be addressed in the interim at Wandering Spirit, we need to ensure safety first when it comes to our students and staff.

**Elder Dr. Duke Redbird*** As we prepare for Solstice it is imperative that our youth are engaging with mother earth, and we must utilize the outdoor education centres in the TDSB.
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| Staff Update: Trustee Update: | **Tanya Senk (System Superintendent, Indigenous Education TDSB)*** Museums and Archives should be out of 16 Phin by end of November.
* UIEC and Kapapamahchakwew are working in collaboration for the Winter Solstice.
* Robert and Ixchel launched Aanse with the Instructional leaders and the Student Success Team of the UIEC to further the work done by the Ministry of Education through the Indigenous Education Office on the Indigenous Collaborative Inquiry.
* Aanse is now in its fourth year and works with schools that have a higher number of self-identified students.
* November is Indigenous Education month, and our staff are wrapping up what has been a busy and successful month with amazing speakers. Congratulations to the staff.

**Michelle Aarts (TDSB Trustee, Ward 16)*** Organizational Board met last week and had several Trustees step forward to be part of the Urban Indigenous Community Advisory Committee for the coming year.
* Important announcement pending on a new learning model for semester 2. Announcements will be recorded and available for anyone to review within the coming week.
* There will be an announcement coming from the Province advising that school boards can return to regular semester model from the current modified model that we currently are in.
* TPH has recommended the shorter lunch period (45 minutes) to limit transmission while we are in a pandemic. Discussions are underway.
* Discussions are underway this evening with regard to Mental Health and Well-Being with our students as we are seeing a rise in violent altercations and more
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|  | incidences with our secondary students and further support is needed. A plan to use the Provincial pandemic funding in the new year to hire and expand our staffing resources in social work including child and youth workers as well as guidance counsellors.* Further updates to follow as communicated in our next meeting.

**Isaiah Shafqat (Indigenous Student Trustee, TDSB)*** The following Trustees have joined the UICAC
	+ Alexander Brown, Ward 12
	+ Dan MacLean, Ward 2
	+ Christopher Mammoliti, Ward 4
	+ Michelle Aarts, Ward 16
	+ Stephanie Donaldson, Ward 9
	+ Trixie Doyle, Ward 14
	+ Chris Moise, Ward 10
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| Guest Presenters: | **Janet O’Reilly (Research Coordinator, TDSB Research and Development,)*** Janet informed the committee that the Student Census is scheduled for Spring 2022.
* The Census has been in operation since 2006 to identify systemic barriers which may limit student achievement and well-being.
* The research department acknowledges the past harms that were present because of the previous censuses, and we are committed to doing better. We understand that the census methodology itself is western and Eurocentric and emphasises quantitative indicators that may be contrary or out of step with Indigenous worldviews that centre a holistic look at student well-being.

**Aakriti Kapoor (Research Coordinator, TDSB Research and Development)*** We spoke with Tanya Senk, Christina Saunders, Ixchel Bennett, Dr. Susan Dion and Robert Durocher, to identify steps needed to decolonize our research methods through work being done within our own team as well as working with groups such as the First Nations Principles of OCAP. In later conversations held with Tanya Senk, Dr. Susan Dion, Margaret Alexander and our research team, a decision was made that an Indigenous working group be established to grapple with some of the ideas on how we move forward.
* The group is looking for 8 – 12 members and is open to students, staff, parents, etc. Further communication will be sent out soon.
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| Future Topics: | Indigenous Board Trustee Recruitment Committee (Dr. Susan Dion) |  |
| Traditional Closing: | Elder Joanne Dallaire closed the meeting  |  |