

Ward 10 Forum: Indigenous Education

Tuesday November 9, 2021, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

Minutes

[Link to Zoom Recording](#)

[Meeting Slides](#)

- The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Ward 10 Chair D. Williams
- D. Williams introduced our guest speaker, [Tanya Senk System Superintendent Urban Indigenous Education](#)
- [Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands](#)

Indigenous Education Presentation by Superintendent Tanya Senk

- Superintendent Tanya Senk is the the Superintendent of the [Urban Indigenous Education Centre](#) and [Kapapamahchakwew - Wandering Spirit School](#)
- November is [Indigenous Education Month](#) at the TDSB
- About the [Land Acknowledgement](#); I am currently from the where I am sitting in Toronto. Which is known as Tkaranto which is a Mohawk word, Haudenosaunee for Toronto which means "where the trees stand out of the water" or more so, "where the weirs stand out of the water" as a place of fishing and coming together and gathering which is very much what it is today.
- [Presentation Slides](#)
- Toronto has the highest population of Indigenous people in Ontario, it is the fastest growing Indigenous population with Indigenous people from all over Turtle Island calling Toronto home.
- We talk about relationships as they relate to the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's calls to Action and Reconciliation](#).
- [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation \(NCTR\)](#)

- We refer to them as the Four R's as you can see here, there are Seven R's: *Respect, Reciprocity, Relevance, Responsibility, Representation, Resurgence, Representation.*
- Looking at the Canada's Calls to Action Report (2015) from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, I will be focusing on [Education](#), [Child Welfare](#), and [Mental Health](#).
- Seven Canopies: Supporting Students, Professional Learning, Community Engagement, Partnerships, Curriculum Development and Programming, Research Development and Innovation & Reconciliation and Relationships.
- There are two Native Learning Centres, [The Native Learning Centre](#) & [The Native Learning Centre East](#)
- [We have partnerships](#) with York University and OISE at U of T. We have participated in numerous research projects.
- [Ontario Elementary Curriculum](#)
- [Secondary Curriculum](#)
- "Together, Canadians must do more than just talk about reconciliation; we must learn how to practise reconciliation in our everyday lives - within ourselves and our families, and in our communities, governments, places of worship, schools, and workplaces. To do so constructively, Canadians must remain committed to the ongoing work of establishing and maintaining respectful relationships." Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future. Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015, p. 21.
- [Decolonizing Our Schools: Aboriginal Education in the Toronto District School Board](#), a report on the Urban Education Pilot Project by Dr. Susan D. Dion with Krista Johnson and Dr. Karla Rice, September 30, 2010
- *Factors Determining Indigenous Student Success:* Representation of Indigenous people (staff, admin, students) ♦ Resources such as tutorials, orientation workshops, personal support/counselling, housing, childcare, career counselling ♦ Aboriginal Governance (Aboriginal run institutions, partnerships, mentorship programs and Aboriginal-g geared programs) ♦ Indigenous history and content in the curriculum Preparation for "life outside" the school ♦ Alternative Learning Styles ♦ Youth government and inclusion in programming ♦ Cultural Education and Language Role Models ♦ Racism and Discrimination awareness ♦ Social and economic sensitivity
- [Indigenous Land-Based Learning Centre, Boyne River Natural Science School](#)

- Creating schools that engender mental, spiritual, and emotional health within Indigenous contexts must have Indigenous perspectives of mental health and well-being as a framework in which to position one's self in relation to all. Connections to the land and community are a part of maintaining a balance between the four aspects of health. Mino-Pimatisiwin - "leading a good life" and "walking in a good way" centre Indigenous worldview of well-being and reflects the interdependent worldview of Indigenous cultures – related to community.
- **Question & Answer:** view the Q & A in the [recording](#) or in the [transcript](#) from 00:26:00 to 01:05:37

Trustee Update: Trustee Chris Moise, Ward 10

- [TDSB Vaccination Procedure Update](#)
 - 95.36% compliance rate among staff.
 - Just over 1000 of our 41,485 TDSB staff are not vaccinated.
 - *Strategies to maintain service continuity:* ♦Temporary employees on roster must now work 60 days in the school year (CUPE School-Based Staff) ♦Provided dedicated Zoom room to offer assistance to administrators/managers related to Vaccination Procedure ♦Allow casual, part-time staff to hold more than one position or have extended hours.
- [Vice Principal Allocation](#)

Superintendent Update:

- Executive Superintendent [Sandy Spyropoulos](#):
 - Provided further information on staffing & vaccination mandate: continue to recruit and develop a pool of staff to support school and central office staff needs ♦increase communication to unvaccinated staff moving towards the November 21 timeline ♦Conduct further consultation with groups around impact of the vaccination procedure ♦Clear mechanism to ensure staff who comply with procedure are able to return to work within a short time frame.
 - Operational Guidelines Team, made up of Superintendents and staff who consider the [health and safety](#) and work with [Toronto Public Health](#) to incorporate guidelines into our policies and procedures. Currently they are looking into opening pools, giving students access to

lockers and bringing volunteers back into the schools. Toronto Public Health is hosting [webinars about vaccinations for 5-11 year olds](#).

- [School Open Houses and Information nights](#) for [Grade 8s transitioning to Grade 9](#) are going on now.
- [TDSB Winter Coat Drive](#)
- [November is Hindu Heritage Month](#)
- Superintendent Mary Linton:
 - [Specialized Schools and Program Policy consultations](#)
 - [Early French Immersion Applications](#) are open November 1 -26th
 - In the process of doing a Secondary Student Check In. Students will have the opportunity to complete a survey which is anonymous and confidential.
 - [November 19th is a PA Day](#)
 - Report cards will be going home November 15-18 for [Elementary](#) & [Secondary](#).
 - [Vice Principal Selection](#) is coming up and an important part of that is the [School Statement of Needs \(SSON\)](#) from School Councils, due by the end of November

Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC)

- November Conference: Bridging the Gap November 26 & 27
 - [Registration is open!](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.