

**Ward 15 Council Meeting
Minutes**

**Thursday, March 27, 2017
First Nations Junior and Senior School of Toronto**

In Attendance: Liz Nemethy - Co-chair, (Queen Alexandra), John Chasty (Superintendent), Sandy Spyropoulos (Exec. SO LC4), Jennifer Story (Trustee), Nicole Herbert - PIAC rep (Riverdale), Alisa Metcalfe (Leslieville), Jonathan Kakegamic (Principal – First Nations), Barb Felschow (Aboriginal Ed. Centre), Tanya Senk (Aboriginal Ed. Centre)

Regrets: Kate Sanagan - Chair (Leslieville), Sarah Smith – FSLAC rep (RH McGregor)

Welcome and Introductions

Liz welcomed everyone. The group introduced themselves.

Forum presentation: “Indigenous Education”

Elder Duke Redbird welcomed everyone and gave a brief history of indigenous peoples in the area we now call Toronto, and acknowledged the historic and enduring presence of aboriginal peoples on this land.

Trustee Story gave some background on what trustees and staff have done recently in our ward and system wide in support of indigenous teaching, learning, community building and reconciliation.

Aboriginal Education Centre – Central Co-ordinating Principal Barb Felschow & Central Co-ordinating Vice Principal Tanya Senk gave a presentation of the work of the Aboriginal Education Centre, located in the building, and the huge array of programs, services and approaches they utilize with students, staff and the broader community.

First Nations Jr and Sr School of Toronto – Principal Jonathan Kakegamic gave an overview of the school, its past, its present and its promising future.

Expressing Aboriginal Cultures – John spoke about the board’s efforts in Aboriginal education for all students, including the development and running of the high school arts credit course NAC10.

Regular Business

Trustee Update

- a. US trips – The board voted unanimously to halt any future school trips to the US, in light of travel issues with the US. Currently scheduled trips will go ahead. Director’s statement: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/media/news/tabid/372/artmid/2750/articleid/1040/director-of-education-statement-re-school-trips-to-us>
- b. Next year’s school calendar is now available on the board website. Draft calendar, pending Ministry approval can be found here: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Calendar/SchoolYearCalendar20172018.aspx>
- c. Report coming this Spring from the reorg of the Gifted program.
- d. The Director’s performance appraisal underway
- e. Environmental Sustainability Committee – open meeting April 4 @ Central Tech
- f. Bike to School Week May 29 - June 2
- g. Vacant trustee seat in W21 – position will be filled by appointment of the board, within the month

Superintendent Update

John

- a. Renewed Math Strategy – LC4 held an EQAO learning session for elementary
- b. Leadership Training Team – monthly meeting for Principals & Superintendents to share best practices around Integrated Equity Framework, etc.

- c. Alternate School Review ongoing
- d. Secondary Schools review ongoing – assessing equitable access to pathways in LC4. Year 1: student input done; Year 2 will be parent input

Sandy

- a. EQAO - Thurs. March 30 gr. 10 students will write the OSSLT Literacy Test
- b. April is Student/Parent Census month. Students: gr. 4-6 (first time), gr. 7-12, Parents, K-6 will be invited to participate <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/research/research/parentandstudentcensus.aspx>
- c. Sandy thanked the community for a great Greek Heritage month

PIAC Report

a. Parents as Partners conference - April 1

Tons of workshops from equity to mental health to school councils. Walk in to this FREE event. Sat. April 1, Allstream Centre, 105 Princes Blvd. 9am – 4pm <http://www.parentsaspartners.ca/>

b. School Council Training Sessions

Round 3 of free council training workshops Mar 28 – Apr 6

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/HowtoGetInvolved/SchoolCouncils/Workshops.aspx>

c. US school trips

PIAC discussed the issues with US trips and sent their input to the board. The board has decided to go ahead with existing trips to the US. No new trips will be scheduled.

d. Fundraising Policy consultation

The board will be updating their Fundraising policy. They are looking for input prior to their re-draft.

Contact PIAC Consultations Working Group to participate: consultations@torontopiac.com

Parents can also fill out their survey at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfpU2FCnLTkwwjDiRb9vPJ0bnpllhRNskQ0N_nNt5DdZ-ISNg/viewform

Meeting adjourned. 9:05pm

Next meeting May 30, Roden/Equinox