



**Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee  
Minutes  
Date: February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
Location: 90 Croatia Street, Room 103  
Time: 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Christine Monague (ACAC Community Co-Chair); Bela McPherson (ACAC Community Co-Chair); J’net Cavanagh (Royal Ontario Museum); Marilyn Hew (Community Representative); Rob Lackie (Community Representative); Jennifer Sylvester (Parent Representative); Trustee Mari Rutka

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:** Barbara-Ann Felschow (Aboriginal Education Centre); Bonnie Johnston (Aboriginal Education Centre); Tanya Senk (Aboriginal Education Centre); Jim Spyropoulos (Inclusive Schools and Equity Department); Tanitia Munroe (George Brown Student with the AEC); Marjolein Winterlink (Constituency Assistant, TDSB);

**REGRETS:** Ed Sackaney

**GUESTS:** John Chasty (Superintendent ER14 FOS); Trustee Pamela Gough; Pat Rose (Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative); Carlana Lindeman (Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative)

**RECORDER:** Linda Mendonca (Parent and Community Engagement Office)

Item	Information/Discussion	Action or Recommendation
1.	<p><b>Traditional Opening/Welcome</b> Christine Monague opened the meeting at 5:44 p.m. Jennifer conducted a traditional opening. Introductions were made by all in attendance.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Approval of the Agenda</b> 1.) Deferral of Item #6a following guest presentation 2.) Move up Item #6d.– Presentation by Dr. Lindeman (Paul Martin Centre) 3.) Deferral of Item #6b to next meeting – Ed Sackaney absent</p>	Defer Discussion Paper – Sub-Committee Meeting and Elders Gathering to March Agenda
3.	<p><b>Review and Approval of Minutes – January 28, 2014</b> ***<b>MOTION:</b> J’net Cavanaugh moved to approve the minutes from the January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting with the following amendment. All approved. Motion Carried. ▪ Page #3, Item #7c.) – add comments to add context to why Aboriginal pieces need to be called “ancestors”. It was a direction provided by Aboriginal Elder Pauline Shirt.</p>	Vandana will amend minutes and post them on the website.

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4.	<p><b>Presentation by Paul Martin Foundation (Item #6d)</b>            Dr. Carlana Lindeman, Education Program Director from the Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative (MAEI) provided an Overview of the Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Project. <b>See (Appendix 1 – MAEI Presentation, pages #-#)</b></p>	
5.	<p><b>Business Arising from the Minutes (Item #4a)</b>  <b>a.)MOE sub-committee to work on writing proposal re: Native Language Teacher Requirements</b>            Susan Dion reported that she has not been able to find time to address this issue, and will not be able to until May.</p>	Item deferred to May agenda.

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6.	<p><b>Items for Discussion</b></p> <p><b>a.) First Nations School of Toronto – Feasibility Study (Susan Dion)</b>  Susan reported that Focus Group discussions were held at the First Nations School of Toronto. Hardcopies of the surveys were sent out, and a link was posted on the website. 127 surveys were completed; 57% - Elementary, 43% - Highschool children are attending school in Toronto; 39% - Elementary, 8% - Highschool, 11% - Attended Both, 42% - No Answer; 87% - Support expansion of FNST; and 75% would consider sending Elementary children to an expanded K-12 program.</p> <p><b>Meeting with Elder Vern Harper</b>  Bonnie distributed the survey by hard copy and electronic weblink to at least 100 contacts in the Aboriginal community of Toronto. Bonnie met with Elder Vern Harper who shared about his and now former wife Pauline Shirt's experience of developing the Wandering School Spirit. They were both very politically active in the early 70's. They have 5 children and several grandchildren, and have been involved with the TDSB for a number of years. It is important to acknowledge their experience and wisdom of their involvement with the TDSB. Vern suggested that a school needs to be structured as a one-stop shopping place that builds communities and supports families from a holistic view including supports for after school programs, environmental education, physical recreation, track and field, community gardens for all ages to be able to go to, and an area where we can hold events for the community (e.g., Pow Wow's, cultural events). Vern and Pauline's feedback was very much aligned with the feedback received from the surveys gathered.</p> <p>The committee is looking at other sources of financial support to create the kind of physical space that is needed; talking to people about potential partnerships, and locations for next steps.</p> <p>The question was asked whether the community will be consulted when a location is being considered. The Program Area Review Team (PART) voting membership consists of four people- Maya Chacaby, Ed Sackaney, Christine Monague and Susan Dion who have also finalized their Terms of Reference at the last meeting. The PARC will make the recommendations. The committee is looking at a goal of September 2015 to open something. Bill Wallace will be presenting us with different options at the next meeting. How we present information must be done in co-ordinated way that affects many programs and services. The name of the school has not been confirmed. It will be an Indigenous name, and not only First Nations.</p> <p><b>b.) Ed Sackaney – Discussion Paper – Sub-Committee Meeting and Elders Gathering (Ed Sackaney)</b>  ▪ Deferred to next meeting</p> <p><b>c.) First Nations Charter (Jim Spyropoulos) This item was not discussed.</b></p>	<p>Discussion Paper – Deferred to March Meeting</p> <p>First Nations Charter – Deferred to March Meeting</p>

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7.	<p><b>Staff Update</b></p> <p><b>Superintendent, Inclusive Schools, Student, Parent and Community (Superintendent Jim Spyropoulos)</b></p> <p><b>Jeffery Baldwin Inquest</b> The inquest included a chronic starvation case involving 5 year old Jeffery Baldwin who died in 2002. There were 105 recommendations which necessitate action on TDSB's part. The recommendations have been shared through TDSB's Direct Line. There is an over-representation of children in care. We need to look at how we document and share the information to ensure that children do not fall through the cracks. In August, TDSB will be holding an all-day mandatory training session for Principals.</p> <p><b>Elder's Council Meeting</b> Through Ed's and Barb's leadership schedules are arranged months in advance. What came out of the last meeting is the intent for the group to come back and stay together.</p> <p><b>Visit to the Royal Ontario Museum(ROM)</b> Superintendent Jim S. thanked J'net Cavanaugh who helped Aboriginal students to visit the ROM along with students from the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB).</p> <p><b>Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grants</b> Members were encouraged to share information regarding the Parents Reaching Out grant at School Council meetings. Michelle Munroe can be invited to come to a meeting to provide info on the PRO.</p> <p><b>Focus on Youth</b> Members are challenged to provide the name of 1 Aboriginal student for the Focus on Youth program to ensure that we provide more opportunities and support to Aboriginal youth.</p> <p><b>Child Welfare Training</b> Staff will need to take a day to work with principals to look at the kinds of child welfare training provided to staff. Principals will work with training teachers in the schools. We are currently looking into how to work with School Councils. Trustees will also participate in the training. If anyone is interested in the full package, it is on the TDSB website.</p> <p><b>Aboriginal Education Centre (AEC) – Central Co-ordinating Principal (Barbara Felshow)</b> Barbara did a presentation on the AEC activities and logo. <b>See Appendix #2 – AEC Presentation (Page #-#)</b>. Members were asked to review the slides with the sample AEC logos and provide further feedback to the AEC.</p>	<p>Invite Michelle Munroe to provide info on Parent Reaching Out Grant.</p>

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8.	<p><b>New and Other Business</b></p> <p><b>Invitation to Parents and Youth to Participate in a Video</b>  The York Centre for Education and Community (YCEC) is inviting 1 or 2 parents with 1 or 2 youth to participate in the creation of a video on demographic data and student equity. If interested, members may contact Louise Gormley, YCEC Research Associate, at <a href="mailto:lgormley@edu.yorku.ca">lgormley@edu.yorku.ca</a> or by phone at 416-736-2100, ext. 33395</p>	
9.	<p><b>Adjournment</b>  Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.</p>	

**Next Meeting:** At the Aboriginal Education Centre March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 5pm. 90 Croatia Street Toronto ON M6H 1K9. Tel: 416-393-9600.

Visit the Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee webpage at [www.tdsb.on.ca/community/acac/](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/community/acac/)