



**Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee  
Minutes  
Date: October 30, 2013  
Location: 90 Croatia Street, Room #103B  
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Trustee Mari Rutka (ACAC Trustee Co-Chair); Bela McPherson (ACAC Community Co-chair); Christine Monague (ACAC Community Co-chair, Howard Public School); ; Ed Sackaney (ACAC Elder); Susan Dion (Community Representative, York University, Faculty of Education, Aboriginal Education); Rob Lackie (Community Representative, York University, Centre for Aboriginal Student Services); Shane McLeod (Parent Representative, CR Marchant); Judy Rheume (Parent Representative, Humber College); Jennifer Sylvester (Parent Representative); J'net Cavanagh (Parent Representative); Julie Blair (Community Representative); Stephanie Bennett (Parent Representative)

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

Bonnie Johnston (Aboriginal Education Centre); Barbara-Ann Felschow (Aboriginal Education Centre); Tanya Senk (Aboriginal Education Centre); Jim Spyropoulos (Inclusive Schools and Equity Department); Tanitia Munroe (George Brown Student, AEC); Tessa Sill (Aboriginal Education Centre)

**REGRETS:** Cyndy Baskin (Parent Representative, Ryerson University); Trustee Pamela Gough (ACAC Trustee Co-chair); Trustee Jerry Chadwick; Lisa Zwicker (Principal, First Nations Jr/Sr School of Toronto); Dr. Suzanne Stewart (Special Advisor to the Dean of OISE)

**GUESTS:**

Matthew Van Allen (Council Fire Youth Wellness Navigator, Education)

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

Item	Information/Discussion	Action or Recommendation
<b>1. Traditional Opening/Welcome to All and Introductions (Ed Sackaney/Christine Monague)</b>	Christine Monague opened the meeting at 6:10 p.m., with introductions.	
<b>2. Approval of the Agenda(Christine Monague)</b>	Agenda was approved by consensus	Committee Assistant will post the agenda on the website.
<b>3. Review and Approval of the Minutes September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013 (Christine Monague)</b>	Minutes were approved by consensus with the following amendments: Under the Attendance Section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Under Rob Lackie's name, remove "Alternate</li> <li>▪ Under Judy Rheume's name, remove "First Nations", and add "Humber College"</li> <li>▪ Page #2, Under "Business Arising from the Minutes", bullet #9, beginning with "Guests of Toronto...delete the word, "not" from the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence, after the</li> </ul>	Committee will amend minutes from the last meeting and post on the website.

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	<p>words, “past and”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Page #3, Under “Staff Updates - Aboriginal Education Centre”, bullet #3, delete the word, “the”, and add “and” in its place.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4. Business Arising from the Minutes (Christine Monague)</b></p>	<p><b>Business Arising from the Minutes</b></p> <p>On page #2 of the September 24<sup>th</sup> minutes, in the last bullet, regarding the meeting with Superintendent Spyropoulos, Bela reported that she could share the detailed notes she had taken and asked if they could be put on the record for today’s meeting. Linda confirmed that they could be added to the appendix of this meeting’s minutes.</p> <p><b>***MOTION***:</b> Stephanie, seconded by Rob requested to have the minutes from the June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 minutes added to the appendix of today’s meeting. All approved. Motion carried.</p> <p>Please see June 4<sup>th</sup> minutes below. (<b>Appendix #1, page #6</b>)</p>	<p>The Committee Assistant will add the Minutes from the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting to the appendix section of these minutes.</p>
<p><b>5. Staff Updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Jim Spyropoulos, Superintendent, Inclusive Schools, Student, Parent and Community</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Aboriginal Education Centre- New Central Coordinating Principal</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Staff Updates:</b></p> <p><b>CAC Review Process</b> The recommendations from the CAC Review are before the Committee of the Board. 200 people were surveyed during the review. There will be another opportunity for members to review the recommendations. They weren’t significant changes recommended to the structure of the committees.</p> <p><b>Invitation to John Chasty</b> Superintendent Spyropoulos suggested that the committee invite John Chasty to do a presentation on the Native Arts &amp; Culture program provided to 20 high schools across the district.</p> <p><b>Stronach Foundation Request</b> A request from the Stronach Foundation came forward to have them attend a future ACAC meeting to discuss their initiative that provides laptop computers to First Nations, Inuit and Métis students.</p> <p><b>Board Re-Organization</b> Every year, on the first Tuesday of December, the Board goes through a Board Re-organization. The Board selects the Chair, for a term of one year. The Board elects new chairs for each of the Standing Committees, and confirms Trustee representation on CAC’s.</p>	<p>Send CAC Review Report to Committee</p> <p>Invite John Chasty to ACAC meeting.</p> <p>Invite Stronach Foundation to ACAC meeting (?).</p>

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	<p><b>Aboriginal Education Centre- New Central Coordinating Principal</b></p> <p>Barbara Felschow, Central Co-coordinating Principal presented on the Aboriginal Education Centre (AEC), Programs &amp; Partnerships.</p> <p><b>Comments, Questions &amp; Concerns Addressed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Knowledge and Wisdom Keeper (Ed Sackaney) key to programs and partnerships as consultant to TDSB.</li> <li>▪ Communications Plan includes sending info through Direct Line, Website, Twitter, Facebook, Week at a Glance (WAG/Media Pitches), Curriculum Resource Centre</li> <li>▪ All Schools should have information sent to them directly</li> <li>▪ TDSB revamped website over summer so that departments and communities can access information quicker.</li> <li>▪ Struggle with acquiring Native language Teachers (OCT Teachers- let people know that TDSB is looking for Ojibwe teachers.</li> <li>▪ Concern re: Native Language PLC, and OCT requirements as barriers for First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.</li> <li>▪ Susan Dion suggested that ACAC strike a “sub-committee” to work on this and write a proposal and go the ministry to put pressure on the MOE to make the changes, and to work with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, and Boards of Education.</li> </ul>	<p>Barbara will send PowerPoint to Bonnie to circulate to members and have added to the minutes.</p> <p>Look into striking a sub-committee to write a proposal to the MOE re: proposal to look at how to create a professional designation.</p>
<p><b>6. Items for Discussion:</b></p> <p><b>A.) ACAC Terms of Reference – for Review</b></p> <p><b>B.) New “Working Committee” participation, action and timelines</b></p> <p><b>C.) Feasibility Study/FNST Updates</b></p>	<p><b>A.) ACAC Terms of Reference – for Review</b></p> <p>At the last meeting, it was brought up that an amendment needs to be made to the Terms of Reference as to the process of how the agenda is set. The last amendment to the TOR was made in (May 2011) – specifically to address membership. Members met as a sub-committee, reported back, and made a decision. It was suggested that when the advance Notice of Meeting goes out, that members forward agenda items to the Committee Assistant, and the Committee Assistant will forward them to Bonnie to confirm agenda items.</p> <p>Ed suggested that the Terms of Reference need to be adjusted to include discussion papers, and to request a formal working agreement with TDSB.</p> <p>Trustee Rutka said that cleaning up the Terms of Reference is very timely, as Trustees had asked to look at Terms of Reference for all committees. The sooner the better as the CAC review is under progress. Some of the committees overlap; some of them are non-functional, and difficult for staff to support. All CAC’s were asked for input through the CAC survey and received a 30% return rate from all committees. Key issues have been keeping membership lists up to date and websites updated.</p>	<p>Update the Terms of Reference as discussed.</p> <p>Members to forward agenda items upon receipt of Notice of Meeting.</p>

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	<p>There is room for further review of this committee and how it's functioning.</p> <p>Superintendent Spyropoulos asked if the intent of this committee, as Ed. Suggested was to have a treaty with the TDSB. Bela responded that the Terms of Reference or agreement with the TDSB would be far greater and better and from the First Nations world view, rather than one passed down to them from the TDSB. Members would like to be involved in the development aspect of the Terms of Reference to help make changes for young people, and to have consistent dialogue.</p> <p>Ed suggested that the Elder Council wants an Elder's policy to be developed by people who have lived the life of a Wisdom Keepers and it should be the best that they can come up with. The Elder's Council is planning a meeting for the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of November with 4-5 members. Meeting to include Council Fire, whose rep could not be here today.</p> <p><b>B.) Feasibility Study/FNST Updates</b>  Dr. Dion provided an update on the First Nations Feasibility Study, and asked for feedback from members on the Survey. It was proposed by parents that a K-12 school for FNST be created. Parents feel very strongly that they want to have a school of their own. The goal is to collect focus group info, and write a report to provide to the Board.</p> <p>The idea that came forward included creating an "Aboriginal Hub' in the City. The Aboriginal Education Centre would move back in there and have some research and teacher space (i.e. York University) would have a partnership with the Centre.</p> <p><b>Members were asked for feedback on the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What do we do about Native language?</li> <li>▪ How do we do outreach with parents?</li> <li>▪ How do we bring teachers into Aboriginal Environments?</li> <li>▪ To take a leadership role (nationally) on Urban Aboriginal Centre. Having the K-12 school, the Aboriginal Education Centre, and FNST at one location</li> </ul> <p><b>Member Feedback:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Post priorities for the FNST should on –line (i.e. Faculty of Education, York)</li> <li>▪ Address daycare needs</li> <li>▪ Provide Headstart Program</li> <li>▪ Indigenize architecture</li> <li>▪ Include Inuit representation to ensure inclusiveness</li> <li>▪ Provide affordable and accessible learning for growth in youth population.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide late start option – research shows that late starts work better for adolescents.</li> <li>▪ Connectedness to technology and access to portals – building to be completely high-tech wired. This is where the Stronach Family can help</li> <li>▪ Space for sporting events (hockey, basketball, lacrosse) –other sports can be developed (i.e. cross-country).</li> <li>▪ Council Fire – currently involved in discussions about focus on gifts, strengths (i.e. Navigation Program)</li> <li>▪ Provide Little NHL Program – currently difficult for Aboriginal children in Toronto to get involved in hockey, unless they are on a reserve.</li> <li>▪ Develop partnerships in the community (e.g. Stronach Foundation, Newmarket &amp; Aurora)</li> <li>▪ Have a Aboriginal School of Excellence</li> <li>▪ Provide lecture space for Post-Secondary Education representation (e.g. York, Ryerson, George Brown),</li> <li>▪ Recreation Arena</li> <li>▪ Holistic Centre of Excellence</li> <li>▪ Promote sports and education</li> <li>▪ Work on Partnership with NAG, Little NHL</li> <li>▪ Address spiritual needs of students, parents, and family – determine what the school needs to have in order to do that – need a gathering space both (indoor/outdoor)</li> <li>▪ Nicer space (i.e. Auditorium) for Native Earth (for Bullying Awareness)</li> <li>▪ Tired of getting hand me downs – we want something technical, and new.</li> <li>▪ Balance between arts/sports, musical activity, dance, performance space.</li> <li>▪ Location – has to be on the subway line.</li> </ul> <p><b>For any other comments, e-mail Dr. Susan Dion at <a href="mailto:sdion@yorku.ca">sdion@yorku.ca</a>.</b></p>	<p>Bonnie and Dr. Dion will compose an e-mail that will go out to the broader community.</p> <p>Members to e-mail Dr. Susan Dion at <a href="mailto:sdion@yorku.ca">sdion@yorku.ca</a> with any further comments.</p>
<p><b>7. New and Other Business Announcements</b></p>	<p><b>Invitation to Julie Bull</b></p> <p>Trustee Rutka will meet with Julie Bull on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Rob Lackie and Bonnie Johnston will attend meeting with Trustee Rutka.</p>	<p>Invite Julie Bowes to next meeting.</p>
<p><b>8. Confirmation of Schedule of ACAC dates for 2013</b></p>	<p>Members discussed meeting earlier at 5pm beginning in November and going forward to accommodate Trustees. The November meeting was confirmed for <b>November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 5pm.</b></p>	
<p><b>9. Future Topics</b></p>	<p>The following future topics were proposed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) Invitation to John Chasty</li> <li>2.) Ed's Report – Bring it back to the table. Members are asked to send an e-mail to Ed.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>10. Traditional Closing/Adjournment</b></p>	<p><b>Closing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bela McPherson ended the meeting at 9:05 pm</li> <li>▪ Traditional closing was done by Ed Sackaney.</li> </ul>	<p>Bonnie will e-mail the Notice of Intent to members.</p>

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	<p><b>Announcements</b>            Bela McPherson announced that she was stepping down as her two-year term was coming to an end. Members were asked to send in Letters of Intent to Bonnie Johnston at <a href="mailto:bonnie.johnston@tdsb.on.ca">bonnie.johnston@tdsb.on.ca</a> if interested in becoming Co-Chair.</p>	

**Next Meeting:** Aboriginal Education Centre, November 26th, 2013, 5pm. 90 Croatia Street, Toronto. M6H 1K9.

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

**APPENDIX #1: June 4, 2013 – ACAC – Minutes**

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