

Indigenous Education Advisory Committee

April 14, 2022

Virtual Teams Meeting

Brock University	Cindy Biancaniello
DSBN	Georgie Groat Marian Reimer-Friesen Tamara Lockhart Kya Steinbach-Parker (Indigenous Student Trustee)
Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre	Gary Parker Shannon Cotter
Niagara Catholic	Joseph Zaroda Marco Magazzeni Nicole Pigeau Marie Bowering Brian Kon
Niagara College	Emily Schutt
Niagara Region Métis Council	Connie Johnson
Niagara Regional Native Centre	Karl Dockstader (Co Chair) Willow Shawanoo

Regrets: Louise Hickey (Niagara Chapter of Native Women); Sydney Yott (Niagara Catholic – Student Rep)

1. **Welcome** Karl Dockstader
2. **Opening** Marie Bowering
3. **Quorum established**
4. **Approval of Agenda** approved by consensus

5. **Minutes of February 10, 2022** approved by consensus

6. **Business arising from Minutes**

- Karl provided an overview in response to the Minutes.
 - i. Two subcommittees TOR and Finance have not had much activity this year and that the existing TOR will continue as is for the present time.
 - ii. Other Business: Marco had approached IEAC about taking a day in a more relaxed setting to allow IEAC members to discuss issues and to gather in person. Karl is in agreement and looks to identifying a day by the end of this meeting.
- No further comments from Committee members.

7. **Student Voice updates**

- **DSBN - Kya Steinbach-Parker**
 - i. Indigenous Student Leadership Circle - 2 meetings since last IEAC meeting
 - February -- Presentation from OYAP – offering pathways after secondary
 - March – NRNC, and FENFC programs and resources and tools established for youth in each Centre
 - ii. Youth & Elders Conference, attend and present as Youth panellists discussing what it means to be an urban and Indigenous student
 - iii. Indigenous Career Fair – in person event, met with students across the Board, great to see the support from other community organizations in the area
 - iv. Blockers & Attackers event – able to share information about youth activities and heard from presenters who are strong Indigenous women.
- **Niagara Catholic – Sydney Yott**
 - i. Sydney was unable to attend due to exams.
 - ii. Brian Kon commented on the Youth events, including the Youth & Elders, Indigenous Career Fair and the strong voice of Kya at the Blockers & Attackers event.

8. **Subcommittees**

- **Board Action Plans**
 - ***Niagara Catholic***
 - i. Still entering information online into the new Ministry system, received response from members in response to what has been shared to date. Modifications will be made based on those comments as information is added. No BAP subcommittee meetings since last meeting.

- **DSBN**
 - i. Has held a couple of meetings. Georgie thanked the committee members for their help. Met in February and twice in March. SharePoint takes a long time and hard to navigate
 - After their feedback from subcommittee and then shared with all IEAC so everyone had a chance to review.
 - Hopes to meet in May and prepare for next year. Parent engagement was one area that was highlighted out of this year's meetings.
 - ii. Georgie offered to assist Niagara Catholic to help with a consistent planning process for both boards
- **Terms of Reference**
 - i. Karl acknowledged this committee has not met this year and at this point in the year it is unlikely to have an opportunity to make changes, however it is an important way for this Committee to operate.
 - i. There have been discussions about "letter of the law versus spirit of the law" by TOR committee.
- **Finance & Grants**
 - i. This is an area that doesn't typically have a lot of opportunities but is a place to identify areas where our Community can benefit as a whole with outside funding opportunities.

9. New Business

- Ashley Buck is currently on professional educational advancement opportunity that prohibits her from acting as a Co-Chair for this Committee at this time.
 - i. She is in year her first of a two-year commitment and plans to carry on with her commitment moving forward.
 - ii. Next meeting will elect a new Co-Chair.
- Marco led discussion to have a full-day session of the Committee to allow for more in-depth discussions with Community members.
 - i. Potential to use Balls Falls as the setting for the gathering. Potential dates include: April 25, 26 or 28, and/or May 9, 11, or 12 are possibilities.
 - ii. Marco will provide a Doodle Poll to choose the date.
 - iii. Invited all members to send potential discussions or activities to the Co-Chairs to help create the agenda for the day.

10. Community updates

Brock University

- Middle of office renovations and moving space – creating more space for students.
- Career Fair was successful.
- Found children’s craft supplies in renovation and donated to FENFC day care.
- Creating partnership with Aboriginal Health Centre – the AHC will be hiring student ambassador and health sciences Indigenous students.
- Name change discussions are continuing, will be removing “Aboriginal” from the name.
- Sam is currently at an Indigenous Mental Health and Addictions conference in Edmonton.
- Need to birth the Teaching Lodge, will work with NPAAMB for this to happen and to be available during Canada Games.
- Three Indigenous students jointly won student of the Year award – first time given to a group.
- Metis student won Outstanding Leadership award.
- Job Posting for new position at ABSS as admin assistant.
- Referendum passed for money to be provided to ABSS equivalent to the number of course credits enrolled.
- Executive Leadership Team donated \$15,000 to create a breakfast program for Indigenous students.
- Sam will make arrangements with both Boards to invite students to see what a “day in the life of” students on campus.

FENFC

- Stay tuned to FENFC Facebook page for most current information.
- June 21st being planned.
- Staff are getting re-engaged after COVID.
- Wasa-Nabin program will focus on re-engaging students.
- Rainbow crosswalk being installed across from City Hall for LGBTQQIA+ community.
- Corn Soup making activity will be available soon.
- Vaccination walk-in clinic for Community on April 24th.

Niagara Region Métis Council

- MNO programs available on their website:
 - Educations support advocacy program – navigating K to 12 school setting – advocates available to support Metis families. Links available on the website.
 - There are guides online for all educators to access resources in the classroom.
 - Metis stay-in-school program for students age 14 to 20.
- Niagara Region Council distributed Early Year Cultural Kits to Metis families.

Niagara College

- Ashley is on leave so Emily is on her own for now.
- Exams start next week, so it was noted that student enrollment at recent events reflect the time of year.
- Provided tickets to students for Toronto event, Indigenous –Heritage Night for Indigenous Rocks.
- Workshops offered include quilt making and beading.
- Earth Day event is planned to include an opening of the gardens
- New lounge is open.
- Provide a “lunch to go” program for students.
- Emily is on campus 3 days a week, virtual 2 days a week.
- Thanked all involved in making the Student Career Fair a success. It was good to see community come together after so long apart.

NRNC

- Career Fair well done and seeing youth together was incredible
- May 5 working on Red Dress Day memorial and walk from City Hall in St. Catharines.
- Working on events for June 21, Solidarity Day. Most events will be focused on evening. Partnering with PAC and City of St Catharines.
- Powwow on October 1st.
- Check Facebook for weekly program events.

11. Closing Marie Bowering

Meeting adjourned

Next meeting June 9, 2022