



REPORT, INDIGENOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Date: Thursday, October 18, 2018, 6:00 pm
Location: Boardroom (1st Floor)
133 Greenbank Road

- Attendees Present Monique Monatch, Albert Dumont, Kirk Brant, Jo McQuarrie, Nina Stanton, Sylvie Lajoie, Anthony Debassige, Falcia Gingras, Jasmine Doig, Romaine Mitchell, Michael Justinich, Sytukie Joamie, Jo VanHooser, Anthony Debassige, Thomas III, Nicole Parsons, Jesse Paypompee-Kavanaugh, David Finkle and Jordyn Hendricks.
- Staff Present Superintendent Dorothy Baker, Vice-Principal Jody Alexander, Vice-Principal Paula Reynolds-Hall, Instructional Coach Nancy Henry, Educational Assistant Lili Miller, Teacher Nancy Nadeau, Teacher Ali Dusome, and Committee Coordinator Amanda Rock.
- Non-Voting
Representatives
Present Trustee Dr. Anita Olsen Harper.
- Trustee(s) Present Trustee Chris Ellis.

1. Opening/ Prayer

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Principal Jody Alexander and commenced at 6:27 p.m.

Vice-Principal Alexander advised attendees that offerings of tea and tobacco were left on attendees' chairs as a gift of gratitude for coming to the inaugural IEAC meeting. She expressed her hope to work together to create a space for Indigenous students, families, and educators where Indigenous knowledge is honoured and respected.

Nancy Henry acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on unceded Algonquin territory and thanked the Algonquin Nations for hosting the meeting on their land.

Jo McQuarrie shared some of the Indigenous teachings that can be applied in our daily life including being courageous, brave, and truthful. She expressed the opinion that comments should be kept short during this meeting and participants should have respect for each other's ideas. She noted that the Council was established and everyone has gathered for a common cause to provide guidance to the Board for the purpose of promoting Indigenous education.

Albert Dumont said an opening prayer in the Algonquin language.

Sytukie Joamie said an opening prayer in the Inuktitut language.

2. Introductions

Vice-Principal Alexander requested that all attendees introduce themselves to get acquainted. The attendance of IEAC 18 October 2018 reflects all who attended and introduced themselves at the meeting.

Vice-Principal Alexander advised that the meeting would follow the agenda as part of a more formal way of conducting the meeting. She noted that questions are welcome throughout the meeting.

3. Review Policy P.140.GOV Indigenous Education Advisory Council (D. Baker, ext. 8573)

The meeting had before it Policy P.140.GOV which established the Indigenous Education Advisory Council (IEAC) with the goal of providing guidance to the Board as it pertains to Indigenous education, well-being and achievement, and providing support to its Indigenous students, families, and educators.

Superintendent Baker noted the purpose of the policy is to formalize the work of the Council. She acknowledged and was grateful for all who attended.

Superintendent Baker advised that this is the first IEAC committee of the OCDSB. She shared that extensive outreach to the community, students, and their families was done to receive input for what the community would like the District's priorities to be. Superintendent Baker stressed that the Policy is where IEAC's core mandate lives and that this Council is where the priorities and wishes for Indigenous education can inform the Board Action Plan for Indigenous Education.

In response to Superintendent Baker's introduction to the Policy, the following points were noted:

- The Board of Trustees want to hear the advice of IEAC to move recommendations forward on Indigenous education;
- Wording in section 2.7 is inappropriate; specifically, the word "explorers";
- Nations that belong to the West of the Prairies could be added to section 2.7;
- The wording "communities" in section 2.7 should state "reserves";
- The definition of "community" could be stronger; and
- The wording "the people" in section 2.9 should simply state "people";

Trustee Ellis expressed the opinion that individuals should self-identify if they have any conflict of interest in the appointment of members process. Albert Dumont expressed confidence that a true traditional knowledge keeper gives themselves boundaries based on the honour system. The honour system puts the onus on people to provide the information and excuse themselves of certain roles. He expressed concern that only one Algonquin Nation member was identified to be a member of the IEAC when the meetings are going to be held on Algonquin territory.

Based on feedback from consultations, it was decided that IEAC's structure should not reflect the usual committee structure. For example, it was decided that IEAC needs 2-3 student representatives.

Anthony Debassige concurred with Albert Dumont's concern that much of the Indigenous student population in the OCDSB is either Algonquin, Ojibwe, or Inuit; therefore, the membership should represent the majority and host nation people.

During the ensuing discussion, the following points were noted:

- Student representatives to IEAC should be voting, instead of non-voting representatives;
- Students and Student Senate representatives are non-voting members in the OCDSB Policy on Advisory Committees policy;
- Consensus of the entirety of the group in attendance may substitute for a formal vote and made by voting members;
- The Policy is intended to be reviewed in 2 years specifically so the Council can provide feedback that better reflects its needs - euro-centric rules are not always satisfactory to certain committees; and
- Advice from advisory committees is brought forward to the Board of Trustees.

4. Council Mandate

Superintendent Baker indicated that the Strategic Plan Consultation Plan was on page 8 of the agenda. She noted that there is an upcoming municipal election and that there will be a new Board of Trustees. The staff and the Board work diligently to reach out all stakeholders, families, and students to develop the Strategic Plan. She advised that it will identify key priorities that the Board will undertake during their term. IEAC has an opportunity to voice the priorities for this community; therefore, IEAC members need to liaise with the community and brainstorm what is wanted from the Board regarding Indigenous Education and the development of a new strategic plan.

In response to a query regarding recommendations put forward by IEAC, Trustee Ellis advised that IEAC can make recommendations to the Committee of the Whole through the reporting process. A trustee must move the recommendation in the form of a motion. He also noted that a motion requires a majority of

trustees to agree for it to pass. Trustee Ellis shared that a recommendation may be put in place and moved to staff directly, noting that the Board doesn't necessarily always implement advice from its advisory councils. Trustee Ellis noted that he will advocate in favour of IEAC recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

Superintendent Baker advised that phase 2 of the curriculum writing sessions has been put on hold and reminded the attendees that the District is committed to working with community partners on Indigenous education, regardless of the Ministry's outcomes.

Superintendent Baker noted that the Board is often working on policies for many different areas of focus and may need to have an Indigenous lens on certain issues.

In response to a query from Sylvie Lajoie, Superintendent Baker confirmed that there are staff resources assigned to this Council.

She informed attendees that part of the Council's role is to assist in decision-making around resources provided to schools, which is a part of the Indigenous Education Board Action Plan; therefore, they can also make recommendations about additional resources that are required. Superintendent Baker stressed that the value of having this Council is to identify other resources that staff haven't considered.

Superintendent Baker advised that, through the Ministry First Nation, Métis, Inuit Policy Framework, each school board is encouraged to have an Indigenous Advisory Council.

5. Overview of Membership

Superintendent Baker advised that the policy states what the membership of IEAC should look like; however, a process on how the membership would be decided has not yet been established. She noted that the meetings are open to anyone who wants to attend. The members of the IEAC are those who submit an expression of interest and are elected. It is a two-year commitment, for the purpose of continuity, and a minimum of six meetings will be held per year.

After the initial Council membership is formed, they will help determine the membership process for future councils:

The membership will consist of the following, as stated in section 4 of the policy:

The nine (9) voting members shall include:

- a) three (3) members representing Elders, Senators and Traditional Knowledge Keepers; one from each of the respective communities;
- b) two (2) members of the First Nations community; one of whom is Algonquin;
- c) two (2) members of the Métis community; and
- d) two (2) members of the Inuit community.

The non-voting members shall include:

- a) one (1) trustee;
- b) one (1) Indigenous education lead;
- c) one (1) superintendent or designate;
- d) at least two (2) and not more than three (3) grade 7-12 students; where possible each of First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities would be represented; and
- e) up to two (2) school based staff volunteers (one teacher and one education support worker) who identify as First Nations, Métis or Inuit.

When appointing new voting members to IEAC, under s. 4.3 (b), (c) and (d), every effort shall be made to ensure that they are:

- a) parents/guardians of students enrolled in the District; and/or
- b) representatives of community organizations or agencies.

Superintendent Baker invited the group to share their thoughts, questions, and suggestions on how this Council could move forward to determine what the process for electing Members could look like.

6. Membership

Superintendent Baker advised that she is looking to the Council for direction and suggestions on the process behind electing the membership of IEAC.

There were no immediate expressions of interest.

In response to a query about student membership, Superintendent Baker advised that there is not yet a formalized process by which students are appointed to sit on the IEAC committee and this can be determined by the IEAC.

In response to query and concern about formal membership, as described in the policy, Superintendent Baker suggested that anyone interested can express interest in being a member and will be an item for discussion at the next IEAC meeting.

Trustee Ellis provided context, and as an example, that the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Equity (ACE) has recognized certain groups and has had them participate in the discussions although they were not a part of the official membership of the meeting.

Student attendees noted that the word "member" feels exclusive; specifically, "member" being someone who has a voice. It was suggested that the word "member" may not need to be the verbiage that is used at this Council.

Superintendent Baker advised that similar conversations have occurred at ACE because they strive to be an inclusive environment. She noted that there is an opportunity for attendees at ACE to have a voice. Superintendent Baker advised that individuals can attend the meetings as a member, active participant, or observer; however, expressions of interest in certain roles are welcome.

In response to queries regarding the next meeting, the following was noted with consensus from the meeting attendees:

- All meeting dates have been established for the 2018-2019 school year as 15 November 2018, 17 January 2019, 21 February 2019, 18 April 2019, 16 May 2019;
- Suggestions for an alternate meeting space are welcome to Superintendent Baker and Vice-Principal Alexander;
- Schools and community centres are possibilities for a meeting space;
- Gloucester High School may be a meeting space for the next meeting; and
- Vice-Principal Alexander will take expressions of interest via email. Submissions should include where interested members are from and why they want to be a Member of the Council.

7. Closing Song

Student attendees performed a closing drum song.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.