



INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL

November 21, 2024
6:00 pm
Ottawa Technical Secondary School
Library
485 Donald St.
Ottawa, Ontario

Members: Monique Manatch, Inini McHugh, Lili Miller, Nina Stanton, Jennifer Lord, Veronica Wemigwans, Chantel Verner (System Principal, Indigenous Education), Donna Dickson (Trustee), Kyrstin Dumont

Indigenous Education Staff: Kris Meawasige (Indigenous Student Support and Re-engagement Coordinator), Jasmine Doig (Graduation Coach Indigenous Support Coordinator), Laura Verniest (Social Worker)

Other Staff and Guests: Victoria Marchbank, Waneek Horn-Miller, Jolene Moriarty, Garnet Moore, Lynn Scott (Trustee), Ezio De Stefano (Student Trustee), Kristin Riddell (Superintendent of Education), Kathy Mak (Board/Committee Coordinator)

1. Opening

Facilitator Manatch opened the meeting at 6:07 p.m. and conducted a roundtable of introductions.

2. Student Voice

During discussion and in response to queries, the following information was noted:

- The Indigenous Education Council (IEC) toured the Lodge facilities at Ottawa Technical Secondary School (OTSS) and noted the welcoming environment;
- The students expressed interest in having additional Indigenous staff to teach the curriculum and have requested additional learning resources for Cree and Ojibwe;
- The students present discussed the impact of mental health for Indigenous students and suggested easier access to mental health

support and the need for Indigenous staff with established relationships with students to create a safe and welcoming space;

- It was suggested that traditional food, community activities and additional opportunities to visit various locations of the land will be beneficial to student mental health and education;
- Students at OTSS will collaborate with an Indigenous educator from an Indigenous community to implement additional classes regarding Indigenous culture and the Inuit language, beginning in January 2025;
- System Principal Verner noted that the District will discuss bringing an Algonquin language educator in the near future;
- Facilitator Manatch requested a financial report be brought to the special IEC virtual meeting on 5 December 2024 meeting;
- Kris Meawasige noted the benefits of Jordan's Principle federal program and the support that was provided to families and communities. Due to the large volume of requests, there may be a significant wait times to receive a response from the program; and
- Facilitator Manatch requested additional information regarding Jordan's Principle be provided and be included as an item at the 5 December 2024 Special IEC meeting.

3. Reports

3.1 Indigenous Education Team Update

During discussion and in response to queries, the following information was provided:

- It was noted that Indigenous student support coordinators are assigned to multiple school sites to provide one to one student support and have done numerous advocacy work for Indigenous students and families. They are responsible for organizing student trips to the land across various school sites and IEC members expressed their gratitude for their work;
- It was noted that Indigenous social workers are brought in, with support from Jordan's Principle and other initiatives, at a tier 3 level. this occurs after tier 1, tier 2, and community support have been implemented;
- A committee was created in the 2023-2024 school year with the focus to improve class attendance. System Principal Verner has discussed plans with system principals and superintendents to provide additional support to schools, build relationships with families, and to understand the primary contact with families;

- Currently the language for memorandum for the system is being developed to indicate the process to access Indigenous social work;
- Jasmine Doig suggested Graduation Coaches should be given additional notice prior to 15 days of a student's absence from school so preventative measures can be taken;
- System Principal Verner clarified that the Vice Principal (VP) of the schools are responsible for attendance and suggested a collaboration between the VP and Graduation Coach to occur; and
- Facilitator Manatch requested that a follow up discussion regarding Indigenous student attendance and required actions be included in the 16 January 2025 IEC meeting.

a. Building Staff Capacity to Support Students

This item has been deferred to the 16 January 2025 IEC meeting.

3.2 Facilitator's Report

There was no Facilitators report.

3.3 Superintendent's Report

a. Policy Review Update

Superintendent Riddell noted that the District aims to implement Indigenous Lodges in a number of elementary schools and will be incorporated into new sites.

b. Review the Indigenous Human Rights and Equity Roadmap (Roadmap) (K. Riddell)

This item was deferred to the 16 January 2025 meeting.

3.4 IEC Report, 17 October 2024

The IEC report of 17 October 2024 was received.

4. Presentations

There were no presentations.

5. Community Discussion

5.1 Membership Verification

IEC members discussed the council membership criterias and Facilitator Manatch noted that members send their suggestions through email.

Facilitator Manatch noted that there will be an additional virtual Special IEC meeting on 5 December 2024.

Superintendent Riddell noted that a finance report will be presented to IEC early 2025.

5.2 Community Partnerships

Kris Meawasige noted the importance of community partners and ensuring the most effective community representatives are brought in to support and educate students.

System Principal Verner suggested that the District collaborates with IEC to develop a vetting process for community partners to determine the qualifications required to educate students. A policy and procedure will need to be created and implemented.

6. Elementary Program Review Update

The District will collaborate with an Indigenous academic to review the Elementary Program Review (EPR) through an Indigenous lens on the proposed models. Currently there are two Algonquin academics being considered to identify barriers and understand Indigenous student experience within the system.

It was noted that IEC will have the opportunity to provide additional feedback on the EPR in Spring 2025.

Facilitator Manatch noted the importance of implementing Indigenous methodology and pedagogy in the EPR.

7. Upcoming Meeting Dates

The upcoming meeting dates were provided for information.

8. Closing

Facilitator Manatch offered a closing at 9:15 p.m.