

Indigenous Education Committee (IEC) Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2024

Public Meeting

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Members:
B. Godkin	Present: Mandy Smart (Mohawk Traditional Knowledge Keepers from Tyendinaga) Crystal Loft (Mohawk Traditional Knowledge Keepers from Tyendinaga) Jessi DiRocco (LDSB – Elementary Indigenous Reengagement Teacher) Patrick Vanderholst (LDSB – Secondary Indigenous Reengagement Teacher) Taylor Arndt (KNCLN – River Program) Scot Gillam (LDSB – Superintendent) Liz Coates (Kingston Frontenac Public Library) Bond Strand (LDSB – Elementary Teacher – Bridge Program) Lindsay Morcom (Queen’s & Ardoch First Nation) Lorrie Larock (Youth Wellness Hubs of Ontario – One Roof) Mary-Jane Vincent (LDSB – Indigenous Support Worker) Shannon Tyner (LDSB – Secondary Principal – Ernestown Secondary School) Alison Billings (Parent/Caregiver Representative) Danka Brewer (Shabot Obaadjiwan Omaamiwininii Community) Gillianne Mundell (Elementary Land Based Indigenous Education Teacher) Liv Rondeau (LDSB – Vice Principal of Indigenous Education) Martha Duncan (LDSB – Elementary Principal – Fairfield Elementary School) Deb St. Amant (Queen’s University & Grandmother’s Council, LDSB Cultural Advisor) Kaycie Brant (Parent/Caregiver Representative)

Limestone District School Board

Limestone District School Board is situated on traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee.

Trustees:	Members:
K. Maracle	Regrets: Pat Brinklow (Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte) Jayme Blondin (Sexual Assault Centre – Kingston) Kristen Lemay (Kingston Frontenac Public Library) Nathan Cheechoo (Parent/Caregiver Representative) Linda Cory (Kagita Mikam) Martina Kataquapit (Parent/Caregiver Representative) Romaine Mitchell (Ministry of Ontario) Michelle Nyamekye (LDSB – River Teacher) Mary-Ann Lyons (St. Lawrence College) Willow Prue (LDSB – Indigenous Student Support Counselor) Brandon Maracle (Kingston Native Centre and Languages Nest) Sandy Maracle (Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte) Tasha Wallace (Parent/Caregiver Representative) Garnet Armand Ruffo (Parent/Caregiver Representative) Lindsay Rogers (Highland Waters Métis Council) Cristina Warner (HomeBase Housing) Mel Urquhart (Youth Diversion) Rachel Kolosov (LDSB Indigenous Student Trustee) Géorgie Gagné

1. WELCOME

Crystal Loft and Mandy Smart opened the meeting.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made around the circle.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOVED BY: Consensus of IEC that the agenda be approved. Carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY: Consensus of IEC that the May 28, 2024, IEC Minutes be approved. Carried.

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5. INDIGENOUS TEAM UPDATES

Vice Principal Liv Rondeau, and Indigenous Reengagement Teachers Jessi DiRocco and Patrick Vanderholst presented an update on the latest activities and achievements of the Indigenous Team within LDSB.

Indigenous Education September Programming

- Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th
- Resilience and Reclamation Day of Learning at LaSalle Intermediate and Secondary School
- Indigenous Education & Math Professional Development at Gould Lake
- Radical Stitch Exhibit at the National Gallery of Canada
- WritersFest with David A. Robertson
- Kanyen'kéha Programming – Elementary & Secondary
- Anishinaabemowin Programming – Seeking a Teacher
- Indigenous Family Nights
- Year Long Land-Based Learning

Priority Areas for 2024-2025

- **Indigenous Student Leadership Circle:** The Team highlighted the importance of the Indigenous Student Leadership Circle, noting its growth and the development of a credit course to validate students' time and efforts in cultural engagement and leadership activities. The Team also discussed the expansion of the Indigenous Student Leadership Circle, highlighting its increased engagement and the positive impact on indigenous students' self-esteem and leadership skills.
- **Recognized Experiential Learning Credit (RELC):** The development of a credit course was mentioned as a significant advancement, aiming to formally recognize and validate the time and efforts students invest in cultural engagement and leadership activities within the circle.
- **Professional Development (PD) for Administrators:** The Team emphasized the commitment to supporting PD for administrators this year. This initiative aims to enhance support not only for administrators but also for the entire school community. By supporting administrators and highlighting the importance of this work, administrators can lead their schools in engaging teachers in truth and reconciliation efforts.

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6. BOARD ACTION PLAN (BAP)

The Indigenous Team discussed the revised Ministry of Education's Priority Areas for the Board Action Plan:

- Student achievement and preparing students for the future
- Indigenous language revitalization
- Land-Based Learning
- Engagement and collaboration with local Indigenous partners, communities, and organizations
- Improving, expanding knowledge of all students and educators on Indigenous history, perspectives, contributions and ways of knowing
- Culturally-responsive well-being supports

IEC Members were encouraged to contribute their perspectives on the priority areas, with the team providing opportunities for input through discussions and written feedback. This collaborative approach aimed to gather diverse insights to inform the Board Action Plan.

The Team's goal is to utilize the input gathered to enrich and tailor educational programming that meets the needs of indigenous students, ensuring that initiatives are culturally relevant and supportive of their academic success.

7. MEMBER UPDATES

Members shared updates from their communities or organizations.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent Scot Gillam provided an update on the correspondence received by the Chair of the Board, Robin Hutcheon, in early September. The concerns mentioned in the correspondence were addressed by the IEC in the Spring of 2024. Since no new information has been received, the IEC has confirmed that the questions were answered in the last correspondence, and no further response is required at this time.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, November 26, 2024

10. CLOSING

Crystal Loft and Mandy Smart closed the meeting.

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