



Indigenous Education Council Meeting MINUTES

January 13, 2022

Via Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Meeting attendees:

Regrets Grace Johnson, CV Aboriginal Head Start / Chair
Regrets Kelly Shopland, North Island College / Vice Chair
Brenda Murray, K'omoks First Nation
Regrets Bryce Mercredi, Miki'siw Metis Association
Regrets Sandra Ryan, Wachiay Friendship Centre
Regrets Lisa Iverson, UIWONA
Letitia Pokiak – Parent Rep
Alex Jules, Parent Rep
Meagan Goudreault, Parent Rep
Trish McPhail, Parent Rep
Regrets Malista McIntyre, Parent Rep

Terri Hatch, Parent Rep
Heather Royal-Brant, Parent Rep
Nick Moore, CDTA
Regrets Denise Bullock, CUPE439
Kathleen Hawksby, Trustee
Michelle Waite, Trustee
Regrets Jason Cobey, CVPVPA
Tom Demeo, Superintendent
Bruce Carlos, District Principal
Sue Cambrey, Sr. Administrative Assistant

Proposed Meeting Schedule

9:00am	Meeting begins, acknowledgement, priorities, adoption of minutes.
9:20am	Verbal reports and questions from representative submitted written reports.
9:45am	New Business / Unfinished Business / Staff Updates / Guests
10:15am	Break
10:30am	Presentations / Discussions
11:00am	In Camera Meeting (voting IEC members)
12:00pm	Meeting ends.

1. **Acknowledgement of K'omoks First Nation Territory** **BMurray** **9:08**

2. Agenda additions and priorities

TMcPhail - How students are being welcomed back to school

3. Adoption of meeting minutes of December 9, 2021, not passed **no quorum**

4. Verbal Reports:

- **Superintendent**

- Majority of students back to school this week
- Letter regarding contact tracing – omicron – attendance data from schools, compare to last years attendance for the same time, 10% absenteeism creates an activity signal

- Monitoring with Island Health, they will recommend a health closure (students) or functional closure (lack of staff to run school, teachers, EA's, have to exhaust deployments), will close a school min 5 days
 - Day 1 - letter and student sent home, teacher prep for home learning
 - Day 2 - make sure home has the ability to learn at home
 - Day 3 - Remote learning begins, schools will be available for extra supports
- Letter to families from TDemeo out today outlining the functional closure process
- HR continuing the hiring process of all staffing for replacement of sick members
- Secondary programming (semester system) will look different from elementary
- What happens if there is a shortage of bus drivers? All aspects of operations are being addressed

LP - exposure notices helped with spread of Covid, are we more at risk with attendance tracking?

TD – change to notification due to the shorter incubation period of Omicron, still contact individually, no notice from SBO. Personal health checks are important, should be a priority. Continue to be diligent with mask, and hand hygiene. Stay home if you are not feeling 100%.

HRB – hygiene is well and good, more information given helps for decisions to choose what is best for a family

TD – schools are not being notified by island health of covid cases. Previous Island health notification was 4 days, current variants incubation is 2 days, too quick for schools to be notified by Island Health

LP – understand the reasons, used Covid case report for the island for making decisions, not doing it anymore, process for testing takes too long and if you are a mild case they are not tested. wonder if students miss too much school, will this be considered for grading?

TD – Speak with the teacher about your student regarding assessments. Covid is in our community, change practices and stay attuned to your own health, not what is in the community

MG – extra curricular groups activities taking place?

TD – games yes, no tournaments and no audience, hoping restrictions will be removed at the end of January
SBO postponed external groups coming into schools

MG – high school students have made pledges to reconciliation, students voices need to be heard more, they have great ideas, is it possible for a reconciliation extra curricular activity?

BC – support this idea, to talk to ISW, InEd should not own reconciliation, talk to principal, ownership by the school, teacher, it is happening organized with the Downie Wenjack project, leadership teachers are incredible with projects like this, leadership teachers have avenues to connect with existing groups

TD - best ideas come from students, a group of students can start this on their own, clubs do need a sponsor teacher

TD - one person starts with an idea, sponsor is the facilitator, they help with getting the word out

LP – great idea MG, shy students may not join, like to see senior leadership take initiative and show reconciliation

BC – student interest, shows passion and internal leadership, SBO is on board, schools are working on reconciliation

TMcPhail – policies on how we are welcoming students back from winter break, students are locked outside unwelcoming feeling, 8:40 waiting for the staff, delay in entry 20 min wasted, everyone is coming in at once
Students no where to eat at lunch, unbalanced comfort zone

TD – correct, a staggered start time, keeping kids outside to alleviate congestion in the hallways, several doors open, hang outside rather than in the hallways, a bumpy road with start up, secondary schools reducing congestion in hallways during class changes, admin and teachers are constantly changing, doing their best to control contact, encourage to share these concerns with teachers and staff

- **Trustee/IEC Liaison –KHawksby**

- Board passed the motion - the last week of September is now Truth and Reconciliation week
- Budget process and facilities plan update
- Policy 24 is out for consultation
- MWaitie introduced herself

- **Indigenous Education District Principal Report** (highlights of written report)

- Visited 19 school sites, 30 min each, encouraging to see our ISW's interacting with students - beautiful work
- Over 200 online students, connected with parents, staff made 167+ phone calls
- LEA is moving ahead well, close to finishing negotiations

5. Representative Written Reports - questions arising from provided reports:

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| 1. K'omoks First Nation | 8. District Parents Advisory Council (DPAC) - NIA |
| 2. MIKI'SIW Metis Association - NIA | 9. Comox District Teachers (CDTA) - NIA |
| 3. UIWONA - NIA | 10. Canadian Union Public Employ. (CUPE Local 439) NIA |
| 4. North Island College - NIA | 11. Comox Valley Principals Vice Principals - NIA |
| 5. CV Aboriginal Head start - NIA | |
| 6. Wachiay Friendship Centre - NIA | |
| 7. Indigenous Parents Advocacy Club (IPAC) - NIA | |

- **K'omoks First Nation**

- Requesting an elder for to attend IEC meetings
- 4th school LEA meeting, exceptional meeting
- Contacted families, busing is running smoothly

- **MIKI'SIW Metis Association - NIA**

- **UIWONA –**

- Positions are available, Infant Development Consultant, Cultural Family Navigator and 2 Special needs ECE
- Online outreach to families
- Speech and language, running out of our office
- AGM - moved dates to June - in line with fiscal calendar as funding grants are awarded Apr – March

- **North Island College - NIA**

- **CV Aboriginal Head Start - NIA**

- **CDTA – NMoore**

- Teachers share a lot of the concerns that were shared today
- Different anxiety level
- All are doing there best

- **CUPE Local 439 - NIA**

- **CVPV - NIA**

6. **SPECIAL GUESTS / Staff Presentations:**

- ISW coming next month to present
- Shared some comments from 2 stars and a wish

7. **New business**

- **SD71 Budget Advisory Committee Meeting Attendees** - IEC reps for Jan - Jun 2022 (approx. 4 meetings)
** IEC Chair or alternate attends with District Principal InEd – BMurray, TMcPhail (alt)
- **Indigenous Education Budget Advisory Sub Committee**
** looking for 3-4 voting IEC members to join District Principal InEd to review and advise 2022-23 targeted funding budget (3-4 meetings) – LPokiak, BMurray, TMcPhail
- **Educational Continuity for SD71 Indigenous Learners** – draft document laying out plans to support Indigenous students through difficult times
- **How Are We Doing Document** highlights (invitation to MOE rep to go over report with IEC)
 - Reviewed highlights of the document
 - Karla Helgason (Director, Indigenous Analytics) MOE has offered to return to review the HAWD

8. **Unfinished Business:**

a. Equity in Action Project postponed to Wednesday, April 20th, 2022

- Plan A - meet in person
- Plan B - meet virtually

b. Indigenous Education Staffing UPDATE

- Updated posting for ISW positions
- Searching for 4 staff to fill vacant positions across all levels
- view postings on the www.makeafuture.com website

9. **Standing Items:**

- Upcoming Events – See Principals report

10. In Camera Meeting (voting members)

11:20

Next Indigenous Education Council (IEC) meeting



Thursday, February 10, 2022

Via Zoom (Virtual Meeting)