

London District Education Council Meeting
February 19, 2015
Aamjiwnaang Community Centre
10 am – 3pm

Present: Shirley Miller, Cathy Hampshire, Bette Summers, Vicki Ware, Leo Nicholas, Gaylene Stonefish
Council Portfolios – Shawn Plain, Cameron Stonefish, Joanne Rogers
Regrets: Chief Hillier, Brent Stonefish

Shirley opened meeting at 10:20am

Vicki Ware provided welcoming remarks and other housekeeping duties.

Shirley provided a quick review of the agenda.

Cathy Hampshire – Kettle & Stoney Point Hillside School Principal/Education Coordinator gave an update on her MAEI program (Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative) Kettle Point and Walpole on-reserve schools were part of that 5 year project. Which is now complete. The focus of the MAEI was to focus on the teachers and providing a wealth of literacy resources. - Help kids get a strong foundation in literacy The literacy component of the program helped increase student's scores on the EQAO test and contributed to better results in Ojibwe Language and Culture studies. The kids are loving the Language class and there are signs of significant improvement in the school environment for both teachers and students.

New to the MAEI is a 2 year follow-up program, which provides addition support and aide to the school principal and school administrative staff.

Cathy shared her experience of an on-reserve school principal.....it is a very lonely position. On reserve principals have many tasks (don't normally have vice-principal positions) so they are responsible for all sorts of "other duties" such as; Special Needs programming, Busing and Transportation, the School Library and involves working with Band Councils, and etc.

The additional 2 year project focuses on school principals and the development of a First Nation Principals course. Cathy stated the challenges for on-reserve principals are quite different than principals working within school boards. The First Nations Principal course is slated to start September 2015. The first intake will accept the first fifteen principals and will be paid for by the Martin Foundation.

Special Education Update - Cathy has been able to secure Special Education funding for the 7 nations in the LDCC district. There is a need to find an organization/group to administer and deliver Special Needs services. Cathy also reported that IEC is non-operational.

Shirley, reported the LDEC is in need of a co-chair (s) to replace Starr McGahey-Albert. After a number of refusals, Shirley said it would be nice to look to the younger Education Administrators in room to take on the co-chair role. Vicki Ware and Bette Summers agreed to be co-chairs with Shirley. Moved by Cathy and seconded by Leo. All agreed.

Shirley provided an update on Post-Secondary. She provided hand-outs on a briefing note. She highlighted 10 critical points for the post-secondary program. There was discussion around recommended policy changes. First Nations don't like to discriminate and have objections to the Canadian residency recommendation. Shirley shared examples of what other independent First Nations are doing with the residency issue.

Questions from the group were; do we have to follow the Canadian residency issue? Questions around the priority system. Answers by Shirley: The residence clause has always been a part of AANDCs guidelines we just never followed them. Funding is now a critical issue and not every applicant will be granted financial support. First Nations shadow budget can assist 3% of their populations. Shirley's question is; "How do we support our First Nation Communities and the citizens that live there?"

Priority 1s are continuing students. These are students enrolled into 3 and 4 year programs and continuing their studies. It is important to note that when you approve an application it is generally for a 4 year period. Students have to maintain passing grades to remain a Priority 1.

Member nations having association with Union of Ontario Indians Education board (KEB) mentioned Post-Secondary funding is included with their services.

Shirley provided handouts for the March 5 & 6 Chiefs of Ontario Education conference and a hand out for a newly developed guidance and career AQ Part 1 provided by ONECA. The post-secondary program is supporting the new AQ Guidance and Career program offered by ONECA.

Vicki Ware provided an update on her services. They are offering a "Reading Program and After School Tutoring." Inspire funding? Vicki mentioned Tuition agreements should include registration, locker fees, gym outfits, etc.

Vicki mentioned they are exercising ways to cost share more effectively and Aamjiwnaang elementary students can now attend 2 schools instead of 3. The Language and Cultural teacher now visits 2 schools instead of 3. Aamjiwnaang has 200 elementary students and 75 secondary school students.

Presentation by Lambton College – presented by Jane Manning. Jane's presentation provided statistical information for the following areas; aboriginal students numbers, a breakdown of where students were coming from, program participation, gender report, age range, residency – community/urban, sponsoring agencies, aboriginal cultural learning centre, aboriginal student success and academic plan 2014-2016 (received a hand out), exposure to Trades & Technology, 23rd Annual Pow Wow – Lambton College – April 2, 2015.

Lambton College has established a mobile trailer for exposure to Trades & Technology geared towards elementary and secondary school learners. Important note is that the trailer is mobile and can be set-up in different communities. Please invite them to your community!!

Notes taken by Gaylene Stonefish – SFNS Administration Support Clerk

