

MEETING MINUTES

LANGUAGE ADVISORY BOARD

Date: September 20, 2023

Meeting Scheduled: 4:45 pm – 6:00 p.m.

- I. 4:52 p.m. Meeting called to order by: Janis Fairbanks, Chairperson
- II. ROLL CALL

Board members:

Present: Wayne Dupuis, Janis Fairbanks, Sonny Peacock, Dawn LaPrairie, Vicki Reynolds

Absent: Veronica Smith, Sonny Greensky

Guests Present: Charles Smith, Jeff Savage, Dawn Schultz, Tara Dupuis, Molly Fineday, Robert Wood Johnson representatives, Michelle Goose

Introduction of Language Advisory Board – Janis

Janis provided a handout of current board members and introduced the board, with thanks and comments to former board members who were on the inaugural language advisory board. The handout will be available at the next quarterly board and community meeting on October 18th. Representatives from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation were welcomed to the meeting and given one of the handouts as well as permission to take photographs, for which they provided consent forms to those present.

Invocation Language Activity – Interactive Ojibwe Prayer lead by Dawn LaPrairie

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda by Wayne Dupuis seconded by Sonny Peacock, unanimous approval.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes from June 27, 2023, by Sonny Peacock, second by Vicki Reynolds, unanimous approval. Motion to approve minutes from August 23, 2023, by Wayne Dupuis, seconded by Sonny Peacock, unanimous approval.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Janis provided a handout on general information about Board make up and committee structure. Janis identified a number of subcommittees that will have work to do. There are identified Chairs for four standing committees:

Executive Committee: Janis Fairbanks-Chair, Dawn LaPrairie Vice-Chair, Wayne Dupuis Secretary, Jeff Savage Division Director.

Finance and Budget Committee: Vicki Reynolds-Chair, Janis Fairbanks, and Dawn LaPrairie

Nominating Committee: Jeff Savage-Chair, Veronica Smith, Janis Fairbanks, Sonny Peacock

Strategic Plan Review Committee: Wayne Dupuis-Chair, plus any community members and volunteers

There are also two Ad Hoc Committees:

Bylaws Review Committee: Janis Fairbanks-Chair plus all board members and community volunteers

Janis explained that there are inconsistencies in the current bylaws and this committee will work with legal to amend the bylaws.

Hospitality Committee: Dawn LaPrairie-Chair, and this committee needs more volunteers

There will be a volunteer sign-up sheet provided at each community meeting.

B. Bylaws are available on the fdlrez.com website under ordinances #05/14

VI New Business

A. Keynote Speaker Michelle Goose provided a presentation "Language Activities at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College and Community Impact." She gave details on the Ojibwe Language program offered at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College. She handed out a survey and is seeking input for program development at the college. She expressed interest in sharing resources with the Fond du Lac and wider community, stating that the program and class sizes for students of Anishinaabemowin is expanding at the college, and students come from FDL, Mille Lacs, Leech Lake, Wisconsin, and Canada. Elementary Education students are required to complete two Ojibwe Language classes and cultural classes. PSEO and college in the schools have three locations with language classes, and Michelle is currently offering immersion classes as well. The college is expanding online options. There are twelve third semester students and a total of 64 Anishinaabemowin enrolled students.

B. Questions and Answers for Michelle:

Qu 1: How many of the 64 students stay?

Qu 2: How do we incentivize/motivate students to stay?

Qu 3: What percentage of the resident population works for the band?

Qu 4: Can we have hour classes for enrollees or service users?

Qu 5: Do you teach about elders who stop speaking Ojibwe and boarding school impacts?

Answers from Michelle"

Ans 1: Most of the 64 students stay.

Ans 2: Incentives –a. Tribal members can take language classes only and get scholarships from the band. b. Elders age 55+ get a discount. c. The college may develop a future community scholarship fund.

Ans 3: There are students from MNAW mental health, but don't know the percentage.

Ans 4: Possibly may be developed and held in the Dottie Tibbets room at MNAW.

Ans 5: Yes, lots of focus on the future and younger generations.

Janis thanked Michelle for her presentation and requested copies of Michelle's handouts for board records.

- C. Charles Smith provided update on Language/Cultural program at Fond du lac; Currently there are five employees: Charles Smith is Coordinator, William Howes Project Manager, Mary Moose Elder Advisor, Riley Howes, and Rena Haines have been hired as Curriculum Specialists and are being guided into a Master/Apprentice work.

There was discussion on the posting of the Master/Apprentice positions that replaced the Language and Curriculum Specialists. Were the new positions re-posted? The answer was no. There was some concern about not reposting the revised positions in terms of transparency and providing equal opportunity to other job applicants. The question was also posed asking if there is a separate listing for Master/Apprentice. Charlie said no, there is not. Clarification added by Vicki Reynolds at the Oct. 18, 2023, meeting. The job description does mention the Master/Apprentice position.

Janis requested job descriptions of all the staff at the Language/Cultural Center. This helps the language advisory board determine if there are any gaps in services the board may be able to identify and offer suggestions to fill the gaps.

The two apprentices are learning to speak Ojibwe and were placed in Michelle's class when they requested hearing a female voice, as they were learning Ojibwe from Charlie and Bill. The interns attended their first language symposium last week.

Charlie said he has an increased budget to revive the immersion program.
2024 is a creative year so apprentices have time to grow a new program.
2025 is a maintenance year for the new program.
2026 is to revise and make improvements and changes.

Charlie said there will be carryover money allowed soon from grants, which was not allowed in the past.

The interns are helping plan the Indigenous Peoples Day event on October 9 with Natural Resources.

Charles talked about upcoming events such as the Language symposium, and the Aadizookaan Series. He is also planning a 2nd Gala at Black Bear Casino, which was a formal red-carpet event for social exchange that drew 300 plus people in 2022.

- D. Open Discussion Community Input

Vicki asked Charlie: Do you want some WIOA kids to work with next summer?
Charlie to Vicki: We've done that before. I will get back to you on it.

Janis read the one question we have for tonight. "What do you want to see happen with the language instruction and cultural activity on the Fond du Lac Reservation?"

She asked the board members to talk to community members to get responses to that question for our 4th Quarter October 18, 2023, community meeting.

We also need to decide on who will be on the Survey Committee and who will be the chair of that committee.

Remember to meet with your own committees and be prepared to give a report of your committee activity at the October 18th board meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday October 18, at the Language/Cultural Center at 4:45 pm to 6:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn Wayne Dupuis, second by Vicki Reynolds, meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by:

Wayne Dupuis, Secretary

Special thanks to Molly Fineday for helping take notes.

Minutes approved by Language Advisory Board 10/18/2023