

**Monday January 15, 2007**  
**Ininew Friendship Centre**  
**Parent's Meeting**

**Parents:**

Ruth Biederman, Charlene Echum, Lucille Larochelle, Linda Archibald, Judy Carpenter, Lisa Wesley

**Students:** Jamie Sackaney, Darren Sackaney, April Poonae, Kelly Archibald, Breanna Carpentier, Cynthia Archibald, Eve Wesley & Preston Biederman

**DSBONE:**

Kristi Berthiaume – Vice Principal CPS, Kathy Johnson – Principal CPS, Nancy Buhr – Principal ESCHS, Howard Archibald – First Nations Trustee DSBONE, Bernice Archibald – Aboriginal Youth Liaison Officer DSBONE

**Regrets:** Lana Kershaw Child and Youth Worker K - 12

Intro – Bernice Archibald – Welcome, Thank you to Howard, Charlene and Preston Biederman for preparing supper.

1. Discuss proposal to the **Ministry of Education (MOE)** from the Ininew Friendship Centre (IFC) for the **Parent's Reaching Out Grant**.
2. Bernice asked parents to share ideas and discuss concerns regarding Aboriginal students
  - Parents brought up need for **Aboriginal awareness** for teachers and in curriculum
  - Nancy **shared training, workshops and presentations** the teachers and staff at ESCHS have received including: presentations from Union of Ontario Indians, Dave Jones & Turtle Concepts, Shannon Thunderbird
  - Kathy shared **the Draft Aboriginal Education Framework Policy** which is being spearheaded by the MOE, consultations have taken place with DSB1 and other school boards throughout Ontario.
  - Howard shared information regarding how the MOE has expanded their **Aboriginal Education Unit** and also exploring **new initiatives on Aboriginal Education**.
  - Parents brought up **Aboriginal learning styles**. Kathy spoke about **differential learning** and the training the schools have received. It is now recognized that students have different styles of learning and teachers have received training to address the various learning styles.
  - Parent Councils were discussed. Nancy informed everyone that Parent Councils at schools have a specific job to do. Their job is to make recommendations to the principals.
  - Other issues touched on were:
    - Acknowledgement of the **Cree Teacher's** work with students was given.
    - **Alternative Education**
    - Issues students face at school: **drugs, bullying, suicide** ideations
      - Need for new ways to combat drugs and other issues youth face. Parents were informed that principals must have reasonable suspicion if "dogs" were brought in. The search for illegal drugs cannot be a fishing expedition.
  - Creation of **Aboriginal Parent Support Group**
    - Suggested ideas included meeting once per month with various topics including tutoring, "how to help students with" for e.g. math homework, ways to communicate with your child/school, using role models, list of available tutors,

- *A parent asked about an Outdoor education program, even if it's for a day such as an outing with an elder.*

It was suggested to have a theme for the next meeting. Parents were requested to email Bernice if they had suggestions or requests for the agenda at the next meeting.

**NEXT MEETING – February 19, 2007 - Ininew Friendship Centre at 6 pm.**