

Greater Essex County District School Board



451 Park St. W., P.O. Box 210, Windsor, ON N9A 6K1 • Tel: 519-255-3200

2012 02 08

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The Greater Essex County District School Board (GECDSB) respects the heritage and culture of First Nation, Metis, and Inuit (FNMI) peoples, and recognizes that meeting the needs of FNMI students requires a deep understanding of their cultures and historic experiences. The GECDSB is committed to ensuring all students are learning and achieving their full potential, through a positive, safe, caring and equitable learning culture.

To promote transparency in the GECDSB practices we invite all parents to two information nights to discuss the following:

- Our journey to date to support Aboriginal Education;
- Our next steps to continue to refine and strengthen our support for FNMI students; and
- Our draft policy for Voluntary Aboriginal Self-Identification.

The information nights will be held at **Begley Public School, 1093 Assumption Street, Windsor, on February 29th and March 29th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Our goal is to engage with our FNMI parents and community to strengthen their voice and involvement in education and to work in partnership with the FNMI community to provide programs and services that foster the success of FNMI learners. We also look to gain greater input from our FNMI parents and community on the draft Voluntary Aboriginal Self-Identification policy. The purpose of the draft policy is to:

- Assist our schools in understanding their student population.
- Assess which schools require additional programming and targeted initiatives.
- Identify FNMI students who would benefit from additional support.
- Measure our effectiveness in improving the academic achievement, retention and graduation rates of FNMI students.

The GECDSB remains dedicated to continuous improvement in making our schools welcoming and encouraging learning environments of FNMI students and their families. We look forward to you joining us at our upcoming community meetings to share your perspective and assist us in our work of meeting the needs of all students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warren Kennedy".

Warren Kennedy
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION