

our parents, and our parent's parents.

They were on the verge of being

added.

Pouring over documents and listening to the knowledge his Elders

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# Curriculum not satisfactory

## Redesign of the current system studied

The FDL-Ojibwe School Board and staff have begun preliminary work to establish an "outcome based curricula" for the 1993-94 school year.

School Superintendent, Dr. Tom Peacock, said the effort will be designed to better prepare students to meet the challenges of the next century, and live in a global society while still maintaining the Anishinabe heritage.

"Many of us, the School Board, people in the community, and the staff at the school, are not satisfied with the curriculum we have in place," he said. "We're redesigning our current system to make it more amenable to the Indian children."

Currently, lessons are allotted certain time periods for the children to learn. Outcome Based Education (OBE), on the other hand, is concerned with what the child has learned and not the amount of time the child spent studying a particular subject.

Two different kinds of "outcomes" are being studied by the

Board and staff.

One deals with what is called "Content Standards" which will address specific areas. These include Ojibwe language and culture, literature and composition, geography, mathematics, technology, science and the fine arts.

The other is concerned with "Interdisciplinary Standards" which will target traditional Anishinabe values. Cooperation, wisdom, protection of the environment, sharing, respect, observation, restitution, peace and politeness, endurance and character will be incorporated across the board throughout the curriculum.

A letter system of grading will be maintained, because those (students) that go on to post-secondary education will have to have those letter grades to get into the facility of their choice. Grades will be given for the content standards, and a portfolio will be kept and contain the advancement of the child regarding the interdisciplinary standards.

In other school districts where OBE is in the process of being

implemented, the plan has come under fire for the interdisciplinary standards. Critics argue that values should be taught at home and not at school.

Dr. Peacock agrees, but only to a certain extent. "Obviously, you can't teach values but you can reinforce them," Peacock said. "Say, if a child shows respect for individuals, you don't know if that has been internalized because there is really no way to measure that."

"But they will be able to understand the concept," he added. "And they will be able to demonstrate what it is."

Dr. Peacock would like to remind parents that change in curricula will not take place overnight. It will be a gradual process of implementation. School staff need to be trained, grading outlines will have to be developed further, and most important, the students will have to be comfortable with the proposed alteration.

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