**AKWESASNE CULTURAL CENTER**
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**
**September 18, 2025**

**Board Members in Attendance:**
Phillip White Cree, President, Vice President; Jessica Sargent, Michelle Cook, Secretary; Kerry Mitchell, Treasure; Lora Lee LaFrance, and Cayde David.

**Staff and Guest in Attendance:**
Justin Cree, Director and Mary Herne

**Absent Board Members:**
Cecelia King

**1. Call to Order**
The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM.

**2. Approval of Agenda**
The agenda was presented and accepted without changes.

**3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**
A motion was made by **Phillip** to accept the June Board Notes. The motion was seconded by **Cayde**. **All in favor, motion passed.**

**4. Trustee Vote**
A motion was made by **Michelle** to appoint Mary Herne to the recently vacated board seat. The motion was seconded by **Kerry**. **All in favor, motion passed.**

**5. Director Update (Summer Overview)**

**Akwesasne’s First-Ever Spelling Bee**
We hosted our very first Akwesasne Spelling Bee, and it was a great success! We had 4 adults and 4 kids participate. Big thanks to our partners—the Boys & Girls Club and SRMT Mental Health—for supporting this fun and educational event.

**Summer Reading Program + Sweet Treats**
This summer's reading challenge brought in some impressive numbers:

* A total of **656 reading cards** were completed
* Kids read an incredible **6,290 books**
* **20 participants** were in the 9-and-over age group
* **14 kids** joined in the 8-and-under category

**Summer Meals Program**
Thanks to the team at Salmon River Central School meal giveaways, they handed out **5,226 breakfasts** and **5,286** lunches to our community.

**Teddy Bear Picnic – July 8**
This event brought together **115 attendees** and had support from **7+ community agencies and organizations**. A great day for families and partners alike!

**Biodiversity Program with MCA Environment**
Held on August 28 and September 4 from 4–7pm. Attendance was small, but we had good conversations and engagement from community members who showed up.

**Rock the Block**
We sponsored a creative drawing session featuring local artist **Honni David**.

**Onkwehón:we Midwives Collective – “Akwesasne Through the Ages”**
We helped promote this community event at the Akwesasne Library. Visitors could browse a collection of vintage family photos—many even took pictures home! Free T-shirts were also handed out. We’re still actively participating in this initiative.

**Community Sessions Hosted at the Library**

* **National Weather Service Presentation**: An informative session open to all
* **SLC Arts Grant Info Session**: We had **7 local artists** attend and learn about funding opportunities

**Summer Camp**

This was our **third year** running the week-long summer camp. While we only had two campers this year, the program still offered a great experience for those who attended.

**Classes Offered (All Full!)**

We’re happy to report that all of our summer classes were full. Here’s a quick overview:

* Candle Making – 10 participants
* Quillwork – 14 participants
* Quilled Bracelet – 10 participants
* Suave (likely “Salve”?) Making – 10 participants
* Beaded Purse – 10 participants
* Sweetgrass Earrings – 10 participants
* Corn Husk Dolls – 15 participants
* Painting – 15 participants
* Beginner Beading – 8 participants

**Other Highlights**

* **Team Day**: We enjoyed lunch at Bookie’s and then took a trip to the Malone Fair as a team-building activity.
* **3 Sisters Garden**: We partnered with the SRMT Agriculture Department to plant a traditional garden.
* **Staff Update**: We officially welcomed **Teres (Karihwaierithon) Jacobs** as our new Librar Clerk/Gift Shop Coordinator!

**6. Meeting Time and Date Update** The Board reviewed the current meeting schedule and unanimously agreed that the existing date and time are preferable for everyone.

**7. Executive Session Personnel Discussion**

**Adjournment**
The meeting was adjourned at 5:31 PM.

The next meeting will be held on **October 16, 2025**, at **4:30 PM**.