



INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL (IEC)

IEC Budget Meeting

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 – 1:30 pm
School Board Office – Board Room 1
 (1040 Hollywood Road South)

MINUTES

Council Members:	Ann Bell Lake Country Native Association Brad Dahl Kelowna Métis Association Ashley Power Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society	Denise Clough Westbank First Nation Chantelle Desrosiers Board of Education Nicole Werstuik Westbank First Nation	Jordan Coble Westbank First Nation Allan Louis Okanagan Indian Band
School District Staff:	Terry Beaudry Central Okanagan Public Schools	Jesse Bruce Central Okanagan Public Schools	Kevin Kaardal Central Okanagan Public Schools
Guest:	Kate Cumming Central Okanagan Public Schools		
Absent:	Elder Wilfred Barnes Westbank First Nation Elder April Strickland Central Okanagan Public Schools	Julia Fraser Board of Education Edna Terbasket Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society	Christie Russell Central Okanagan Public Schools Rachel Marchand Okanagan Indian Band

1. Opening Prayer

Chair Jordan Coble led the Council in an opening prayer.

2. Welcome

Chair Jordan Coble welcomed everyone to the meeting.

FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

3. Adoption of the February 6, 2024 Agenda

Add District Update prior to New Business

Add New Business Item 5.3: IEC Terms of Reference

MOVED by Brad Dahl, SECONDED by Nicole Werstuik

THAT: The agenda for February 6, 2024 be adopted as amended. CARRIED.

4. Review and Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Nicole Werstuik, SECONDED by Denise Clough

THAT: The Minutes for January 23, 2024 be adopted as presented. CARRIED

DISTRICT UPDATE

With permission from the family, Terry Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, shared the recent passing of Amanda Berry, Indigenous Youth Wellness Worker and colleague of the Indigenous Education Staff. The portable behind the Hollywood Road Education Services building has been set aside for the next two days as a place for staff to gather, find support, and come together for a healing circle. Amanda's family is from the Merritt Indian Band and asked that a teaching from the Band be provided when she passed. It is the family's belief that when snow falls after the passing it is to cover her tracks so that no one will follow as she moves into the spirit world. The snow has fallen yesterday and today. We will celebrate her, honour her, and keep her spirit alive.

Terry expressed thankfulness for the way the District has cared for the staff during this time. She shared that it is important to acknowledge the circle of life, look after ourselves and each other, acknowledge our emotions and the legacy of those we've lost, and do our best to make them proud. Live in gratitude and take advantage of the moments you have with those you care about.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Draft Community Letter to Solicit Bursary and Scholarship Funding for Indigenous Graduates

The Council reviewed the draft community letter that can be shared with their organizations and used by IEC members to solicit bursary funding for Indigenous graduates. Terry spoke of past donors that have provided bursaries, including a former member of the IEC, a community Rotarian, and a Rotary group. Donations for bursaries can be made online at <https://centralokanagan.schoolcashonline.com> (choose Items/Make A Donation – the Funding Destination is Indigenous Graduation Bursaries) and a tax receipt is automatically generated. Donors have the option to review the applications for the bursary and help select the winner. Winners are acknowledged at the Indigenous graduation Blanketing Ceremonies and the receiving students are asked to write a letter of thanks to the donor of the award. The District hands out ten Indigenous awards on average each year at graduation and would like to double the amount of awards this year.

Terry encouraged the organizations represented at the IEC table to provide donations for a bursary or use their networks to send out the letter electronically or by hand delivery. The District has set aside \$7,000 of targeted funding for student awards and it would be worth soliciting for more funding.

The final draft of the community letter will be forwarded to the IEC. In future years, solicitation for bursary funding should begin in November to align with the tax season.

5.2 2024/2025 Draft Indigenous Education Program Preliminary Budget

Kate Cumming, Assistant Secretary Treasurer, reviewed the 2023-2024 Indigenous Education Budget reported spending to January 31, 2024, the projected costs to June 30, 2024, and the draft 2024-2025 Indigenous Education Program Preliminary Budget. The estimated surplus, as of June 30, 2024, is \$518, 550 and will be added to the Targeted Funding in the 2024-2025 Preliminary Indigenous Education Budget. The year end surplus continues to be mainly driven by unfilled staff positions. However, the District retained more Indigenous Student Advocates in their positions this past year due to negotiated increased wages, the top-up of wages, market adjustments, a clothing allowance, and ongoing mentorship by the Lead Advocate, making the job more competitive with jobs in the community. The retention of Indigenous Education employees has decreased the surplus funding.

The 2024-2025 Draft Preliminary Indigenous Education Budget is based on an FTE of 3,170 Indigenous students, which is expected to remain consistent with the previous year, and a 2.7% increase in per pupil funding to \$1,756. The number of enrolled Indigenous students will be adjusted in September 2024 and the per pupil funding will be adjusted by the end of March 2024. It is expected that the total 2024-2025 Draft Indigenous Education Budget of just over \$6 million will continue to be supplemented by the Feeding Futures fund, a grant from the Ministry of Education and Child Care, which will increase next year's food budgets for Land Based Learning, the Primary Winter Gathering, and Indigenous graduation celebrations.

The Indigenous Education Council recommended the following considerations for the 2024-2025 Preliminary Indigenous Education Budget:

- Student Awards – Increase by \$5,000 (approximately 1% of the estimated surplus budget)
- Student Transportation – Increase to support the Land Based Learning Program
- Indigenous Life Skills Coach/Counsellor – Add a new position
- Elders In Residence – Increase
- Junior Advocate Program – Add startup funds
- Youth Wellness Worker – Increase 1 FTE

Action Item: Send the public budget survey link to the IEC for feedback on the District's 2024-2025 preliminary budget process. (*Kate Cumming*)

Action Item: Develop an Indigenous Education budget survey seeking feedback on the use of surplus funds that would help Indigenous Education staff support Indigenous students. Send the survey to the IEC and Indigenous Education staff. (*Jesse Bruce*)

2:55 pm – Ashley Power left the meeting

5.3 **IEC Terms of Reference**

Chair Jordan Coble shared his belief that the intent of the new legislation (Bill 40) is that the rights holders have the power, and the Chair suggested the composition of the District's Indigenous Education Council does not have the rights holders as the decision makers. The Chair suggested that WFN and OKIB are the rights holders around the IEC table and that they will be the guiding light for the territory. Chair Coble reflected that, in the past, the Okanagan Nation Council (ONA) representatives were needed for the IEC; however, this is no longer required. Instead of removing the seat from the IEC table, the Chair suggested that the ONA seat be replaced with another WFN seat. The Chair requested that an IEC Terms of Reference (TOR) Subcommittee meet to revise the TOR so the rights holders around the IEC table are the final decision makers.

The Superintendent of Schools reminded the Indigenous Education Council that the work of the IEC remains the same, when considering the new Bill 40 legislation, except for the budget approval. All the voting members on the Indigenous Education Council can determine final budget priorities with their votes. Everyone at the IEC table, representing a rights holder, can be held accountable by OKIB or WFN. That is what should be considered. A process needs to be found that meets the intent and is still hearing the voice of everyone at the table.

The Deputy Superintendent of Schools shared that the Terms of Reference for Indigenous Education Councils is expected to be coming from the Ministry of Education and Child Care in early March. The Ministry is working closely with the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) on behalf of all BC First Nations in putting forth recommendations for IEC Terms of Reference.

The following IEC members volunteered to form the IEC Terms of Reference Subcommittee: Nicole Werstuik, Ann Bell, Allan Louis, Brad Dahl, and Denise Clough. The IEC Terms of Reference Subcommittee will meet on Monday, February 26th at 1 pm via Zoom to review the Terms of Reference.

The IEC scheduled a Special IEC Budget Meeting for March 6, 2024 at 1 pm to review the 2024-2025 Preliminary Indigenous Education Budget for approval.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm.

Next IEC Meeting – Special IEC Budget Meeting, Wednesday, March 6, 2024 (1:00 pm to 3:00 pm) Via Zoom

Future 2023-2024 IEC Meetings:

(All meetings are 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm)

April 9, 2024, June 4, 2024

<u>ACTION ITEMS – In Progress:</u>	<u>Person(s) Responsible</u>
Share the IEC's feedback, at the next COPAC Zoom meeting, about including two seats on the COPAC for Indigenous Parents. (This action item is on hold until the process is established.)	Terry Beaudry
Spearhead the community Zoom meetings to discuss the restart of the Indigenous Parent and Family Education Council (IPFEC).	Jesse Bruce/ Ann Bell
Notify the ONA that their representative seat has been removed from the Indigenous Education Council.	Jordan Coble
Elder Barnes will reach out to the language speakers in the territory to ensure the translation of the acknowledgement poster into the nsilxcən language is done correctly.	Terry Beaudry/ Elder Grouse Barnes
Develop an Indigenous Education budget survey seeking feedback on the use of surplus funds that would help Indigenous Education staff support Indigenous students. Send the survey to the IEC and Indigenous Education staff.	Jesse Bruce

<u>ACTION ITEMS – Completed:</u>	<u>Person(s) Responsible</u>
Westbank First Nation to arrange a meeting with ONA to discuss ONA representation on the Indigenous Education Council.	Jordan Coble
Up-to-date appointment letters to be received from voting council members with expired terms.	Terry Beaudry/All
The IEC to explore ideas to form a sustainable Indigenous Parent and Family Education Council and forward their ideas to Terry Beaudry.	All
To send the most frequently asked questions re. Syilx cultural guidelines to Nicole.	April Strickland/ Jasmine Lemon
Contact the COTA about the IEC hosting an event at their Summer 2024 Pro-D days.	Terry Beaudry
Ann Bell and Terry Beaudry to meet together to discuss a plan for recruiting parent representatives and then share their ideas with the IEC.	Terry Beaudry/ Ann Bell
Forward the Ministry of Education and Child Care Indigenous Education Year-End Financial Report 2022-2023 to the IEC.	Kate Cumming
Email posters to the IEC with more information about the Grad Retreat and the Land-Based Learning Family Night.	April Strickland
A template letter be drafted by District staff that could be used to solicit donations to start a new bursary for Indigenous students.	Jesse Bruce
Send the public budget survey link to the IEC for feedback on the District's 2024-2025 preliminary budget process.	Kate Cumming