



INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL (IEC)

IEC Meeting

Tuesday, June 4, 2024 – 1:30 pm
School Board Office – Board Room 1
 (1040 Hollywood Road South, Kelowna, BC)

MINUTES

Council Members:	Ann Bell Lake Country Native Association Chantelle Desrosiers Board of Education Ashley Power Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society	Jordan Coble Westbank First Nation Julia Fraser Board of Education Nicole Werstuik Westbank First Nation	Brad Dahl Kelowna Métis Association Bill McKenna (Alternate) Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society
School District Staff:	Terry Beaudry Central Okanagan Public Schools Jesse Bruce Central Okanagan Public Schools	Kevin Kaardal Central Okanagan Public Schools Christie Russell Central Okanagan Public Schools	Yvonne Hildebrandt Recording Secretary April Strickland Central Okanagan Public Schools
Guests:	Chris Alexander Westbank First Nation	Justin Schneider Central Okanagan Public Schools	Troy White Central Okanagan Public Schools
Absent:	Elder Wilfred Barnes Westbank First Nation Elder Edna Terbasket Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society	Denise Clough Westbank First Nation	Rachel Marchand Okanagan Indian Band

1. Opening Prayer

Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society Alternate, Bill McKenna, led the Council in an opening prayer.

2. Welcome

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, the Deputy Superintendent of Schools welcomed everyone to the IEC meeting. IEC members introduced themselves around the table.

1:35 pm - Nicole Werstuik arrived at the meeting. As Vice-Chair of the IEC, Nicole directed the Deputy Superintendent of Schools to continue chairing the meeting.

Cirque de la Forêt / Four Food Chiefs Story

Terry Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, introduced Wendy Briggs, Principal, Peachland Elementary School, and Claire, student at Peachland Elementary School, who joined the IEC meeting via Zoom. On Thursday, May 30th, Peachland Elementary School hosted an outdoor celebration at the school called Cirque de la Forêt, a decolonized and Indigenized Spring concert. The outdoor field at the school was divided into four sections and students performed in each area of the field. Claire was the leader of her story, *How Food Was Given*, and recited the story with large puppets. The regalia was created by UBCO students last summer. Claire's regalia, made by Wendy, was designed by Wendy and Claire to reflect her Indigenous heritage. A local artist weaved a giant dreamcatcher for the celebration and will continue weaving with students in the Fall at the afterschool program. Several other artists helped with percussion, music, and storytelling. No amplification was used for the oral storytelling or music, and all the festivities were directed by Elders and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers to ensure protocols were being

followed. The audience was full of parents and community members who were extremely proud of the children.

1:53 pm - Jordan arrived to the meeting and assumed the role of Chair.

FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

3. Adoption of the June 4, 2024 Agenda

Agenda Item 8.1b Ministry of Education and Child Care IEC Funding Update to be addressed after Agenda Item 7.1 District Updates

MOVED by Ann Bell, SECONDED by Nicole Werstuik

THAT: The agenda for June 4, 2024 be adopted as amended. CARRIED.

4. Review and Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Julia Fraser, SECONDED by Bill McKenna

THAT: The Minutes for April 9, 2024 be adopted as presented. CARRIED

5. Indigenous Education Council Photo (Timed Item: 2:30 pm)

Justin Schneider, Communications Advisor, took a photo of the Indigenous Education Council for the Equity in Action Agreement for Truth and Reconciliation 4th Annual Report.

6. District Draft Policy – Personal Student Digital Devices: For IEC Feedback

Troy White, District Principal – Learning Technology Services, and Ken Yew, Privacy and Cybersecurity Manager, provided an overview of the amendment to the Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order regarding student-use of personal digital devices at school and the required actions for the school district. Premier Eby announced the Order amendment on January 26, 2024, signed the Order on March 21, 2024, and the District received the Order on April 19, 2024. The intention of the order is to restrict the use of student personal digital devices at school to promote online safety and support focused learning environments.

The Ministry of Education and Child Care recommended Boards of Education meet with their Indigenous Education Council as part of the process of updating the school code of conduct. The District must comply by July 1, 2024 and ensure the updated code of conduct contains clear, concise, simple, positive, supportive language that is easily understood.

The draft updated School Code of Conduct section called "Responsible Student Use of Personal Digital Devices, School Technology and District Network Services" was shared with the IEC. At elementary and middle schools, personal digital devices will be secured, powered off, and stored during instructional class time and non-instructional time, unless instructed by the Principal or school staff. This rule is not new for elementary schools and has been in place for many years. At the secondary schools, personal digital devices will be secured, powered off, and stored during instructional class time, unless instructed by the Principal or school staff. Personal digital devices will be powered on in classrooms only for educational instructional purposes and digital literacy skills as instructed by school staff.

Students that need to use their devices to support accessibility, accommodations, medical and health needs will continue to be managed through the code of conduct and the student's Individualized Education Program. A middle school that has already implemented restrictions to student-use of personal digital devices during recess breaks has noticed that students come back to the classroom more ready to learn.

Troy shared that the amended School Code of Conduct will be received by all school administrators by June 7th and will be implemented with the September 2024 school startup.

The Indigenous Education Council was very supportive of the draft School Code of Conduct updates regarding student-use of personal digital devices at school and commented that the consistent code of conduct will be a supportive tool for all teachers and staff to use. The IEC would like to hear student voice one year from now to see how much the personal digital device restrictions at school have impacted their lives.

7. STANDING ITEMS

7.1 District Updates

Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO, spoke of year-end events at the elementary, middle and secondary schools. The month of June involves graduations and blanketing ceremonies, and the District is very pleased that so many non-Indigenous and Indigenous students are meeting the graduation requirements. The Superintendent of Schools/CEO explained how the District's Policy 205 – Event Protocols affects the order of introductions and speakers at the Indigenous graduation ceremonies. A transition survey for all graduating students is expected to roll out in the next few weeks.

The Superintendent of Schools/CEO commented that this District continues to be high performing and thanked the Indigenous Education Council members for their impact on how well the District is doing. The Ministry of Education and Child Care has noticed the collaborative work coming from the partnership between Central Okanagan Public Schools and Westbank First Nation and are using this District as an example for District's developing Local Education Agreements and the IEC Terms of Reference.

Terry Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, spoke about the May 29th Cowichan Valley School District visit to Central Okanagan Public Schools and the opportunity for reciprocal learning, and thanked Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, for coordinating the visit. There are five Indigenous Graduation Celebration Dinners and Blanket Ceremonies coming up and Terry acknowledged the work of the Indigenous Education team as they prepare to host the largest Indigenous graduating class. Twenty-five years ago, less than 50 people attended the Indigenous graduation. This year, a total of approximately 1200 people will be served dinner during the five separate ceremonies. Terry commented that no significant format changes have been made to this year's Indigenous graduation ceremonies. Students have asked for a moment of silence to remember residential school survivors before the dancing and speeches begin. Birch Creek will be drumming, Advocates will be singing the Honour song, and students and parents will be given the opportunity to share on the open microphone. Many excellent suggestions have been received about the format of the ceremonies and the District will speak with Indigenous graduating students at their schools in Fall to ask students what they would like at their graduation.

2:45 pm – District staff and Chris Alexander left the meeting room while the Superintendent of Schools/CEO and the remaining IEC members discussed Agenda Item 8.1b.

8.1 Ministry of Education and Child Care Funding Updates

b. Indigenous Education Council Funding

The Indigenous Education Council were provided the information article, *Indigenous Education Councils Funding*, from the Ministry of Education and Child Care. The IEC discussed the new Ministry of Education and Child Care grant funding, which must be used to support IEC activities and build capacity, including a secretariat to the IEC and administrative support, the costs of holding meetings, and IEC member travel to attend those meetings.

MOVED by Nicole Werstuik, SECONDED by Brad Dahl

THAT: The IEC supports moving forward for the 2024-2025 school year with Yvonne Hildebrandt, IEC recording secretary, as the secretariat to the IEC.

The IEC intends to hold a strategic planning session later during the 2024-2025 school year. Until then, the District will calculate costs for IEC meetings and support time, and this will help with strategic direction.

3:00 pm - District staff and Chris Alexander rejoined the meeting and the IEC continued with Agenda Item 7.2

7.2 Community Updates

Indigenous Education Council members spoke of the following:

- The Kelowna Métis Association has contributed \$10,000 to the District for educational materials for students in grades 4 to 8.
- The WFN Education Resource Coordinator has been working with the advocates at Mount Boucherie Secondary School (MBSS) this year on the attendance program. There has been good information sharing with MBSS and Constable Neil Bruce Middle School (CNB).
- The LEA Oversight Team has met together three times this year with great success.

- The WFN Community Based Table is working to come up with solutions for struggling youth at MBSS: Workshops with Natural Resources Department to do learning on the land, seedling plant visit in Oliver, fishing, camping along with community members, aunts and uncles. These are a few of the solutions that have helped some students get back on track with school.
- WFN partnered with CNB to offer WFN's Girl Power program to struggling Indigenous girls. The program is in week five and they are heading to Vancouver together for a trip and tour.
- At the School Community Student Learning Plan Conversations at École Dr. Knox Middle, École Bellevue Creek Elementary, and Chute Lake Elementary, all land acknowledgments were student lead.
- Lake Country Native Association hosted a Family Event, "Coyote and the Monster".
- Okanagan Indian Band 2nd Annual PowWow is on June 7-9.
- Pride Festival is on June 8th at City Park.
- Siya Celebration is on June 14th and the Siyaten Festival is on June 15th at WFN.
- Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society is celebrating their 50th anniversary. The annual Turtle Island Festival will take place on June 21st at KFS and students from Rutland Middle School will be attending.

7.3 Indigenous "Kids in Care" in the School District, Tutors, and Wrap-Around Services of Support

Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, shared that the two 12-month Youth Wellness Workers will be reaching out to families of priority Indigenous students to let them know that Wellness Workers will be available during the summer and will invite the students to the "Summer Indigenous Wellness Check-ins" during July and August. This summer drop-in program is for all Indigenous students in grades 8 to 12 and will take place from 10 am to 2 pm at the following locations:

- Lake Country: Swalwell Park – July 9 & 11, August 6 & 8
- Rutland: Ben Lee Park – July 17 & 18, August 13 & 15
- Central: City Park – July 23 & 25, August 20 & 27
- West Kelowna: WFN Youth Centre – July 30 & August 1

Youth Wellness Workers will be in attendance and healthy snacks will be provided.

7.4 Bursaries and Scholarships for Indigenous Grads

Terry Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, shared that Westbank First Nation, Kelowna Sunrise Rotary Club, Rotarian Peter Turgoose, Kelowna Métis Association, Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society, and CUPE have contributed to the Medicine Wheel Awards this year. Terry queried how Central Okanagan Public Schools could broaden and increase awards for Indigenous students. Terry also commented that it would be helpful to have more IEC members assist with choosing award recipients.

7.5 Parent and Family Community Engagement

Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, provided an update on the letter that was forwarded to Indigenous parents, families and caregivers seeking expressions of interest to serve on the Indigenous Education Council and to help with the restart of the Indigenous Parent and Family Education Council (IPFEC). More than thirty parents have responded and expressed interest. The District will reach out to the respondents this week, provide them with more description about the role, and ask them to reply back to affirm their interest and provide the requested additional information. Conversations will take place with the shortlisted applicants before the end of the school year. Two parents will be selected by early summer to serve on the IEC and to help organize a fall event where connections can be made with Indigenous families to promote the restart of the IPFEC.

The IEC were supportive of the timeline and the opportunity to be involved in the conversations with the shortlisted applicants.

Action Item: To follow up with the IEC through email about the selection process of two parents to serve on the IEC and IPFEC. (*Jesse Bruce*)

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Ministry of Education and Child Care Funding Updates

a. Indigenous Education Targeted Funds Policy

The updated Indigenous Education Targeted Funds Policy document from the Ministry of Education and Child Care was provided to the Indigenous Education Council.

b. Indigenous Education Councils Funding

This agenda item was discussed after agenda item 7.1

8.2 BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA): Two-Year Extension and Implementation Day

Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, and Christie Russell, District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education, shared that each Implementation Day has a focus on decolonizing and Indigenizing, with a goal to increase Indigenous student success. The Instructional Leadership Team consultants go into schools on Implementation Day to witness the work that is happening. As part of BCTEA, the District has been asked to collect feedback for a view of what is happening in schools and the District has scanned schools with the following query: What are your hopes for our schools, students, and teachers, and what are your hopes for their learning on Implementation Day? The Indigenous Education Department and the Instructional Leadership Team have been working closely together to support school teams as they choose from a menu of options of what they would like to focus on for the day.

The Indigenous Education Council were asked to think about what things they would like schools to learn about on Implementation Day. WFN, Elders, the museum, and other community members have also been asked for feedback. Terry commented that it is important for the IEC to see the learning bundle that has been put together and suggested an informal Zoom meeting in late August for Council members to share their thoughts. More information will be coming.

8.3 Indigenous Education Department Updates

The Indigenous Education Department spoke about the following highlights:

- Indigenous Graduation Celebration Dinners and Blanket Ceremonies 2024 will take place at the following locations:
 - École George Elliot Secondary – June 5th
 - Mount Boucherie Secondary School – June 10th
 - École Kelowna Secondary School / Okanagan Mission Secondary School – June 13th
 - Central School Programs and Services – June 18th
 - Rutland Secondary School – June 20th
- Cowichan Valley School District visit to Central Okanagan Public Schools on May 29th. Brad Baker, Associate Superintendent of Indigenous Education with the Ministry of Education and Child Care, also joined the visit.
- The second Indigenous Student Summit took place on May 7th in Kamloops, BC with a focus on Anti-Racism. Representative educational leaders from the Ministry of Education and Child Care attended the Summit. April Strickland, District Vice-Principal – Indigenous Education, and nine students attended from Central Okanagan Public Schools. The Summit provided the opportunity for students to have their ideas about anti-racism heard by government.
- Kelowna Métis Association grant funds have been used to create felt story boards, based on the book *Métis Like Me*, for use by advocates to promote oral language learning.

8.4 May 9, 2024 Jointly Convened Annual Meeting (JCAM) - Update

Chris Alexander, WFN Education and Resource Coordinator, spoke about attending the Jointly Convened Annual Meeting (JCAM) on May 9, 2024 on behalf of IEC Chair Jordan Coble who was unable to attend. Terry Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, and Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, also attended the JCAM in Vancouver, BC. Chris highlighted some of the topics covered at the annual meeting, including the Local Education Agreement (LEA), Child and Youth in Care, Schools of Choice, and the Indigenous Education Council. The LEA between Westbank First Nation and Central Okanagan Public Schools, along with the LEA Terms of Reference, is seen as a model LEA by other communities and Districts that do not

have one. Chris shared that the Child and Youth in Care topic revealed that there is more work to be done and we need to work closely with the Ministry of Child and Family Development (MCFD).

Chair Jordan Coble attended JCAM last year and commented that the District is further ahead than many other Districts; however, there is still a lot of work to be done.

9. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

- 9.1 Indigenous Education Preliminary Budget (2024/2025 Fiscal Year) – Memo to Finance and Audit Committee (*Attachment*)
- 9.2 Indigenous-Focused Graduation Requirement Course: BAA Syilx Foundations 11 (*Attachment*)

10. **REVIEW ACTION ITEMS**

Action Item: Notify the ONA that their representative seat has been removed from the Indigenous Education Council. (Jordan Coble)

Action Item: Spearhead the community Zoom meetings to discuss the restart of the Indigenous Parent and Family Education Council. (Jesse Bruce/Ann Bell)

Action Item: Elder Barnes will reach out to the language speakers in the territory to ensure the translation of the acknowledgement poster into the nsyilxcən language is done correctly. (Terry Beaudry/Elder Barnes)

Action Item: Forward the amended IEC Terms of Reference to the Board of Education after receiving the new Terms of Reference for Indigenous Education Councils from the Ministry of Education and Child Care. (Terry Beaudry)

11. **FUTURE IEC MEETINGS** (Tuesdays 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm)

2024-2025 IEC Meeting Schedule

September 24th, November 5th, January 21st, February 4th, April 8th, June 3rd

12. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Language Teaching
- Wellness workers for primary students
- The cultural program
- The impact of the new personal student digital device restrictions at school (June 2025)

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:16 pm.

<u>ACTION ITEMS – In Progress:</u>	<u>Person(s) Responsible</u>
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 nsyilxcən language is done correctly.	Terry Beaudry/ Elder Grouse Barnes
Forward the amended IEC Terms of Reference to the Board of Education after receiving the new Terms of Reference for Indigenous Education Councils from the Ministry of Education and Childcare.	Terry Beaudry
To follow up with the IEC through email about the selection process of two parents to serve on the IEC and IPFEC.	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
Share the IEC's feedback, at the next COPAC Zoom meeting, about including two seats on the COPAC for Indigenous Parents.	Terry Beaudry
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
Forward the Indigenous Education Budget survey results to the IEC.	Jesse Bruce
Email the Indigenous Education Budget PowerPoint slides, shared with the Indigenous Education staff, to the IEC.	Jesse Bruce
Forward the Indigenous Graduation 2024 Save-the-Date poster to the IEC.	April Strickland