



INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL (IEC) SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, August 25, 2026 – 3:00 pm to 4:45 pm
Virtual Meeting – via TEAMS

MINUTES

Voting Council Members	
Westbank First Nation (4) - Jordan Coble - Sara Tronson - Nicole Werstuik - Christopher Alexander Elder Representative - Elder Rose Lube (WFN) (<i>absent</i>) Okanagan Indian Band (1) - Allan Louis - <i>Peggy Joe (absent)</i> Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (2) - Christina Verhagen - Maureen Ziprick (alternate) - <i>Bill McKenna (absent)</i>	Kelowna Metis Association (2) - Cheryl Dodman - Richard Gauthier Lake Country Native Association (1) - Ann Bell - <i>Shannon Isnardy (Guest)</i> Indigenous Parent & Family Education Council (2) - Deanna Necan - Candace Jack (WFN)
Quorum: 8 members	
Central Okanagan Public Schools: Trustee Representatives	
Trustee Julia Fraser Trustee Lisa Guderyan	
Central Okanagan Public Schools: Staff	
Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education, Diversity, and Student Wellbeing: Jesse Bruce District Principal of Indigenous Education: Christie Russell District Principal of Indigenous Education: Kevin Kaiser Secretariat: Lise Bradshaw Absent: <i>Superintendent of Schools: Jon Rever</i> <i>Assistant Superintendent: Raquel Steen</i>	

Allan Louis from Okanagan Indian Band expressed appreciation to Westbank First Nation members for their generous assistance with the recent Bradley Creek wildfire.

Jordan Coble shared that on August 26 at noon there would be collective community prayers and encouraged everyone to participate in their own way.

Welcome

Chair Jordan Coble called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

Adoption of the August 25, 2026, Special IEC Meeting Agenda:

MOVED by Cheryl Dodman and SECONDED by Allan Louis

THAT: The Agenda for August 25, 2026 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Indigenous Targeted Funding Update

Jesse Bruce provided the IEC with an update regarding targeted funding and provided information to help answer some questions that had arisen in recent IEC meetings regarding staffing and Indigenous Advocates.

The budget is prepared each year with projected Indigenous student enrolment numbers. From that enrolment number, targeted funding allocation is determined, and that is used to present a budget to the IEC.

Jesse shared the staffing structure of the Indigenous Education Department, detailing which positions are funded from Indigenous Targeted Funds, and which positions are funded by the District (CORE Operating Fund).

Indigenous Department Staffing 2026-2027

Indigenous Targeted Funds		CORE Operating Fund (District)	
49	Indigenous Student Advocate	0	*
2	Lead Indigenous Student Advocate	0	*
2	Wellness Worker	0	*
1	Cultural Presenter	1	Cultural Coordinator
6.6	Middle/Secondary Success Teacher	0	*
2	Land Based Learning Teacher	1	Language Teacher
1	Program Secretary	1	Clerical
2	District Vice-Principal	VP	Top Up (Principal)
		1	Director of Instruction

Jesse provided historical information on Indigenous Education Department staffing including historical enrolment, carry-forward amounts, targeted funding, and CORE funding from 2021-2022 to 2026-2027. The District is projecting 30 fewer Indigenous students in 2026-2027 with a carry-forward amount of \$228,086.

Jesse noted that the IEC had a similar opportunity last year to discuss how surplus funds could be used to add staff. He suggested waiting until after the September 1701 process, when more accurate enrolment information will be available, then discussing allocation options.

Position	26-27 3060	25-26 3090	24-25 3110	23-24 3173	22-23 3129	21-22 3022
Indigenous Student Advocate	49 (?) 1-60	51 (50) 1-59	54 (51) 1-61	57 (51) 1-62	57 (53) 1-59	56 (54) 1-59
Lead Advocate	2	2	1	0	0	0
Wellness Worker	2	2	2	2.5	3.5	4
Cultural	2	2	3	3	3	3
Success Teacher	6.6	7 (7.6 Feb.-June)	7.5	7.6	7	6
LBL Teacher	2	2	2	2	2	2
Nsyilxcen Teacher	1	1	0.5	0	0	0
Administrator	3 (1D + 2 DP)	3	3	3	2	2 (DP + DVP)

IEC members discussed the staffing allocations year over year, the various positions, and the ratios to students.

	26-27 3060	25-26 3090	24-25 3110	23-24 3173	22-23 3129	21-22 3022	19-20 2991	17-18 2558	16-17 2255	15-16 2365
Student Advocate	49 1-60 +2 (Lead)	51 (50) 1-59 +2 (Lead)	54 (51) 1-61 +1 (Lead)	57 (51) 1-62	57 (53) 1-58	56 (54) 1-59	47.4 1-63	41 1-63	40 1-56	39 1-61
% ITF Budget										
Projected	63%	60%	57%	57%						
Actual	?	59.6%	56%	50%						
With Lead	68%	62.3%	57%	50%						

Members discussed whether surplus funds could support additional Indigenous Advocates rather than Success Teachers. Jesse advised this could be considered after the September 1701 enrolment count, when the amount available for allocation is clearer.

Members also discussed the growth in administrative positions and noted the importance of understanding which roles are District-funded. Jesse advised that one additional position is District-funded and shared that the percentage of the budget allocated to Advocates has increased year over year.

Members emphasized the importance of Advocates, Wellness Workers, and Success Teachers working within their respective roles, and noted concerns about reduced Wellness Worker support given student mental health needs.

Jesse advised that the District is projecting 3,060 Indigenous students. If enrolment meets this projection, the IEC will have approximately \$228,000 in carry-forward funds to discuss; if enrolment is higher or lower, the available amount will change accordingly.

Members discussed Advocate-to-student ratios, Lead Advocate responsibilities, and the need for detailed staffing and budget information in the fall. Jesse advised that Lead Advocates primarily support schools through Indigenous student advocate mentorship, direct student support, events and ceremonies, school-based team meetings, family support and Department and District committees. Overtime for approved evening or community events is paid through IEC funds.

Members noted past decisions to shift District Principal costs to District funding, which previously allowed funds to support Wellness Worker positions, and expressed concern that the current number of Wellness Workers is insufficient. Members also discussed cultural presenter funding and the importance of ensuring access across schools.

Jesse advised that the IEC should be prepared in the fall to discuss allocation options for any confirmed surplus, including whether funds could support additional Advocate or Wellness Worker positions.

Indigenous Education Council Capacity Funds

Jesse Bruce advised that the IEC receives capacity funding each year as a result of Bill 40. The funds are intended to support learning, but it is not fully spent each year. With additional annual funding, the unspent balance has grown to approximately \$130,000.

Capacity funds have been approved by the Ministry of Education and Child Care for family events, conference costs (ie, OMRIE), mileage, meeting refreshments, and honorariums.

Jesse advised that the District has an opportunity to work with Dr. Dustin Louie to support District priorities and selected schools with higher Indigenous student enrolment. Jesse asked the IEC to consider allocating some capacity funds toward Dr. Louie's work with the District in 2026-2027.

Christie Russell and Kevin Kaiser shared information from their recent visit to Chilliwack, where they met with school teams working with Dr. Louie.

Members expressed support for the opportunity, noting the potential District-wide impact of the work and the benefit of having all staff engaged in transformative reconciliation. Members also asked for clarification on costs and available funds.

Jesse advised that approximately \$130,000 remains in unspent capacity funds. Dr. Louie's contract is \$60,000, with total costs estimated at approximately \$75,000 including travel expenses. Jesse advised that no specific amount was being requested from the IEC at this time.

4:38 pm: Ann Bell left the meeting.

Members indicated the proposal appeared to be a strong use of funds, particularly if it supports all staff across the District. Jesse advised that no decision was required at this meeting and suggested bringing options to the September IEC meeting.

The Chair advised that a motion would be considered at the September IEC meeting and requested a report outlining options, the District contribution, Dr. Louie's cost breakdown, and a specific funding request. Jesse confirmed this information would be provided. Members also requested information on whether capacity funds could be used for other purposes, including Advocates.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.