



INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL (IEC)

IEC Budget Meeting

Tuesday, February 4, 2025 – 1:30 pm
School Board Office – Board Room 1
 (1040 Hollywood Road South, Kelowna, BC)

MINUTES

Council Members:	Elder Wilfred Barnes <i>(Via Zoom)</i> Westbank First Nation Elder Brad Dahl Kelowna Métis Association Candace Jack Indigenous Parent & Family Education Council Lee-Ann Tiede (Alternate) Board of Education	Ann Bell Lake Country Native Association Cheryl Dodman Kelowna Métis Association Bill McKenna (Alternate) Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society Nicole Werstuik Westbank First Nation	Jordan Coble Westbank First Nation Chantelle Desrosiers Board of Education Deanna Necan Indigenous Parent & Family Education Council
School District Staff:	Kevin Kaardal Superintendent of Schools Jesse Bruce Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity	Yvonne Hildebrandt Secretariat Kevin Kaiser District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education	Christie Russell District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education
Absent:	Denise Clough Westbank First Nation Rachel Marchand Okanagan Indian Band	Lisa Guderyan Board of Education Aaron St Pierre Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society	Allan Louis Okanagan Indian Band Raquel Steen Assistant Superintendent

1. Opening Prayer

Chair Jordan Coble led the Council in an opening prayer to begin the meeting in a good way.

2. Welcome

Chair Coble welcomed everyone to the IEC meeting and expressed the importance of the Council working together in the budgeting process with open hearts and open minds.

3. FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

3.1 Adoption of the February 4, 2025 Agenda

MOVED by Brad Dahl, SECONDED by Nicole Werstuik

THAT: The agenda for February 4, 2025 be adopted as presented. CARRIED

3.2 Review and Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Cheryl Dodman, SECONDED by Candace Jack

THAT: The Minutes for January 21, 2025 be adopted as presented. CARRIED

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 2025/2026 Draft Indigenous Education Program Preliminary Budget

Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, reminded the IEC that reviewing the preliminary Indigenous Education budget is a confidential process and that discussion of the proposed expenses must remain at the IEC table.

Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO, presented the draft 2025/2026 Indigenous Education Program Preliminary Budget. The expenses within the budget are grouped into four main categories: Cultural and Language Expenses, General Staffing Expenses, General Program Expenses, and Expenses to be Recovered from District. The draft 2025-2026 Indigenous Education Program Preliminary Budget is based on an estimated FTE of 3,110 Indigenous students and a 3% increase in per pupil funding to \$1,823. The per pupil funding will be adjusted after the Ministry of Education and Child Care announces the 2025-2026 per pupil funding at spring break. The number of enrolled Indigenous students will be adjusted at the end of September 2025 when the District reports actual student enrolment to the Ministry. The Indigenous Education Program money left unspent from the 2024-2025 school year will become the Estimated Previous Year Surplus in the 2025-2026 budget and is projected to be approximately \$50,000, down from over \$561,000 the previous year. The District anticipates the total Targeted Funding for the preliminary 2025-2026 Indigenous Education Program budget to be approximately \$5.7 million.

1:55 pm – Elder Barnes joined the meeting via Zoom.

The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO and the Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity outlined the proposed 2025-2026 budgeted allocation decreases, to balance the budget pressure, and engaged in discussion with the Council regarding the rationale behind the following:

- Remove Indigenous Cultural Presenters (2.0 FTE)
- Reduce Cultural Program/Presentation and Supplies
- Reduce Indigenous Student Advocates (3.6 FTE)
- Reduce Clerical Support (0.17 FTE)
- Reduce Middle School Indigenous Success Teacher (0.3 FTE)
- Reduce Early Learning Teacher Consultants (1.0 FTE)
- Minor reductions in various General Program expenses

The IEC members discussed the draft 2025/2026 Indigenous Education Program Preliminary Budget, expressing concern regarding the removal of the District's Indigenous Cultural Presenters and the reduction in allocation for Indigenous Student Advocates. The IEC spoke about the need to set parameters over rates paid to external presenters for workshops; the desire for beyond-the-school-bell programming for Indigenous students after school and during spring, summer and winter break; a Junior Advocate Program; and, creating a Reconciliation Coordinator position in the future.

3:00 pm – The Superintendent of Schools/CEO left the meeting.

The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO shared that the Feeding Futures Fund, a grant from the Ministry of Education and Child Care, continues to supplement the Indigenous Education Budget with \$100,000 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Chair Coble thanked the Secretary-Treasurer/CFO and the District staff for drafting the 2025-2026 Indigenous Education Program Preliminary Budget and encouraged the IEC to have faith in the process, in the way incremental shifts are made and in the way services are delivered to the students. He reminded the Council that emphasis should be on the children, to stay connected with the learners, that they are in the middle, and that we must help each other walk hand in hand so we can make the changes. The Chair expressed appreciation for the willingness of the District staff to facilitate change and take on the challenge.

The IEC made the following MOTION:

MOVED by Brad Dahl, SECONDED by Cheryl Dodman

THAT: The Indigenous Education Council supports the draft 2025/2026 Preliminary Indigenous Education Program Budget.

CARRIED

3:15 pm – The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO left the meeting.

4.2 How Are We Doing? Report

Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, highlighted the following performance areas from the How Are We Doing? 2023/2024 Aboriginal Report for School District 23 (Central Okanagan) published by the Ministry of Education and Child Care: Completion Rates, Students with Diverse Abilities, Graduation Assessment, First Nations Language Courses, Education Experiences of Children and Youth in Care (CYIC), Students in Alternate Programs,

Action Item: Choose a focus area of interest in the How Are We Doing? 2023/2024 Aboriginal Report for School District 23 (Central Okanagan) and formulate questions for discussion at future IEC meetings. (Click [HERE](#) for the report) (*Indigenous Education Council Members*)

3:21 pm – The Superintendent of Schools/CEO returned to the meeting.

Attendance data is not reported in the How Are We Doing? Report. However, Indigenous student attendance at school is a priority for the Indigenous Education program.

Future Agenda Topic: The topic "Student Attendance" will be added to the agenda for the remainder of the year.

4.3 Community Updates

- The Westbank First Nation community PowWow takes place on February 8th at the Sensisysten House of Learning gym and is free to the public. Face painting will be offered for a fee.
- Kelowna Métis Association (KMA) is hosting a potluck on February 15th at their Bernard Avenue location (beside Starbright Children's Development Centre) to celebrate Louis Riel's birthday. A KMA Kitchen Party celebration is planned for February 27th.
- Lake Country Native Association (LCNA) is hosting a Youth Drumming Circle on February 9th, with Elder Randy Swanson. LCNA is succession planning and mentoring someone to continue the work of the association. In January, fifty people attended the monthly LCNA Family Gathering in Lake Country.
- Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society recently held a cold weather clothing drive in conjunction with a local radio station.

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

2024-2025 IEC Meeting Schedule

April 8th, June 3rd

6. ITEMS FOR FUTURE IEC MEETINGS

- September 30th National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Orange Shirt Day (June 2025)
- October 10, 2025 District Implementation Day (June 2025)
- The impact of the new personal student digital device restrictions at school (June 2025)
- "How Are We Doing? Report" Q&A – agenda item for the remainder of the year
- Indigenous Student Attendance – agenda item for the remainder of the year

7. INCAMERA MEETINGS

(The Incamera meetings, if required, will take place after the regular IEC meeting.)

The IEC First Nation members and the IEC voting members did not require an Incamera meeting at this time.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:51 pm.

<u>ACTION ITEMS – In Progress:</u>	<u>Person(s) Responsible</u>
Reach out to the language speakers in the territory to ensure the translation of the acknowledgement poster into the nsyilxcən language is done correctly.	Christie Russell/ Elder Grouse Barnes
Set up school-based visits or a tour of the District for IEC members.	Jesse Bruce
Choose a focus area of interest in the How Are We Doing? 2023/2024 Aboriginal Report for School District 23 (Central Okanagan) and formulate questions for discussion at future IEC meetings.	All IEC members

<u>ACTION ITEMS – Completed (2024/2025):</u>	<u>Person(s) Responsible</u>
Add the Indigenous Education logo to the District mileage claim form and distribute the form to IEC members.	Yvonne Hildebrandt
Email an invitation to the IEC to join the Equity in Action for Truth and Reconciliation Refresh Committee.	Jesse Bruce/ Yvonne Hildebrandt
Spearhead the community Zoom meetings to discuss the restart of the Indigenous Parent and Family Education Council (IPFEC).	Jesse Bruce/ Ann Bell
Follow up with the IEC about the selection process of two parents to serve on the IEC and IPFEC.	Jesse Bruce
Provide a template letter that can be used to solicit donations to start a new bursary for Indigenous graduates.	Jesse Bruce
Forward the amended IEC Terms of Reference to the Board of Education after receiving the new Terms of Reference template for Indigenous Education Councils from the Ministry of Education and Childcare.	Terry Beaudry
Notify the ONA that their representative seat has been removed from the Indigenous Education Council.	Jordan Coble