



INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL (IEC)

IEC Meeting

Tuesday, January 23, 2024 – 1:30 pm
Westbank First Nation – Youth Council Board Room
 (1880 Quail Lane, Westbank, BC)

MINUTES

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

1. Welcome / Introduction of New Members and Staff

Chair Jordan Coble sent his regrets. In the absence of the Chair, Vice-Chair Nicole Werstuik welcomed everyone to the IEC meeting. Council members introduced themselves around the table. Ashley Power, new representative from Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society, was welcomed. Jesse Bruce, Acting Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education was also welcomed as a guest. Quorum was not reached at the start of the meeting and was established when Elder Barnes arrived at the meeting at 2:00 pm.

2. Opening Prayer

There was no opening prayer at the beginning of the meeting. Elder Barnes led the Council in a prayer when he arrived.

FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

3. Adoption of the January 23, 2024 Agenda

MOVED by Ann Bell, SECONDED by Julia Fraser
 THAT: The agenda for January 23, 2024 be adopted as presented. CARRIED.

4. Review and Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Brad Dahl, SECONDED by Julia Fraser
 THAT: The Minutes for November 21, 2023 be adopted as presented. CARRIED

5. STANDING ITEMS

5.1 District Updates

School District staff spoke of the following:

- The District continues to grow, more Indigenous families continue to self-identify, and many newcomers are coming from different parts of the world.
- Since January, 60 newcomer students were registered through the District's Welcome Centre. The District welcomes the diversity and the opportunity to embrace new cultures, and, at the same time, there are challenges around facility and space to ensure families have access to schools near where they live. Transportation is also an issue. Since September, there have been 600+ (unexpected) new registered students through the Welcome Centre. This is significant.
- The District welcomed January with challenges as some facilities were flooded due to winter-related conditions. Anne McClymont Elementary School students, for example, were moved from the flooded building to five different schools and communication about these moves were translated to newcomers in numerous languages. The District's settlement workers speak several languages. The Operations Department, school-based admin teams and CUPE staff have all rallied. The Board of Education has been very supportive as District staff have needed to temporarily relocate students.

5.2 Community Updates

Indigenous Education Council members spoke of the following:

- The Westbank First Nation Youth Centre recently purchased headsets for the video gaming system. WFN Youth Day is coming up and the TV's will be hooked up to the video game system for everyone to watch the games within the facility.
- Fifty-two Grade 6 Constable Neil Bruce Middle School students will be coming to WFN for a tour and overview and will participate in a mini-colours painting workshop.
- A Grade 12 Métis student from École Okanagan Mission Secondary School was selected to attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai, UAE, and was one of two students in all of Canada to attend. The student spoke about her Dubai experience at the January 10th Public Board of Education Meeting and shared her passion for environmental sustainability issues.
- Lake Country Native Association (LCNA) will be having a cultural group visit to share captikw^{at} (traditional stories). Youth group is no longer on Fridays at LCNA. Instead, special event workshops for youth will take place on Sundays.
- Kelowna Métis Association (KMA) is finishing up their strategic plan. A continued focus in the plan is to seek funding for scholarships. KMA is in the process of finding a new representative to the Indigenous Education Council since Kendra Langrish has moved away.

2:00 pm – Elder Barnes arrived at the meeting.

- The new childcare facility at École Hudson Road Elementary School is nearly completed and will provide space for 90 students ages zero to school age. This childcare facility is one of six new additional childcare spaces in the District that provides before and after school care. An opportunity will be provided for WFN members to tour the Hudson Road facility.
- Westside Tutor has closed its building and is no longer providing tutoring support. WFN is thankful to have discovered Sylvan Learning on the Westside and has had two meetings with them. Sylvan Learning has a waitlist for students and they are struggling with getting enough tutors. They are committed to having a Westside location and WFN members' students are allowed up to two hours a week of free after-school tutoring.
- Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (KFS) has a community action plan for children ages 0 to 6 and organizes an event every week at three locations: KFS Friendship Centre, Black Mountain Elementary School, and in the community. KFS meets together with the Kelowna Métis Association, WFN, and Okanagan Nation Alliance to collaborate at the Early Years' Table about what can be done for children ages 0 to 8.
- The Cultural Sensitivity Training being taught at Okanagan College has been very successful and has expanded to UBC Okanagan School of Education for a total of four classes altogether.

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

Terry Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, shared that the District is still having challenges trying to determine which students are actually in care. At a recent Central Okanagan Leadership Team meeting, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) provided an excellent presentation on the "duty to report" for principals and vice-principals.

5.4 Bursaries and Scholarships for Indigenous Grads

Terry Beaudry reminded the IEC that the District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education, April Strickland, oversees middle and secondary schools and is responsible for the Indigenous Graduations this year. Terry recommended the IEC inquire with their organizations about considering making a bursary donation. This would be in addition to Westbank First Nation, Kelowna Sunrise Rotary Club, and a private donor's contributions to the Medicine Wheel Awards,

Action Item:

MOVED by Nicole Werstuik, SECONDED by Ann Bell

THAT: A template letter be drafted by District staff that could be used to solicit donations to start a new bursary for Indigenous students. CARRIED.

5.5 Community Engagement

Community Zoom Meetings About Restarting the Indigenous Parent and Family Education Council
Restarting the Indigenous Parent and Family Education Council is one of the 'big rocks' to accomplish before the end of June 2024. Jesse Bruce, Acting Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, will collaborate with Ann Bell to establish a process for Indigenous parent and family recruitment to the Indigenous Parent and Family Education Council. The Deputy Superintendent of Schools requested that this agenda item remain as a standing item.

6. NEW BUSINESS

The Deputy Superintendent of Schools spoke of the District's acknowledgement posters that have been designed in English and French; however, a third poster in the Nsyilxcən language has yet to be created.

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)

6.1 New Legislation – Bill 40

1. Indigenous Education Councils and New Terms of Reference

The Deputy Superintendent of Schools shared that the District will have more information in February or March about Terms of Reference details for Indigenous Education Councils. It is expected that trustees on the IEC will not be voting members and that the IEC will have the responsibility of decision-making over Indigenous Education targeted funds. Decisions over targeted funds will not go to the Board of Education but will be approved at the IEC table. As such, it will be important for IEC members to keep well informed and attend school visits, when the opportunities arise, to connect with students and staff. The IEC spoke about the possibility of touring the District together to see programs, supports and services in action.

2. Local Education Agreements

Local Education Agreements are not discussed at the IEC table.

3. First Nations Schools Of Choice

Jesse Bruce, Acting Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, led the IEC through the PowerPoint presentation slides that were co-developed by FNEESC and the Ministry of Education and Child Care. In response to the new legislation (Bill 40), First Nations (WFN and OKIB) will designate, through an internal process, an elementary, middle, and secondary school as schools of choice for their students that live on reserve or Treaty lands. These students will have priority in the enrollment process at the designated schools.

The existing enrollment Board policy will apply for students who:

- Enroll in a school not designated as a school of choice by their First Nation
- Enroll in a Specialty Academy

The Deputy Superintendent of Schools reviewed the changes to the Indigenous Ancestry section of the District's enrollment application. The changes were made to bring more clarity to the enrollment form. A student must be of Indigenous ancestry from Canada and not the United States or other jurisdictions for the District to claim Targeted Funding for that student. Current Indigenous students who don't meet the requirements will be grandfathered with support.

The District's Board of Education will meet with Westbank First Nation at a Board Interchange meeting at WFN on Monday, January 29, 2024, and one of the discussion topics will be the New Legislation (Bill 40) – First Nations School of Choice.

6.2 Indigenous Education Department Updates

Jesse Bruce, Acting Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, shared that Christie Russell, District Vice-Principal – Indigenous Education, is at the Primary Winter Gathering all week. Guest schools, Sensisysten and Revelstoke, will join the gathering on Thursday, January 25th. IEC members were invited to drop by the Primary Winter Gathering at the Kelowna and District Fish and Game Club on Thursday, January 25th to enjoy the drumming, singing, captikwl, lunch, bannock and traditional art.

Jesse Bruce provided an update to the IEC from Christie Russell about Jordan's Principle. Jordan's Principle is named in the memory of Jordan River Anderson, a young boy, from a small reserve in Manitoba, that had multiple health issues and was hospitalized from birth. He was caught in a dispute between the federal and provincial governments about who should pay for which services. As a result, he didn't get the recommended home-based care he needed and stayed in hospital until he passed away. Jordan's Principle is a commitment and legal obligation that makes sure all First Nations children living in Canada can access the products, services and supports they need, when they need them. Funding can help with a wide range of health, social and emotional needs, including unique needs of those with disabilities. Central Okanagan Public Schools developed a new District Administrative Procedure for Jordan's Principle in 2023 and it is working as intended. Through Jordan's Principle funding, two teachers have been approved and are working alongside the Early Learning Team, the Social Emotional Learning Team, and early learners. The District has received over \$500,000 of Jordan's Principle funding to directly support First Nation priority students.

April Strickland, District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education, supporting middle and secondary schools, spoke of the first community-building Indigenous grad retreat held this school year in the Central School gym. Justin Young, a heart speaker from Kamloops, BC, spoke at the retreat about confidence. The second Indigenous grad retreat is planned for March. Indigenous graduation ceremony dates have recently been decided and a poster will be created and forwarded to the IEC. The Indigenous grad ceremonies will be structured and organized as they were last year.

Jesse Bruce spoke of the Presentation of Learning held at Mount Boucherie Secondary School on January 16th to honour the Indigenous Visual Arts course. Students at the exhibition spoke about how the Indigenous Visual Arts course has impacted them and how it has enabled them to reflect and discover themselves. This course will expand to three additional secondary schools next year.

February 16th is Professional Development Day for educators and Inservice Day for CUPE support staff. All Indigenous Education staff will be coming together for a day of connection and learning.

6.3 Indigenous Education Department Workplan – Looking Ahead to the Next Six Months

Terry, Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, and Jesse Bruce, Acting Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, spoke about five 'Big Rocks' for the next several months, which are in addition to graduation preparation and the usual initiatives:

1. Implementing Bill 40.
2. Recruiting for the new Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity closes on January 29th. The applications will be vetted and shortlisted. Two representatives from the IEC will be needed to attend the interviews in early February. More information will come forward.
3. Preparing the Preliminary Budget for the 2024/2025 school year.
4. Restarting the Indigenous Parent and Family Education Council, including parent representation on the IEC.
5. The Equity in Action Agreement will be 5 years old in 2025 and the District will need to begin the process of engaging the community for a new Agreement. This will stretch into next year. Alongside the Equity in Action Agreement needs to be a multi-year cultural program plan, designed for Indigenous students to ensure we are embedding syilx protocols and nsyilxcən language appropriately.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

- Letter of Appointment – Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society
- How Are We Doing? Report

8. REVIEW ACTION ITEMS

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

- The IEC will wait until the Ministry of Education and Child Care's new Terms of Reference requirements for Indigenous Education Councils is publicized before finalizing a decision about the ONA representative seat on the IEC.

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: Share the IEC's feedback at the next COPAC Zoom meeting, about including two seats on the COPAC for Indigenous Parents. (Terry Beaudry)

- This action item is on hold until the process is established.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Indigenous Early Learning Initiatives Report (Presentation by the Early Learning Team). The IEC agreed to remove this item.
- Foundation Skills Assessment – Deborah Jeffrey, FNESC Executive Director. Terry Beaudry will invite Deborah Jeffrey to present at an IEC meeting.
- Language Teaching.

The meeting adjourned at 3:42 pm.

Next IEC Meeting – Tuesday, February 6, 2024 Budget Meeting (1:30 pm to 4:00 pm) – School Board Office

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
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
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

<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