



INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL (IEC)

Special IEC Meeting

Thursday, August 29, 2024 – 9:00 am
Via Zoom

MINUTES

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

1. Opening Prayer

Elder Barnes led the Council in an opening prayer.

2. Welcome

Chair Coble welcomed everyone to the IEC meeting.

3. FOR DISCUSSION / INFORMATION

3.1 September Startup Update

Terry Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, shared that all schools within Central Okanagan Public Schools will be ready to welcome returning and new students. Principals and vice-principals have been in schools preparing for school opening and teachers are engaged in professional development and are getting their classrooms ready. This summer has been about readying the facilities and working on significant projects: a 300 seat expansion to Dr. Knox Middle School is expected to be completed around winter break; a modular at North Glenmore Elementary School, which is not a portable but a stand alone building with 5 new classrooms, is anticipated to be ready by the end of September; a large re-turfing project at Glenmore Elementary School, including a new irrigation system, will be ready by mid-October; and, the new 1200 student capacity George Pringle Secondary School, which now has foundations and is ready for the build, will be ready in 2027.

In the Indigenous Education Department, the phrase "Think 12 Not 10" has been coined a common phrase and taken to heart. The Indigenous Education team has been connecting with Indigenous

families during the summer, especially high priority families, to ensure services and support are available to students.

Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, also spoke about the phrase "Think 12 Not 10". Locally, this means the District has an Indigenous admin team that works throughout the summer and are responsible to Indigenous students and families during the holiday period. In addition, two Indigenous Wellness Workers and the Indigenous Lead Advocate worked through the summer since they are 12-month employees. This past summer, the Wellness Workers connected with students on their caseload and provided counselling and support. Summer Indigenous Wellness Check-ins were available at sites in West Kelowna, Central Kelowna, Lake Country and Rutland during July and August for all Indigenous students in grades 8 to 12 to drop in, rain or shine. The Lead Advocate was in the Indigenous Education office most of the summer, connecting with over 100 students that had been referred by advocates and providing support with food and gift cards for groceries. Families of these students were very appreciative. The Lead Advocate also helped onboard and train several new staff members that were recruited in June. The District was able to fill job postings with new hires so each school will begin this school year with a full complement of advocates.

Terry Beaudry thanked Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, and District Vice-Principals of Indigenous Education Christie Russell and April Strickland for working throughout the summer, in addition to taking holidays, to support Indigenous students and families and prepare for September opening.

3.2 New Ministerial Indigenous Education Council Order and Policy

Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction - Indigenous Education and Equity, reviewed the new Ministerial Indigenous Education Council Order and the Ministry's Indigenous Education Council Policy with the IEC. Jesse shared a slide deck that was presented by the Ministry of Education and Child Care in July 2024 about the 'Implementation of Indigenous Education Councils' and provided information about Context, Legislative Amendments, Reset of IECs, Setting up an IEC, Rules for an IEC, Operationalization of an IEC, Secretariat and Administrative Support, and Next Steps.

The Council members were given time to read the new Ministerial Order which outlines how Districts without an IEC must create an IEC. Terry Beaudry commented that the District's IEC is much further ahead in the process and already has a draft amended Terms of Reference that aligns closely with the new Ministry policy, although a few changes may be needed to the Terms of Reference to ensure the entire Order is reflected. Denise Clough commented that the En'owkin process should be considered in the Terms of Reference.

3.3 New Ministry Template Terms of Reference for Indigenous Education Councils

Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, reviewed the Ministry of Education and Child Care's template Terms of Reference (TOR) for Indigenous Education Councils, the minimum standard for all IECs. Jesse commented that the IEC TOR subcommittee have been revising the local IEC Terms of Reference during the 2023-2024 school year and the draft revisions closely align with the Ministry's template. The IEC will now need to compare the draft revised IEC TOR with the Ministry's template to ensure it meets the minimum requirements from the Ministry.

Jesse Bruce invited Council members to be part of a Terms of Reference Subcommittee. This working group will need to meet during the next couple of weeks to finalize the changes to the local IEC Terms of Reference so that the amended Terms of Reference can be presented at the September 24th IEC meeting for approval by the IEC.

Elder Barnes queried if he would receive an honorarium for volunteering on the subcommittee. Terry Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, responded that the Elder would receive an honorarium similar to the honorariums for Elders and parents that are part of the IEC.

Trustee Fraser commented that she was part of the previous IEC Terms of Reference subcommittee and queried if the Trustees could sit on the ad hoc committee going forward. Terry Beaudry commented that this decision would be at the discretion of the IEC since the Terms of Reference are the responsibility of the IEC. Nicole Werstuik commented that there would not be an issue with a

Trustee's attendance for information at the IEC TOR Subcommittee meeting; however, Trustees would not have the ability to make changes to the TOR since decision-making is being handed over to the IEC members. Elder Barnes and Denise Clough agreed that Trustees would be allowed to attend the subcommittee meeting for information only.

Elder Barnes, Brad Dahl, and Denise Clough volunteered to sit on the IEC Terms of Reference Subcommittee. Jesse Bruce thanked all who put their names forward and Terry Beaudry requested that they share their availability for a September subcommittee meeting.

Action Item: An open invitation to be part of the IEC Terms of Reference Subcommittee will be emailed to the IEC. (*Yvonne Hildebrandt*)

3.4 Staffing Update

Jesse Bruce shared that April Strickland, District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education, has accepted a school-based vice-principalship in the Kamloops School District and her last day with Central Okanagan Public Schools will be August 30th. On April's behalf, Jesse shared that April loves this District and will miss the connections she made with staff and the IEC. April will be invited to an IEC meeting in the Fall for a proper goodbye.

Terry Beaudry shared that the District is working on interim support and have reached out to a retired principal. The IEC will be advised when someone is in place for the interim. Terry also shared that a Cultural Coordinator position is available and requested the IEC to contact Jesse if they know of someone that would be interested from the local First Nation. All schools are covered by advocates for the first day of school and this has not happened in four years. Terry thanked Nicole and Jordan for agreeing to today's Special IEC meeting as it helps to ensure information is sent to the IEC in a timely manner.

10:10 am – Denise Clough left the meeting

Chair Jordan Coble closed the meeting and encouraged the Indigenous Education Council to reach out with any questions they may have.

4. 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

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.