



INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL (IEC)

Special IEC Budget Meeting

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 – 1:00 pm (Via Zoom)

MINUTES

Council Members:	Elder Wilfred Barnes Westbank First Nation Elder	Ann Bell Lake Country Native Association	Jordan Coble Westbank First Nation
	Brad Dahl Kelowna Métis Association	Chantelle Desrosiers Board of Education	Julia Fraser Board of Education
	Allan Louis Okanagan Indian Band	Nicole Werstuik Westbank First Nation	
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	April Strickland Central Okanagan Public Schools	
Guest:	Kate Cumming Central Okanagan Public Schools		
Absent:	Denise Clough Westbank First Nation	Rachel Marchand Okanagan Indian Band	Ashley Power Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society
	Edna Terbasket Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society		

1. Opening Prayer

Elder Barnes opened the IEC meeting with a prayer.

2. Welcome

Chair Jordan Coble sent his regrets and Vice-Chair Nicole Werstuik became Acting Chair and welcomed everyone to the IEC Zoom meeting. Quorum was not reached at the beginning of the meeting. Jordan joined the zoom meeting while travelling by car and Nicole remained as Acting Chair of the meeting. Trustee Chantelle Desrosiers joined the meeting at 1:25 pm and quorum was established.

FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

3. Adoption of the March 6, 2024 Agenda

MOVED by Ann Bell, SECONDED by Elder Grouse Barnes
THAT: The agenda for March 6, 2024 be adopted as amended. CARRIED.

4. Review and Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Julia Fraser, SECONDED by Jordan Coble
THAT: The Minutes for February 6, 2024 be adopted as presented. CARRIED

5. Indigenous Education Department – Budget Survey Results

Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, shared that, at the IEC meeting on February 6, 2024, a suggestion came forward from the Council that the Indigenous Education budget information should be shared with the Indigenous Education staff and that the staff should then be surveyed to provide an opportunity for their input on spending. As a result, Kate Cumming, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, presented a PowerPoint on the Indigenous Education budget to approximately 70 Indigenous Education staff at their February staff meeting so they would have the information required to provide informed responses. After the staff meeting, Indigenous Education staff expressed appreciation for sharing the budget information and having the opportunity to provide input.

Jesse Bruce reviewed with the IEC the PowerPoint that was shared with Indigenous Education staff, the budget survey questions given to 72 CUPE and COTA staff (not including Indigenous Education office clerical staff or administrators), the consolidated budget survey results, and the common themes. The survey included the following questions: 1. Considering the budget proposal, what did you notice that was positive?; 2. If additional funds were available, is there an area of the budget that you would prioritize?; 3. If additional funds were available, is there something new that you would suggest allocating funds to?; and, 4. Please provide any input or feedback that you feel is important for us to know. There was a 28% response rate to the survey and Jesse hopes that, as we do this survey in the future, the Indigenous Education staff will provide more feedback once they get used to being involved in the survey.

1:25 pm – Chantelle Desrosiers joined the meeting and quorum was established.

Action Item: Email the Indigenous Education Budget PowerPoint slides, shared with the Indigenous Education staff, to the IEC. *(Jesse Bruce)*

Action Item: Forward the Indigenous Education Budget survey results to the IEC. *(Jesse Bruce)*

Vice-Chair Nicole Werstuik congratulated Jesse Bruce on becoming the new Director of Instruction of Indigenous Education and Equity.

6. 2024/2025 Preliminary Indigenous Education Program Budget

Terry Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, suggested that the IEC delay making the motion to vote regarding the support of the 2024/2025 Preliminary Indigenous Education Program Budget until the April 9, 2024 in-person IEC meeting. The Superintendent of Schools/CEO reminded the IEC that the Trustee representatives on the Council may not have a vote *after* the 2023/2024 school year, although they can choose to abstain from voting. In the spirit of moving things forward, the Trustees still have a vote until September when the new Ministry IEC Terms of Reference may take effect.

Kate Cumming, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, reviewed the 2024/2025 Preliminary Indigenous Education Budget, which has been slightly adjusted from the preliminary budget that was presented at the February 6, 2024 IEC meeting. (A discrepancy in the Lead Advocate salary was noted and has been adjusted.) The following recommendations for consideration, brought forward by the IEC at the February 6, 2024 IEC meeting, will be revisited in the fall of 2024 if additional funding is available:

- Student Awards – Increase by approximately 1% of the estimated surplus budget (\$5,000)
- Student Transportation – Increase to support the Land Based Learning Program (\$10,000)
- Elders In Residence – Increase by \$2,500
- Junior Advocate Program – Add startup funds (\$15,000)
- Youth Wellness Worker – Increase 1 FTE (\$90,053)

Total Increases for Consideration: \$122,553

The Council noted a few decreases within the 2024/2025 Preliminary Indigenous Education budget and would rather see increases in supports and staffing for Indigenous students. The Deputy Superintendent of Schools assured the Council that the District is always adjusting and looking for how best to meet the needs of students. As a Council with new authority, it is important for the IEC to have all the data needed to make decisions. Some of the decreases noticed by the Council are because the surplus is

decreasing each school year. Eventually, the Indigenous Education budget will have a minimal surplus resulting in changes to the current supports and services.

The Vice-Chair noticed that health and wellness support for Indigenous staff is not reflected within the Indigenous Education budget. The Superintendent of Schools/CEO assured the IEC that all District staff can access counselling services as part of the staff benefits package. This is promoted throughout the District and is already paid for by the District.

The Council agreed to table the motion to vote regarding the support of the 2024/2025 Preliminary Indigenous Education Program Budget until the April 9, 2024 in-person IEC meeting and provided overall consensus for the budget as presented.

2:28 pm – Jordan Coble left the Zoom meeting.

7. Revised Indigenous Education Council Terms of Reference

Terry Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, shared that the District is still waiting for the new Terms of Reference for Indigenous Education Councils to come from the Ministry of Education and Childcare. In the meantime, the IEC formed a Terms of Reference Subcommittee and met on Monday, February 26th to finalize the revisions to the local IEC Terms of Reference.

Denise Clough reviewed the amended IEC Terms of Reference and the Council made the following additional change:

- Amend the Council membership description of Okanagan Indian Band to read, "Two representatives from Okanagan Indian Band appointed by Chief and Council"

The Indigenous Education Council supported the amended IEC Terms of Reference and will hold it in abeyance until the District receives the new Terms of Reference for Indigenous Education Councils from the Ministry of Education and Childcare. Depending on Ministry mandates, some revisions may be needed to the amended IEC Terms of Reference.

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 Childcare. (Terry Beaudry)

8. Indigenous Graduation Blanketing Ceremony Update

April Strickland, District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education, shared a Save-the-Date poster for Indigenous Graduation 2024 at the following locations:

- George Elliott Secondary School – June 5, 2024
- Mount Boucherie Secondary School – June 10, 2024
- Kelowna Secondary School / Okanagan Mission Secondary School – June 13, 2024
- Central School Programs and Services – June 18, 2024
- Rutland Secondary School – June 20, 2024

The IEC were asked to RSVP to April Strickland to let her know which Indigenous Graduation Blanketing Ceremony they plan to attend.

Action Item: Forward the Indigenous Graduation 2024 Save-the-Date poster to the IEC. (April Strickland)

The Deputy Superintendent of Schools shared that the Yukon First Nations Education Directorate (YFNED) will once again be hosting four Central Okanagan Public Schools staff members at the 5th Annual First Nation Education Conference on March 20-21, 2024 in Whitehorse, Yukon. YFNED is graciously paying for all expenses, except flights, and the group will engage in reciprocal learning. Christie Russell, District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education will share the Yukon experience at the next IEC meeting.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Foundation Skills Assessment – Deborah Jeffrey, FNESE Executive Director. Terry Beaudry will invite Deborah Jeffrey to present at an IEC meeting.
- Language Teaching.
- Share the experience from the 5th Annual First Nation Education Conference in Whitehorse, Yukon.
(C. Russell)

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Next IEC Meeting – Tuesday, April 9, 2024 (1:30 pm to 4:00 pm) – School Board Office

Future 2023-2024 IEC Meetings:

(All meetings are 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm)

June 4, 2024

<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 nsilxcen 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

<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