



## INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL (IEC)

### IEC Meeting

**Tuesday, April 9, 2024 – 1:30 pm**  
**School Board Office – Board Room 1**  
 (1040 Hollywood Road South, Kelowna, BC)

### MINUTES

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

#### 1. Opening Prayer

Chair Jordan Coble led the Council in an opening prayer.

#### 2. Welcome

Chair Jordan Coble welcomed everyone to the IEC meeting.

1:45 pm – *Elder Grouse Barnes joined the meeting via Zoom.*

Council members around the table, and those joining by Zoom, introduced themselves and Bill McKenna, new alternate representative from Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society, was welcomed.

#### FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

#### 3. Adoption of the April 9, 2024 Agenda

*Add Recognition Item 4.1*

MOVED by Allan Louis, SECONDED by Ann Bell  
 THAT: The agenda for April 9, 2024 be adopted as presented. CARRIED.

#### 4. Review and Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Denise Clough, SECONDED by Nicole Werstuik  
 THAT: The Minutes for March 6, 2024 be adopted as presented. CARRIED

#### **4.1 Recognition**

##### **"Imagine a Canada" Program by National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation**

Janet Slaney, Principal at Black Mountain Elementary School (BME), Keely Flannigan, Grade 5 Teacher at BME, Shivy Dhesi, Grade 5 Teacher at BME, Ainzley Wikenheiser, Indigenous Student Advocate at BME, and two Grade 5 students from BME joined the IEC meeting via Zoom to share their good news. In February, Grade 5 students at Black Mountain Elementary School participated in the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation's (NCTR) "Imagine a Canada" 2023-2024 Program that invites Canadian youth to envision a Canada reconciled. The students participated by submitting the classes understanding of what they know of Canada's history, their role in reconciliation, and their hope of what they will learn from the submission to NCTR. Their project was successfully selected and two Grade 5 students from Black Mountain Elementary School will represent the class, and British Columbia, in Winnipeg, Manitoba next month to share their project and talk about Reconciliation at the NCTR.

Chair Coble invited the two Grade 5 Black Mountain Elementary students to return to a future IEC meeting to provide an update on their experience of representing BC and reporting on the class project at the NCTR in Winnipeg.

#### **5. 2024/2025 Preliminary Indigenous Education Program Budget**

Kate Cumming, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, shared that the District has received a 3.51% increase in the per pupil funding, for the 2024-2025 school year, to \$1,770 per student, adding an overall increase of \$60 per student to the budget. The 2024-2025 Preliminary Indigenous Education Budget is based on an FTE of 3,170 Indigenous students, which is consistent with the previous year. The number of enrolled Indigenous students will be adjusted in September 2024.

The Assistant Secretary-Treasurer shared that the funding announcement recently received from the Ministry of Education and Child Care will cover the negotiated increase in wages for all teaching and support staff for next year. In addition, the Ministry announced \$69,000 of funding to the Central Okanagan Public Schools to support establishing an Indigenous Education Council. The District is waiting for more information as to the parameters of the new funding.

The IEC made the following budget recommendation:

MOVED by Nicole Werstuik, SECONDED by Ashley Power

THAT: The Indigenous Education Council supports the 2024/2025 Preliminary Indigenous Education Program Budget;

AND THAT: The 2024/2025 Preliminary Indigenous Education Program Budget be forwarded to the Board of Education, as presented.

CARRIED.

The Trustee representatives questioned whether they should be voting at this time. The Deputy Superintendent of Schools assured the IEC that Trustees remain voting members until the 2024/2025 school year when the new IEC Terms of Reference is expected to take effect. Chair Coble expressed that support from the Trustees is very welcomed. Trustee Fraser and Trustee Desrosiers voted in favour of the IEC's recommendations for the 2024-2025 preliminary budget.

#### **6. STANDING ITEMS**

##### **6.1 District Updates**

###### **a. New Ministry of Education and Child Care Budget Announcements**

Kate Cumming, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, shared that the 2024-2025 operating budget is the District's highest operating budget in its history. However, the increase to the per pupil operating rates announced by the Ministry will not fully cover the full impact of inflationary costs for next year and the District anticipates a budget pressure of \$1.9 million for the 2024/2025 Annual Budget.

b. Bill 40 Updates

Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, reported that the District received confirmation from Westbank First Nation that they have selected Chief Tomat as the Elementary School of Choice, Constable Neil Bruce as the Middle School of Choice, and Mount Boucherie Secondary as the Secondary School of Choice.

## **6.2 Community Updates**

Indigenous Education Council members spoke of the following:

- The annual *Art in Action* student exhibition at the Kelowna Art Gallery, themed "Inspiring Awe", includes several Indigenous pieces of art. Young artists from the District's middle and high schools were invited to participate and were supported by their art teachers to create inspiring expressions of art. The exhibition runs until May 5, 2024.
- Westbank First Nation Youth Council plan to sponsor a bursary for an Indigenous graduating student at MBSS.
- There are plans for a Land Based Learning tour for the Indigenous Education Council. If required, a WFN van or bus could be used for transportation.
- The annual Traditional Games were recently hosted by Sensisyusten House of Learning.
- The annual Siya Celebration is coming up on June 14<sup>th</sup> and participants are being organized. An invitation has been sent to the District from WFN.
- Sensisyusten will host next year's WFN Band conference to share the teaching of the language and culture.
- The Okanagan Indian Band held a groundbreaking ceremony on February 22<sup>nd</sup> for a new Cultural Immersion Elementary School. When the new school is complete, the old school will be demolished.

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

IEC members did not have anything to report upon under this item at this time.

## **6.4 Bursaries and Scholarships for Indigenous Grads**

Nicole Werstuik shared that WFN recently made a bursary contribution. The Deputy Superintendent of Schools expressed appreciation and shared that the District always welcomes bursary donations.

## **6.5 Community Engagement**

a. Restart of Indigenous Parent and Family Education Council (IPFEC)

Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, provided an update on the restart of the Indigenous Parent and Family Education Council (IPFEC). Jesse Bruce, the Deputy Superintendent of Schools, and Ann Bell met together prior to Spring Break to have preliminary conversation about how best to restart the IPFEC. Terry Beaudry and Jesse Bruce then attended a Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council (COPAC) meeting to share the District's request for two interested Indigenous parents, family members, or caregivers to serve as members on the Indigenous Education Council and to support the restart of the IPFEC. Those in attendance at the COPAC meeting were supportive of the District's process.

A draft letter outlining these requests was shared with the IEC. An online survey is being created for parents wishing to express interest and a link to the survey questions will be included in the final draft of the letter. The District plans to send the letter to Indigenous student advocates who will share the letter with the Indigenous families in their school communities. The letter will also be shared by the end of April with school Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) and principals/vice-principals to include in school newsletters. Jesse will attend the PAC meetings of WFN's three schools of choice to inform parents/caregivers in a personal way and invite feedback. Once these steps have been completed and expressions of interest have been received through the survey, two parent representatives will be selected to serve on the IEC as voting members. During the 2024-2025 school year, the two parent IEC representatives will work collaboratively together with Jesse Bruce and Ann Bell to restart the IPFEC. Allan Louis requested that the letter be sent to the OKIB Education Coordinator to include in their newsletter.

Jesse Bruce and Ann Bell shared that they are hoping to host a family event this spring for all Indigenous families to attend so that folks can come and participate in conversation with them.

## 7. **NEW BUSINESS**

### 7.1 **Indigenous Education Department Updates**

#### a. Indigenous-Focused Graduation Requirement Networking Meeting

Jesse Bruce shared that an Indigenous-Focused Secondary Courses Networking Day is being organized for May 22, 2024 and will take place at the WFN Youth Centre. Approximately 25 high school educators are expected to attend this opportunity to connect, collaborate, and learn together about Indigenous-focused mandated graduation requirement courses.

#### b. Indigenous Leadership Student Summit

Jesse Bruce shared that April Strickland, District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education, will be taking a group of 4-6 Indigenous students to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Indigenous Leadership Student Summit being held at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, BC on May 6 and 7. The focus of this year's summit is anti-racism. The Ministry of Education and Child Care will be in attendance and are hoping to use the student voice heard at the summit in their provincial anti-racism action plan. Students will return to their schools after the summit and take a lead on the topic at their schools.

#### c. New Cultural Bookings

Christie Russell, District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education, shared that a trial run of the online SD23 Indigenous Cultural Booking system is currently being piloted in the District to book Storyteller sessions, SD23 Cultural Presenters, and Elder visits. The online system outlines expectations of Rates, Booking Procedures, Cultural Offering Descriptions, and Billing procedures, and provides Elder Care Protocols for School Teams. Teachers and administrators using the booking system must agree and accept the Elder Care terms and are encouraged to provide feedback about the trial online system. Since the pilot began, there have been over 62 bookings due to more accessibility to cultural bookings.

Please view the online Indigenous Cultural Booking system through the following link:

[SD23 Indigenous Cultural Booking Form - Google Forms](#)

#### d. Indigenous Graduation Blanketing Ceremonies

Jesse Bruce spoke of the Indigenous Graduation 2024 'Save The Date' poster that was sent to the Indigenous Education Council after the March 6<sup>th</sup> IEC meeting. Indigenous Graduation 2024 will take place 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

Plans are well underway for the Indigenous Graduation Blanketing Ceremonies and Indigenous student advocates are appreciative of the opportunity to be part of the ceremonies in June. Indigenous graduates will have the opportunity to celebrate with friends and family at a dinner at their school location and be blanketed by a family member. KSS and OKM Secondary Indigenous graduates will celebrate together due to smaller numbers of Indigenous students.

IEC members made the following comments about the Indigenous Graduation Blanketing Ceremonies:

- As many family members as possible should be accommodated at each Indigenous Graduation Blanketing Ceremony as this is the only grad celebration for many families.
- Acknowledge each graduate, who they are and their plans for after graduation.

- Include as many family members as possible at the graduation as this can help break down barriers within families and enables families who are not always engaged in the cultural aspect to witness it.
- Ensure that students who attend alone are not left by themselves.
- Encourage speakers from the host First Nation. Students need to hear from Elders and community members.
- Keep the number of speeches by District staff to a minimum.
- Doing all the Blanketing Ceremonies at once is very powerful.
- Indigenous graduating students have been surveyed for their input into their blanketing ceremonies, and the District will be responsive to their feedback.

3:05 pm – Trustee Desrosiers left the meeting.

e. 2024 Indigenous Education Delegation Visit to the Yukon First Nation Education Directorate (YFNED)

Christie Russell, District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education, spoke about her experience attending the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual First Nation Education Conference held in Whitehorse, Yukon on March 20-21, 2024. The Yukon First Nations Education Directorate (YFNED) hosted four Central Okanagan Public Schools staff members for three nights and the group engaged in reciprocal learning. The theme of the conference was *Mentorship* and the team presented together on the theme. The group learned about Land-Based Learning and the urgency of bringing back the knowledge of language and land, traditional ways of harvesting, mentorship to promote reciprocal relationships, and the importance of history and truth. They experienced storytelling, stick games, hoop dancing and local artists, and had the opportunity to hear from local Chiefs. Christie hopes the relationship with the Yukon will continue and that students and staff will be able to attend next year's conference scheduled to take place in February 2025.

## **8. INFORMATION ITEMS**

8.1 Letter to Ministry of Education and Child Care re. Underspending Targeted Funds  
(Attachment)

8.2 Letter of Appointment – Alternate for Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (Attachment)

## **9. REVIEW ACTION ITEMS**

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

*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: Elder Barnes will reach out to the language speakers in the territory to ensure the translation of the acknowledgement poster into the nsyilxcen language is done correctly. (Terry Beaudry/Elder Barnes)*

*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 Child Care. (Terry Beaudry)*

## **10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Foundation Skills Assessment – Deborah Jeffrey, FNESC Executive Director.  
*This item can be removed from Future Agenda Items.*
- Language Teaching.

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 pm.

**Next IEC Meeting** – Tuesday, June 4, 2024 (1:30 pm to 4:00 pm)

<u><b>ACTION ITEMS – In Progress:</b></u>	<u><b>Person(s) Responsible</b></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 nsyilxcen 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><b>ACTION ITEMS – Completed:</b></u>	<u><b>Person(s) Responsible</b></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