



INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL (IEC)

IEC Meeting

Tuesday, November 5, 2024 – 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 Jordan Coble Westbank First Nation Lisa Guderyan Board of Education Aaron St Pierre (<i>Via Zoom</i>) Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society	Ann Bell Lake Country Native Association Brad Dahl Kelowna Métis Association Allan Louis (<i>Via Zoom</i>) Okanagan Indian Band Nicole Werstuik Westbank First Nation	Denise Clough Westbank First Nation Chantelle Desrosiers Board of Education Bill McKenna (Alternate) Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society
School District Staff:	Jesse Bruce Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity	Kevin Kaardal Superintendent of Schools	Yvonne Hildebrandt Secretariat
Absent:	Terry Beaudry Deputy Superintendent of Schools (on Secondment) Edna Terbasket Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society	Rachel Marchand Okanagan Indian Band	Christie Russell District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education

1. Opening Prayer

Elder Barnes led the Council in an opening prayer.

2. Welcome

Chair Jordan Coble welcomed everyone to the IEC meeting. Chair Coble led the IEC into a moment of silence to reflect on the leadership of Justice Murray Sinclair, former Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, who passed away November 4, 2024.

The Superintendent of Schools/CEO shared the District's plans for Mount Boucherie Secondary School (MBSS) to lower its flags to half-mast to honour the passing of Murray Sinclair. Mr. Sinclair was a recent inductee to the MBSS Canadian Heroes Wall of Fame, had spoken with MBSS students and was delighted to be added to their Wall of Fame. The IEC supported lowering the flags at MBSS to honour Murray Sinclair and for the District to initiate a moment of silence at the start of the day on November 6th.

The Superintendent of Schools/CEO also shared that all District flags will be lowered to half-mast from the start of the day on November 8th, in recognition of National Indigenous Veterans Day, through the weekend and on November 11th, in recognition of Remembrance Day. District staff will attend and lay a wreath at the Indigenous Veterans Day Ceremony at the Westbank First Nation Veterans Monument on November 8th. Chair Jordan Coble shared that the Veterans Day Ceremony at WFN is open to anyone who would like to attend.

Trustee Lisa Guderyan, new IEC member representing the Board of Education, was welcomed and Council members introduced themselves.

1:50 pm – The Superintendent of Schools/CEO left the meeting.

FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

3. Adoption of the November 5, 2024 Agenda

Add to Agenda Item 8.1: Letter of Appointment from Kelowna Métis Association; Correspondence from Board of Education Chair Julia Fraser

MOVED by Brad Dahl, SECONDED by Nicole Werstuik

THAT: The agenda for November 5, 2024 be adopted as amended. CARRIED.

4. Review and Approval of Minutes

4.1 MOVED by Denise Clough, SECONDED by Brad Dahl

THAT: The Minutes for September 24, 2024 be adopted as presented. CARRIED

4.2 MOVED by Brad Dahl, SECONDED by Nicole Werstuik

THAT: The Minutes for October 17, 2024 be adopted as presented. CARRIED

5. Selection of Indigenous Parent Representatives on IEC

5.1 Indigenous Education Council Confidentiality Agreements

Chair Coble shared that an IEC Confidentiality Agreement is being developed and is not available for today's IEC meeting. In place of signing confidentiality agreements, the Local First Nation Members of the IEC and the IEC Voting Members entered into an Incamera meeting. The Trustee representatives and District Staff were invited to remain in the room.

2:00 pm – Incamera Meeting began.

5.2 Introduction of Indigenous Parent Representatives on the IEC

Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, shared that four parents have shown interest in being Indigenous Parent and Family Education Council (IPFEC) representatives and members of the IEC. According to the IEC Terms of Reference, two Indigenous parent representatives can be appointed to the IEC, and one of the parent representatives must be from Westbank First Nation or Okanagan Indian Band.

Each of the four Indigenous parent applicants joined the Zoom meeting separately, introduced themselves to the IEC, and provided the reason why they would like to be an IPFEC representative and member of the IEC. Council members were given the opportunity to ask questions of each parent applicant.

2:44 pm – The Superintendent of Schools/CEO returned to the meeting.

5.3 Selection of Two Parent Representatives on the IEC

MOVED by Nicole Werstuik, SECONDED by Brad Dahl

THAT: Candace Jack, from Westbank First Nation, be appointed as an Indigenous Parent and Family Education Council representative and member of the Indigenous Education Council.
CARRIED.

MOVED by Brad Dahl, SECONDED by Nicole Werstuik

THAT: Deanna Necan be appointed as an Indigenous Parent and Family Education Council representative and member of the Indigenous Education Council.
CARRIED.

2:56 pm – Incamera meeting ended.

6. STANDING ITEMS

6.1 District Updates

The Superintendent of Schools/CEO shared that information emails were sent to all District staff today regarding a moment of silence for Murray Sinclair and about lowering flags to half-mast for Indigenous Veterans Day and Remembrance Day. These emails have also been forwarded to the IEC. On Friday, November 8th, District schools will hold Remembrance Day assemblies to remember the sacrifice of many for our freedom. As the winter season approaches, music concerts will begin in

schools and the IEC were encouraged to attend one near them. A prefabricated building is being added to Webber Road Elementary School to support the growth on the Westside.

3:07 pm – The Superintendent of Schools/CEO left the meeting.

6.2 Community Updates

Indigenous Education Council members spoke of the following:

- Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society is opening a new daycare in the Black Mountain neighbourhood. The grand opening will take place before the New Year.
- The Lake Country Native Association (LCNA) Traditional Pow Wow will take place on November 23rd at Winfield Memorial Hall from noon to 7:00 pm.
- Three years ago, the Mar Jok Elementary School (MJE) Parent Advisory Council collaborated with the MJE Indigenous Student Advocate to give back to the community by selling orange t-shirts and donating the proceeds to the WFN Youth Council. This year, three students from MJE are designing "Every Child Matters" t-shirts and will include the WFN Paw logo on the t-shirt. Mar Jok and Rose Valley Elementary schools plan to sell the shirts and, once again, donate the proceeds to the WFN Youth Council.
- Okanagan Indian Band Youth Leadership Council hosted their first youth leadership conference last week for approximately 250 students from their Indigenous program. The WFN Youth Council sponsored the event and attended on the youth panel. The conference went smoothly and was very well organized. The WFN Youth Council will host the next youth leadership conference in May 2025 and will celebrate their 10th year as a youth council. The leadership conference will be an "Empowerment and You Belong" celebration.
- Leadership councils from both the WFN and OKIB communities will collaborate to commemorate the first flight from Kelowna (YLW) to Los Angeles (LAX).
- Trustee Guderyan plans to attend the November 8th Indigenous Veterans Day ceremony at WFN.
- The construction of the new OKIB elementary school is still on target to be completed for September 2025.
- A Remembrance Day celebration at OKIB will honour the contributions of OKIB members supporting Canada's war efforts.

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

The IEC spoke about the ongoing challenge of completing assessments for students. Assessments are expensive and finding ways to assist with funding would be helpful. For those that are eligible, applying through Jordan's Principle can speed up the process. Before "Kids in Care" students graduate from secondary school, it would be beneficial for them to apply for the new Learning Fund for Young Adults, a one-time grant, through the "Aged Out" website. This could be promoted through the Indigenous Parent and Family Education Council representatives.

6.4 Bursaries and Scholarships for Indigenous Grads

The IEC reviewed and updated the community letter that can be shared with their organizations and networks and used to solicit bursary funding for Indigenous graduates. Donations for bursaries can be made online at <https://centralokanagan.schoolcashonline.com> (choose Items/Make A Donation – the Funding Destination is Indigenous Graduation Bursaries) and a tax receipt is automatically generated. Donors have the option to review the applications for the bursary and help select the winner. Winners are acknowledged at the Indigenous graduation Blanketing Ceremonies and the receiving students are asked to write a letter of thanks to the donor of the award. The District presents ten Indigenous awards on average each year at graduation and would like to double the number of awards for the 2025 Indigenous graduates.

The letter will be forwarded to the IEC as a word document, which can be addressed to a specific person, and as a pdf document that can be delivered electronically. Solicitation for bursary funding in November aligns with the tax season.

6.5 Parent and Family Community Engagement

Ann Bell, Lake Country Native Association, shared that she is hopeful that an event will soon be organized for Indigenous families to attend. Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, shared that Okanagan College and UBC Okanagan would like to invite parents and senior students to their campuses. Part of the role of the two new parent representatives on the IEC will be to help promote and organize these opportunities for parents and families.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Review the Indigenous Education Year End Financial Report (2023/24) to the Ministry

Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, shared that the District is required to submit the Indigenous Education Year-End Financial report to the Ministry of Education and Child Care at the end of September each year on the Ministry's reporting template. The report is a summary of the previous school year and includes the overall staffing and program costs.

Jesse Bruce reviewed the Indigenous Education Year-End Financial Report for the School Year 2023-2024 with the IEC.

7.2 2024-2025 Indigenous Education Budget Updates

Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, reviewed the 2024-2025 Indigenous Education Budget reported spending to September 30, 2024 and the projected costs to June 30, 2025. The 2024-2025 Indigenous Education Budget was based upon the projection of an FTE of 3,170 Indigenous students, a per pupil funding of \$1,770, and an estimated surplus of \$518,550. However, the actual FTE as of September 30, 2024 is 3,110 Indigenous students, the per pupil funding remains at \$1,770, and the surplus is at \$561,055.

The decrease in Indigenous student FTE enrolment is due to the migration of students and families out of the District, more students are graduating than students are enrolling in kindergarten, and the District is no longer able to claim targeted funding from the Ministry for Indigenous students with ancestry outside of Canada.

Due to the decrease in Indigenous student FTE enrolment numbers in September 2024 and no increase in per pupil funding, targeted funding from the Ministry has decreased. This will decrease the Indigenous Education Budget surplus by the end of the 2024-2025 school year. In recent years, the Indigenous Education budget has been carrying a surplus that is larger than normal due to underspending during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The District will continue to monitor Indigenous Education spending and it is projected that the \$561,055 surplus will be spent down to \$202,525 by June 30, 2025. Indigenous Education staffing has not been affected.

7.3 Updated Terms of Reference

Jordan Coble commended the Indigenous Education Council for completing the updates to the IEC Terms of Reference (TOR) and for aligning them with the legislative changes from the Ministry of Education and Child Care. Nicole Werstuik, WFN, and Allan Louis, OKIB, acknowledged the time and effort that Council members, previous and current, have made while updating the TOR, the great feedback provided during the process, and the excellent document that was created. Yvonne Hildebrandt, Secretariat to the IEC, was thanked for her work on the document.

The IEC strongly supported the changes to the IEC Terms of Reference and made the following motion:

MOVED by Brad Dahl, SECONDED by Bill McKenna

THAT: The updated Indigenous Education Council Terms of Reference be approved by the IEC.

AND THAT: The approved Indigenous Education Council Terms of Reference be forwarded as information to the Board of Education.

CARRIED.

7.4 Ministry of Education and Child Care Funding for Indigenous Education Councils (\$69,231)

Tour of the District for IEC Members

Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, spoke about the possibility of setting up school-based visits or a tour of the District for IEC members and shared that he will email the Council a menu of options to choose from. Jesse queried the IEC about programs or visits that they would like included in the options, and the IEC responded with the following ideas:

- Land Based Learning
- Indigenous Academy Programs
- Indigenous Advocate Meet and Greet
- Early Learning Teachers
- Wellness Workers
- Cultural Presenters
- Gathering Rooms
- Indigenous Visual Arts
- Primary Winter Gathering
- Grad Retreat
- Indigenous Athletes

7.5 Indigenous Education Department Updates

a. Report on September 27th Orange Shirt Day

Jesse Bruce shared pictures from various Orange Shirt Day activities that took place at schools throughout the District on September 27th.

4:00 pm – Allan Louis left the meeting.

b. Report on October 11th District Implementation Day

Jesse Bruce shared that, as part of the BC Tripartite Agreement, educators must focus on learning about Truth and Reconciliation one day each school year. On October 11th, this year's District Implementation Day, schools shared photos and writeups about their truth and reconciliation learning including traditional sweetgrass teaching, learning through story, touring Sncewips Heritage Museum, participating in a Water Ceremony, spending time on the land on Silver Star Mountain, and co-creating a school-wide Land Acknowledgement.

The Blanket Exercise program, facilitated by trained Indigenous Education Department staff, took place in six schools: Okanagan Mission Secondary, Casorso Elementary, Helen Gorman Elementary, Glenrosa Elementary, Mar Jok Elementary, and Shannon Lake Elementary. Throughout the exercise, participants stood on blankets that symbolized the land inhabited by Indigenous people from first contact to colonization, listening to the narrative, quotes, and words of history from the perspective of Indigenous individuals. Participants went through the emotional experience of listening, pausing, crying, sharing space in silence, embracing the discomfort of the past, and reflectively considering their role to move forward in a good way. Elders were invited to attend with the participants, to take part in the story, and to share their experiences in residential schools. Appropriate school counsellors were in place to provide support as needed.

7.6 Equity in Action for Truth & Reconciliation Agreement

Jesse Bruce shared that the District is in the 5th year of the five-year Equity in Action Agreement for Truth and Reconciliation (2020-2025). The District has written an annual report for each of the previous four years. During this 5th year, the District will update and refresh the Equity in Action Agreement for another five years and will be requesting input from the IEC. Jesse shared that he will develop a timeline plan and work with the IEC and District Staff to carry out the plan in spring 2025 to write the next Equity in Action Agreement. Publication of the refreshed Equity in Action Agreement is planned for June 2025. More information will be coming to the IEC.

7.7 Letter from Métis Nation British Columbia re. BC's Bill 40

The IEC briefly discussed the letter from Métis Nation British Columbia. Brad Dahl, Kelowna Métis Association, shared that there is currently a Métis situation happening across the provinces and KMA's response to the letter is to remain calm. Chair Coble stated that the Central Okanagan Public Schools IEC is a very healthy and well functioning Council and we want to maintain this moving

forward. Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, shared that no response to the letter is planned from the District at this time.

8. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

8.1 The following Letters of Appointment were received:

- Aaron St Pierre has been appointed by the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society as a representative on the IEC and the replacement for Ashley Power.
- Brad Dahl and Cheryl Dodman have been appointed by the Kelowna Métis Association as representatives on the IEC.
- Trustee Chantelle Desrosiers and Trustee Lisa Guderyan have been appointed as representatives from the Board of Education and are non-voting members on the IEC.

A letter of gratitude was received from Julia Fraser, new School Board Chair, and read to the IEC by Nicole Werstuik, IEC Vice-Chair. Chair Jordan Coble expressed gratitude for Julia's many years of participation, dedication, and supportive advocacy presence on the IEC, all the things that are hoped for in a Trustee member on the IEC. Jordan wished Julia success moving forward as the elected Board Chair.

8.2 Copies of the Equity in Action Agreement 4th Annual Report 2023-2024 were made available.

9. **REVIEW ACTION ITEMS**

- *Action Item: Notify the ONA that their representative seat has been removed from the Indigenous Education Council. (Jordan Coble) (The ONA have been notified. This item can be removed.)*
- *Action Item: Spearhead the community Zoom meetings to discuss the restart of the Indigenous Parent and Family Education Council (IPFEC). (Jesse Bruce/Ann Bell)*
- *Action Item: 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. **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.

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

2024-2025 IEC Meeting Schedule

January 21st, February 4th, April 8th, June 3rd

12. **ITEMS FOR FUTURE IEC MEETINGS**

- Language Teaching
- 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)

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 pm.

<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
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
Set up school-based visits or a tour of the District for IEC members.	Jesse Bruce

<u>ACTION ITEMS – Completed (2024/2025):</u>	<u>Person(s) Responsible</u>
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