



INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL (IEC)

IEC Meeting

Tuesday, November 21, 2023 – 1:30 pm
School Board Office – Board Room 1
(1040 Hollywood Road S.)

MINUTES

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

1. Opening Prayer

Chair Jordan Coble led the Council in an opening prayer.

2. Welcome

Chair Jordan Coble welcomed everyone to the IEC meeting. Quorum was not reached at the start of the meeting.

FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

3. Adoption of the November 21, 2023 Agenda

Add New Business Item 6.7: Elementary First Peoples Principles of Learning

MOVED by Allan Louis, SECONDED by Ann Bell

THAT: The agenda for November 21, 2023 be adopted as amended. CARRIED.

4. Review and Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Allan Louis, SECONDED by Ann Bell

THAT: The Minutes for September 7, 2023 be adopted as presented. CARRIED

5. **STANDING ITEMS**

5.1 **District Updates**

School District staff spoke of the following:

- The news article from the Ministry of Education and Child Care: *Province makes systemic change to improve outcomes for K-12 Indigenous students*. The article refers to changes in the BC School Act that will give Indigenous people more input in the decisions and processes affecting the education of Indigenous students in public schools. The new legislation has been advocated for by FNEC for a very long time.
 - Local First Nations can decide if they wish to keep their Local Education Agreement (LEA) with the Board of Education. There are strong recommendations for School Districts to reach out to their local bands, and also a strong push for Districts to consider using the provincial LEA template.
 - It is now mandatory for all School Boards to establish an Indigenous Education Council. There is a wonder whether Trustees will no longer be voting members on the IEC. As of today's meeting, Trustees still remain part of quorum.
 - There is also a new school-of-choice provision in the School Act to enable First Nations to decide which school students who live on reserve will attend.

FNEC and the Ministry are working through answers to all the questions that have come forth due to the new legislation. This may influence policy changes before school registration in spring.

1:48 pm – Brad Dahl arrived at the meeting and Quorum was established.

5.2 **Community Updates**

Indigenous Education Council members spoke of the following:

- Westbank First Nation finished an Elk Processing Workshop with one of their Master Hunters and many youth joined in from Sensisysten and the community. The meat goes to the Elders and the Meat Cooking Program. The outdoor kitchen was opened over 2 years ago and has been very successful. The Outdoor Archery Instructor Program will be starting up in December.
- There is a research project about vaping amongst Indigenous youth in Canada.
- Okanagan Indian Band has overnight hunting camps every year to gather food and provide for those unable to harvest. Next year, OKIB plans to have the youth stay overnight 1-2 nights so they can help process the meat.
- OKIB students have received invitations to attend NVIT in Merritt, TRU in Kamloops, Okanagan College in Vernon, and UBC Okanagan.
- The Westbank First Nation Community Health Fair is on Thursday, November 23, 2023.
- Indigenous Veterans' Day was celebrated at WFN on November 8, 2023. Everyone is welcome to attend next year and witness the ceremony. A special invite could be forwarded next year to Trustees, advocates and their students, and former Sensisysten students now attending Constable Neil Bruce Middle School (CNB) or MBSS. The Central Okanagan Public School Board plans to lay a wreath at next year's Indigenous Veterans' Day Ceremony.
- Each Friday, WFN serves a hot breakfast at 8:00 am, followed by circle time, for Sensisysten students and the school community, including a few staff members from CNB.
- Kelowna Métis Association just finished engaging in a student-led research project at UBCO called "Seven Generations of Food" which examines an Indigenous community group's food story, focusing on food security, asking why things are as they are, and what can be done to change them for the better.
- Attendance at various events, including the BC Student Leadership Conference, the Remembrance Day Ceremonies at CNB and Peter Greer Elementary, and the Lake Country Native Association PowWow. (Congratulations to Ann Bell and Mo Ziprick for coordinating and hosting such a successful Pow Wow!)

5.3 **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.

5.4 Bursaries and Scholarships for Indigenous Grads

Terry Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, shared that more information about Bursaries and Scholarships will be coming in January 2024.

3:05 pm – Break.

3:15 pm – Meeting reconvened.

5.5 Community Engagement

Debrief of the April 4th IEC COPAC Presentation

Terry Beaudry reviewed the conversation from the April 4th IEC meeting between the IEC and the COPAC President and Vice President. At that meeting, the idea of having an Indigenous parent representative on the COPAC was raised. COPAC is waiting to hear feedback from the IEC.

The IEC discussed the idea of Indigenous voice on the COPAC. The IEC agreed that there should be two seats on the COPAC for Indigenous parent representatives and that the reps would be chosen from the Indigenous Parent and Family Education Council.

Action Item: Terry Beaudry to share the IEC's feedback, at the next COPAC Zoom meeting, about including two seats on the COPAC for Indigenous Parents. Ann Bell will join Terry at the COPAC meeting.

Restart of the Indigenous Parent and Family Education Council

Terry provided the IEC with a draft invitation from Central Okanagan Public Schools to Indigenous parents and families for community Zoom meetings to discuss restarting the Indigenous Parent and Family Education Council (IPFEC).

The IEC agreed to launch 3 community zoom meetings starting in January. Parents and families without access to Zoom could gather at a Zoom hub. WFN offered to host a Zoom hub in the WFN Youth Council Room.

Action Item: Anne Tenning and Ann Bell will spearhead the community Zoom meetings to discuss the restart of the IPFEC.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Review the Ministry of Education and Child Care Indigenous Education Year-End Financial Report 2022-2023

Kate Cumming, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, 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.

The Assistant Secretary-Treasurer reviewed the Indigenous Education Year-End Financial Report for the School Year 2022-2023 with the IEC.

Action Item: The Ministry of Education and Child Care Indigenous Education Year-End Financial Report 2022-2023 will be forwarded to the IEC.

6.2 Hosting an event at the COTA Summer 2024 Pro-D Days

Barb Huva, COTA Professional Development Chair, spoke about the structure of the COTA Professional Development (Pro-D) days that are scheduled for August 26-28, 2024. Teachers are able to do self-directed Pro-D from their homes or schools, and the August Pro-D sessions, usually at George Elliot Secondary School, have been attended by more than 470 educators in past years. The summer Pro-D days include a keynote speaker and each day consists of three 90-minute sessions in classrooms. The keynote is application based and are vetted by the COTA Pro-D committee. The

next professional development day is in February 2024; however, this Pro-D day involves more than one district.

The IEC shared their wish to organize a theme, or themes, for one or more of the August Pro-D days. The Indigenous Department could provide in-house keynote speakers and session leaders, and Elders and Indigenous community members could be invited to help lead the sessions. The District could also contribute to the cost of the honorariums. The IEC suggested themes such as Indigenous Cultural Safety and Indigenous Language teaching.

Barb Huva is looking forward to receiving more information from the IEC about speakers and sessions. If you have ideas, please reach out to Anne Tenning via her email address at Anne.Tenning@sd23.bc.ca so that she can start the planning with Barb Huva.

6.3 Review Amendments to the IEC Terms of Reference

The IEC reviewed the amendments to the IEC Terms of Reference (TOR) that were proposed in September 2021. The IEC discussed the allocation of a representative seat for the Okanagan Nation Alliance, that the seat has been vacant for more than two years, and that the vacancy affects quorum.

MOVED by Nicole Werstuik, SECONDED by Allan Louis

THAT: The Okanagan Nation Alliance representative seat be removed from the description of the Council Membership.

AND THAT: All proposed amendments to the Indigenous Education Council Terms of Reference be accepted.

CARRIED.

Action Item: Chair Jordan Coble will notify the ONA that their representative seat has been removed from the Indigenous Education Council.

The Council also emphasized that council members unable to attend a regular IEC meeting are expected to provide an alternate to represent their organization at the meeting.

6.4 Indigenous Education Department Updates

April Strickland, District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education, shared that Indigenous Education is close to having a full complement of staff this year and still needs to hire six Indigenous Student Advocates, one Wellness Worker, a Cultural Presenter, and a Language teacher. The new Advocates are getting a feel for their role and have increased confidence, due, in part, to the leadership of the Lead Advocate.

There are many upcoming events and the IEC are always welcome to join:

- UBCO Grade 12 Day on November 22
- Grad Retreat with Special Guest, Justin Young, on December 14
- Land-Based Learning Family Drop-In Night on December 5, 7, 12, and 13. Middle school students will share their learning.

Action Item: April will send out posters with more information about the Grad Retreat and the Land-Based Learning Family Night.

Christie Russell, District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education, shared that the Early Learning Team and the Cultural Team collaborated and decided to provide Lunch-and-Learn opportunities for teachers at elementary schools. The first Lunch-and-Learn was at South Rutland Elementary where the entire team of teachers showed up to learn about decolonizing, Indigenizing, and localizing the curriculum. The teams are hoping to bring Lunch-and-Learn to other schools soon.

Christie shared that 12 advocates attended the syilx learning series on Wednesday nights. Indigenous Education is also planning the Primary Winter Gatherings for the week of January 22 to January 26.

Approximately 234 grade 3s from Central Okanagan Public Schools, Sensisysten, and Revelstoke will attend the winter gathering. Teacher recruitment is also ongoing.

6.5 Renaming of Teacher Tutor Positions

April Strickland spoke of the District's October 19th Teacher Tutor Collaboration Session designed for teachers to network, better understand their role, and share resources and ideas. Teacher Tutors are in middle and secondary schools and help with Indigenous student academics, track attendance, and offer social and emotional support. Teacher Tutors have reported that their title does not represent their roles and qualifications, so it was suggested to change their title to either Indigenous Success teachers or Indigenous Support Teachers. The tutors like the title 'Indigenous Support Teacher' and administration likes the title 'Indigenous Success Teacher'. It was decided that this would be taken to the Indigenous Education Council to make a final decision.

The IEC discussed the meaning behind the words 'support' and 'success', and decided by consensus on the title 'Indigenous Success Teacher'. The council also spoke about translating the word 'success' into nsyilxcən, which could be used on t-shirts with a QR code to translate the word.

6.6 Okanagan Language Teacher Position

Terry Beaudry shared that the District's Okanagan Language Teacher has resigned. The District is currently exploring alternate ways for students to learn nsyilxcən, possibly through local language instructors, language fluent speakers, or an on-line course. There is one District elementary school where everyone learns one nsyilxcən word per week. More possibilities need to be explored.

The Okanagan Language Teacher position is posted and the posting will be shared with the Indigenous Education Council.

Future Agenda Item: Language teaching

6.7 Elementary First Peoples Principles of Learning

Christie Russell shared a draft of proposed revisions to the First Peoples Principles of Learning poster to be used for elementary schools. Christie requested consent from the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) to make the revisions. The FNESC approved and suggested the changes be reviewed by the local Indigenous Education Council.

The Council suggested a few additional revisions to the poster. Christie will get written approval from Deborah Jeffrey, FNESC Executive Director, to provide principals with copies of the poster after they receive professional learning at the February Pro-D.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

- Copies of the Equity in Action Agreement 3rd Annual Report 2022-2023 were made available.
- News article from the Ministry of Education and Child Care: *Province makes systemic change to improve outcomes for K-12 Indigenous students* was shared.

8. REVIEW ACTION ITEMS

Action Item: Westbank First Nation to arrange a meeting with Okanagan Nation Alliance to discuss ONA representation on the Indigenous Education Council (Jordan Coble)

- Chair Jordan Coble will notify the ONA that their representative seat has been removed from the Indigenous Education Council.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Indigenous Early Learning Initiatives Report (Presentation by the Early Learning Team)
- Foundation Skills Assessment – Deborah Jeffrey, FNESC Executive Director
- Language Teaching

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

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

An additional meeting in January 2024 may be scheduled and hosted by WFN.

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.	Terry Beaudry
Spearhead the community Zoom meetings to discuss the restart of the Indigenous Parent and Family Education Council (IPFEC).	Anne Tenning/ Ann Bell
Notify the ONA that their representative seat has been removed from the Indigenous Education Council.	Jordan Coble

<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