



Indigenous Education Council Minutes

Thursday, August 14, 2025
8:30 am - 4:00 pm PST
In Person - Creston Hotel

The Indigenous Education Council will advise the school board in providing comprehensive and equitable education and support service to Indigenous students and improve Indigenous student outcomes.

Present: Jared Basil, Yaqaan Nukiy, Culture and Social Sector
Kat Coleman, Yaqaan Nukiy, Principal
Nerissa Joseph, Splatsin, Education Director
Brenna Joseph, Splatsin, Education Coordinator
Janet Terbasket, Okanagan Nation Alliance, Council Member, Education Portfolio LSIB
Maddie (Matilde) Allison, Okanagan Nation Alliance, Executive Assistant, Education Dept. LSIB
Nicole Courson, West Kootenay Metis Society President
Laury Carriere, School District No. 8 Kootenay Lake, Director, Aboriginal Education (ABED)
Nona Lynn, School District No. 8 Kootenay Lake, Learning Innovator (minutes)

Regrets: Marion Louie, Okanagan Nation Alliance, LSIB

1. **Call to Order**
The meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m.
2. **Acknowledgement of Aboriginal Territory**
Discussion took place around adding a Metis acknowledgement aspect to the acknowledgement of Aboriginal Territory.
3. **Approval of Agenda**
UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:**
THAT the Agenda of August 14, 2025 meeting BE **ADOPTED**, as circulated
The motion carried unanimously.
4. **Indigenous Education Targeted Funds (IETF) Presentation, Laury Carriere, Director of Instruction- Indigenous Education and Learning Services**
 - a. Budget discussion and approval process

Director Carriere provided a recap of the SD8 budget cycle and provided a budget presentation. Director Carriere shared that the staffing budget for the 25/26 school year has been allocated at this point.

It was requested that Director Carriere provide the IEC with a more detailed breakdown of the ABED and IEC budgets for 25/26.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED;**
THAT a detailed ABED and IEC budget be provided to the Council.
The motion carried unanimously.

Director Carriere provided an overview of the draft 25/26 SD8 ABED services and supplies budget.

Director Carriere outlined the proposed Aboriginal School Learning Plan grants initiative.



It was suggested that Director Carriere attend the Okanagan Mainline Regional Indigenous Education group gathering this year.

Director Carriere outlined that SD8 will no longer receive the annual Columbia Basin Trust grant provided towards the SD8 Pow Wow, and that an additional \$10,000 will need to be budgeted for Pow Wow.

Discussion took place around the Indigenous School Funds and Director Carriere provided a more in-depth understanding of what is taking place “over and above” at each school and how these funds are used for Indigenous Education school-based programming. It was requested that Director Carrier provide a detailed breakdown of how Indigenous School Funds will be spent for 25/26 and also provide a breakdown of what was allocated in 24/25 to each school and how much was spent.

It was requested that Director Carriere provide a breakdown of how many ABED students are at each school within the district.

Discussion took place around the ABED scholarship process and potential to consider adjusting the amount.

Discussion took place around adding some budget for an ABED program review for 25/26 school year. Vice-Chair Joseph will be making a motion to add a program review to the budget.

Discussion took place around having an Indigenous grad honoring for all SD8 Indigenous graduates.

Discussion took place around the Student Equity Fund and how to ensure that it is truly equitable for each student. Discussion took place around the obligation of the standard for student equity at the district.

Director Carriere shared that some minor services and supplies budget changes are still possible for this school year.

Discussion took place around the District Honoraria budget (not school-based) being increased.

Discussion took place around ensuring engagement events are equitable around the district with respect to location.

Discussion took place around 25/26 school year budget, and the IEC will defer to Laury as the Council is newly formed and learning the details of the district and SD8 ABED program. For the 26/27 school year the IEC will want to make changes to the budget.

Discussion took place around the Student Equity Fund and it was determined that Director Carriere will report out on the history of the fund at the next IEC meeting.

Chair Basil shared support for a future motion for an SD8 ABED program review.

11:12 a.m. - Chair Basil left the meeting. Vice Chair Joseph took over the chair duties.

In-depth discussion took place about each budget item shared.



The IEC chose to pause the Student Equity Fund for 25/26 and reallocate the funds to an ABED Program Review, and any remaining costs for the review would come from IEC funds.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:**
THAT the 25/26 IETF Services and Supplies budget was approved.
The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 12:02 p.m.

The meeting reconvinced at 1:01 p.m.

Discussion took place around the budget process section of the TOR.

It was suggested to provide professional development to the IEC from a financial expert who would outline items the Council should be cognizant of with respect to budgeting.

The IEC thanked Director Carriere for her integrity and clarity at IEC meetings.

Vice-Chair Joseph shared the SD83 IEC Budgeting Process as follows:

February - Set goals and values for the year.

April - Discussion on preliminary budget proposal (changes, discretionary funds, staffing changes, etc.)

May - Vote on final budget.

September - Surplus spending discussions. Surplus put towards goals from February.

October - Amended budget based on 1701.

Director Carriere will share SD8 financial accountability policies with the IEC. It was noted that any SD8 proposed policies relevant to Indigenous students should be reviewed for input by the IEC prior to adoption by the Board of Education.

Discussion took place around the importance for joint decision making between SD8 and the IEC and that the relationship with SD8 must be meaningful and not tokenism.

Kat Coleman shared her appreciation for everyone's time and energy towards the SD8 IEC.

Chair Basil shared his hope to strengthening the relationship between Indigenous people and the school district.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:**
THAT the 25/26 SD8 IEC Terms of Reference be approved in principle with the budget process to be developed at a future date.
The motion carried unanimously.

b. Indigenous Education Targeted Funds (IETF), IEC Capacity Funds

Director Carriere shared that the IEC Capacity Fund is to cover the costs associated with establishing and maintaining IECs, including secretariat support, activities, and costs related to IECs carrying out their purposes.

IEC Capacity Funding 25/26 - \$90,497

IEC Capacity Funding Carryforward - \$79,681

Total IEC Capacity Funding - \$170,178



Director Carriere shared that this fund may not exist going forward. The IEC must come up with a spending plan for the 25/26 school year.

Discussion took place and a list was created around potential items for the IEC Capacity Fund budget.

Discussion took place around the honoraria amounts increasing to value everyone's time fairly.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:**

THAT the honoraria for the IEC shall be increased to \$400 for a full day and \$200 for a half day (up to 3 hours) be approved.

The motion carried unanimously.

The IEC Capacity Fund was reviewed, and further details will be shared with the IEC for clarity via email.

5. Consultation Discussions

a. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation plans

Director Carriere provided an overview of what takes place historically for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation within SD8.

Discussion took place around the importance of including community where possible in National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Events should take place at every school and in every classroom.

Suggestions:

- Include Metis in celebrations
- Multi-school projects
- Renaming of something to the Aboriginal name
- Focus on positive celebration of building relationship between schools and community.
- Orange Shirt Day beading kits for schools.
- SD8 advocates to ensure National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is recognized as a day of significance in the same way as Remembrance Day.
- Language learning.
- First Nations art in schools.
- Bring schools together to create a Truth and Reconciliation flag to display at schools.
- Design orange shirts in your school.

Kat Coleman shared that everyone is invited to Yaqan Nukiy to the community walk on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Discussion took place around what takes place at other bands and districts for National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, and a reminder that this should be celebrated throughout the year, and not just on that one day. We are still here - a reminder to people that this is a fact.

It was suggested that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action for education should be prominent in each school.

A reminder that truth needs to come before reconciliation. Truths still need to be told.



b. Food programs

Director Carriere provided an overview of the Feeding Futures program within SD8.

Discussion took place around Nominal Roll family food support line item. It was discussed that Nominal Roll food should be dealt with in the LEA and not part of the Feeding Futures program, as it is for all.

It was suggested that extra groceries are needed before Christmas, Spring Break and Summer Break, and to create grocery bags for families to take home.

Indigenous student food support is for students at School District No. 8

Director Carriere will put together a food plan as well as additional information to be discussed at a future meeting.

c. Priorities for the SD8 Indigenous Education Program

Bring Forward

d. Incorporating Indigenous knowledge, history and culture into curriculum and school activities - ideas.

Bring Forward

e. IEC Naming

The Council was asked to send any IEC naming suggestions to Director Carriere who will then share them with Chair Basil to be brought forward to Lower Kootenay Band.

f. IEC Retreat

It was determined that N. Lynn will begin planning for an IEC retreat at Ainsworth Hot Springs to take place on October 23 and 24, 2025.

6. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.