

## Indigenous Education Council Retreat Minutes

October 24, 2025

8:30 am- Breakfast

9:00am - 4:00 pm PST

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

Present: Jared Basil, Chair  
Nerissa Joseph, Vice Chair  
Kat Coleman  
Brenna Joseph  
Nicole Courson, West Kootenay Metis Society  
Catrina Terbasket, LSIB  
Marion Louie, LSIB  
Julie Bremner, SD8 Board of Education Vice-Chair  
Trish Smillie, SD8 Superintendent  
Laury Carriere, SD8 Director of Aboriginal Education  
Nona Lynn, SD8 Learning Innovator

Regrets: Janet Terbasket  
Jennifer Lewis

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

**2. Acknowledgement of Aboriginal Territory**

*We acknowledge, respect and honour the First Nations in whose traditional territory the Kootenay Lake School District operates, and all Aboriginal peoples residing within the boundaries of School District 8.*

**3. Welcome**

Chair Basil provided a welcome to the IEC.

**4. Connection Activity**

Director Carriere led the IEC in a “Three Things About You” activity.

**5. Reports/Updates- Director Carriere**

a. Staffing Research

Director Carriere provided a general overview of ABED staffing in other districts throughout the Province. It was outlined that most district have more Indigenous Support workers than ABED teacher positions, and most secondary schools have Aboriginal Academic Success teachers. A history of SD8 ABED staffing was provided, which outlined that the shift to having ABED teaching staff in secondary schools helped to increase the graduation rates for Indigenous student in SD8.

Director Carriere outlined ABED teacher time, numbers of Indigenous students in each school. Discussion took place around the breakdown of days and how the FTE is spread out at schools.

Director Carriere summarized the job descriptions of Aboriginal Academic Success Teachers and Indigenous Support Workers.

Director Carriere shared that the SD8 ABED department was audited by the Province in 2022 and was considered exemplary at that time.

Discussion took place around ensuring that SD8 continues with high Indigenous completion rates while also ensuring that staffing is reviewed.

Director Carriere shared that SD8 is working very hard to ensure every SD8 student is moving through the system to graduate with a Dogwood. The Academic Review process was shared. It was noted that students cannot be moved to different programs without approval from the Assistant Superintendent and the Director of Aboriginal Education.

Discussion took place around the importance of IEC work and the positive benefits to SD8 Indigenous students.

SD8 Superintendent shared some of their historical work with IECs in a previous district. The Superintendent shared that larger districts often have a mix of ABED teachers and support workers and outlined that SD8 is a mid-sized district but is remote. The Superintendent shared that it can be difficult to find staff in remote locations.

b. Hiring Process for Staff

Discussion took place around when hiring ABED staff it would be beneficial to invite LKB and WKMS to attend interviews and provide input on candidates.

Director Carriere outlined that all ABED teacher hiring must follow the collective agreement and ABED support worker hiring must follow the CUPE collective agreement.

c. September 30 - 1701 Snapshot- Enrolment and Budget Overview

Director Carriere provided an overview of the 1701 and budget adjustment process.

Program	IETF
Projected Program 833	\$1,491,070
Actual Program 795	\$1,423,050
Difference 38 students	\$68,020

In August IEC budgeting there was a reserve of \$52,588.

Staffing allocated - \$1,396,473

Preliminary Budget Services and Supplies - \$222,588 (includes the \$127,911 carryforward)

Reserved until after 1701 - \$52,588

Difference after adjustment (\$68,202 - \$52,588) – deficit of \$15,432.

Discussion took place around where to make a budget adjustment to address the \$15,432 deficit.

Vice-Chair Joseph suggested that if IEC budget changes are coming forward a detailed briefing note should be provided to the IEC to enable their decision-making process.

Director Carriere proposed removing Indigenous Learning Plan Grants from the IEC budget in order to balance the budget.

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

**THAT** the IEC budget will be amended to remove \$15,000 of Indigenous Learning Plan Grants and \$500 for travel to be reallocated to balance the 25/26 IEC Budget.

The motion carried unanimously.

d. Draft Budget Process for IEC

Director Carriere outlined the proposed IEC Budget process.

January – Goals and values for the year are determined, and budget and staffing projections begin

February – IEC reviews preliminary IETF budget proposal (staffing and supplies and services)

May – Finalized IETF budget brought to IEC for voting if adjustments were needed.

September – Previous year carryforward spending discussion (if any)

October – Amend budget based on 1701

e. IEC Regional Gathering – Spirit Ridge

Director Carriere provided an overview of the IEC Regional Gathering draft agenda.

Discussion took place around the upcoming IEC Regional Gathering at Spirit Ridge.

Topics to be brought to the IEC Regional Conference:

- Cultural Resource Lists/Knowledge Keeper Process
- How to ensure that programs are inclusive
- Tokenism within Indigenous programming.
- Building relationships with school districts.

Director Carriere will circulate the finalized IEC Regional Gathering agenda once finalized.

6. **Lunch- 12pm**

7. **Professional Learning: School District Finances- Secretary Treasurer MacArthur**

a. School district financial responsibilities, accountability procedures, and budget process

SD8 Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur shared a presentation with the IEC outlining:

- School District Funding and Budget Timelines
- Budgeted 2025-2026 Operating Grant
- Indigenous Education Targeted (IETF) Funding
- Indigenous Education Council Capacity Funds (IECF)
- Reporting of IETF and IECF Expenditures
- BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA)
- Federal Nominal Roll Funding and Reporting

IEC Retreat Financial/Budgeting Presentation – linked here.

SD8 Superintendent shared that SD8 has predicted enrolment decline over the next 10 years.

Discussion took place around self-identifying students and funding and the importance of funding going towards students who need it.

Chair Basil thanked SD8 Secretary Treasurer for her in-depth presentation to the IEC.



**8. Nominal Roll Students**

Discussion took place around IEC review of SD8 Policy and Administrative Procedures related to SD8 ABED. These will be reviewed at an upcoming meeting.

Discussion took place around an IEC member sitting on the Policy and Finance Advisory Committee, and that when policy goes to Field Testing, the IEC be included.

Chair Basil shared interest in exercising decolonization of SD8 policy.

**9. Discussion**

A round table of closing reflections took place.

**10. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.