

**Indigenous Education Council
Minutes**

November 13, 2025

8:30 am – 12:00 pm PST

9:30 am – 1:00 pm MST

via: Teams

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
Kat Coleman, Principal, Yaqan Nuki School
Brenna Joseph, Splatsin
Nicole Courson, West Kootenay Metis Society
Julie Bremner, SD8 Board of Education Vice-Chair
Laury Carriere, SD8 Director of Aboriginal Education
Nona Lynn, SD8 Learning Innovator

Regrets: Nerissa Joseph, Vice Chair, Splatsin
Catrina Terbasket, LSIB
Marion Louie, LSIB
Janet Terbasket
Jennifer Lewis
Trish Smillie, SD8 Superintendent

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 am MTS/8:36 am PST.

2. Acknowledgement of Aboriginal Territory

Chair Basil provided a territorial acknowledgement.

3. Welcome

Chair Basil provided a welcome to the Council.

4. Updates

- a. External Program Review
Director Carriere provided an external program review update. Currently the district is still in progress of finding an appropriate reviewer.
It was suggested that the IEC provide any program review suggestions to the Chair, Vice-Chair and Director Carriere.
- b. Renaming of IEC
Chair Basil shared that work is being put in to ensure purposeful terminology. Naming updates will be brought forward in coming weeks.
- c. ABED students getting a Dogwood vs. an Adult Graduation certificate through data from the 2024-2025 *How Are We Doing?* report.
Clarity was provided around reporting and that student population can change throughout the year.



Director Carriere provided an overview of the academic review process in SD8, which ensures that students graduate successfully. Indigenous students cannot be put into a different program without review by the Assistant Superintendent and Director Carriere. SD8 has put processes in place to ensure graduation.

It was suggested that the tracking between brick and mortar to online school could be improved.

Director Carriere provided an overview of the monitoring process with Provincial Online Schools.

d. Student FTE and staff time allocation/schedule breakdown at each school

Director Carriere provided an overview of the Student FTE and staff time allocation/schedule breakdown at each school.

Director Carriere provided an overview of the comparison between support workers at schools and ABED teachers at schools. It was shared that other districts generally have more support workers than teachers, but it is very difficult to fill positions, which leaves many vacancies in these roles. It was shared that it is more difficult to fill support worker roles and easier to fill ABED teacher roles.

Director Carriere outlined the Indigenous Support Worker role job description.

Discussion took place around the benefits and drawbacks of staffing models. The ISW model allows for a person on site more often. Cultural learning is similar with both models. It was shared that academic support is better supported in secondary school by teachers, and that the sharp increase in academic achievement and graduation rates in the school district is aligned with the timing of the shift from ISW staff to teachers.

9:43 a.m. PST – Nicole Courson left the meeting.

Director Carriere shared the [SD8 Student Learning Survey reports](#) with the Committee.

Discussion took place around the fact that SD8 high graduation rates over the past 5 years are possibly due to the shift to more ABED teachers. SD8 has put a strong focus on Literacy and Numeracy academics, and Indigenous Support Workers support this as well as cultural teachings.

Director Carriere shared that Indigenous Support Worker positions take months to fill as there are often no qualified applicants with knowledge or experience of Indigenous culture.

Director Carriere shared that Work BC has a program targeting people who are under employed where tuition is paid, for people to go into specific programs. Training for Indigenous Support Workers is one of these programs.

The IEC shared that any data around SD8 ABED staffing and graduation rates would be helpful for decision-making purposes.

e. Special purpose fund accounts related to ABED

Director Carriere outlined the IETF and IEC Capacity Funds that are directly related to Indigenous students. Special Purpose Funds do not have specific targeted components for Indigenous students.



Director Carriere suggested that the SD8 Secretary Treasurer be invited back to a future IEC meeting to provide further budget clarity.

Principal of Yaqan Nukiy School shared if there are resources or supplies that are needed in public schools, Yaqan Nukiy School may be able to help.

- f. IEC Regional gathering – final agenda
Director Carriere provided an overview of the IEC Regional gathering final agenda.

5. Discussion

- a. Name of program – Aboriginal Education or Indigenous Education
Discussion took place around Aboriginal Education vs. Indigenous Education as program names.

Chair Basil shared that this shall be brought forward to a future meeting when more IEC members are present.

10:14 am PST – Marion Louie joined the meeting.

Chair Basil shared that SD8 program naming should be consistent with wording in the Charter of Rights and Freedom and Constitution Act in Canada. It was shared that the IEC must ensure resources are not taken away from Aboriginal students.

It was encouraged to bring this forward to an upcoming FNEC meeting and at the upcoming Regional IEC gathering to gain insight.

It was shared that this discussion is currently taking place at a federal level.

Director Carriere shared that for the time being the district will continue to use the term Aboriginal Education.

SD8 Vice-Chair Bremner shared that she appreciates this conversation and that the Board of Education would like to take direction from the IEC and are fully supportive of the language the IEC decides on.

- b. IEC budget process – review draft
Director Carriere provided an overview of the proposed IEC budget process.

January – Goals and values for the year are determined: staffing and program priorities.

February – Review preliminary IETF budget proposal: staffing and supplies and services.

March: Finalize preliminary IETF budget brought to IEC for approval process.

August/September: Previous year carryforward spending discussion (if any).

October: Amended budget based on 1701.

Director Carriere provided an overview of the SD8 budget process in the spring. In September the 1701 process takes place and the actual numbers go to the Ministry and the budget is then adjusted and shared with districts in October. The spring IETF budget will be a preliminary budget. In July we will identify if there is any carryforward from IETF. October we will amend the budget based on 1701 count.

The IEC expressed agreement with the process.



Director Carriere shared that there is also collective agreements that need to be followed with respect to staffing and timelines.

Director Carriere expressed concern around the ability to fill support worker vacancies.

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

THAT the IEC Terms of Reference be amended to reflect the budget process review as seen at the November 13, 2025 IEC meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

c. IEC workplan draft 2025-2026

Director Carriere provided a review of the IEC Work Plan for 25/26.

Discussion took place around Louie Riel Day, and ensuring that local perspectives and history is being taught within the district. Discussion took place around the importance of ensuring that more local First Nations culture is taking place in the district.

Director Carriere shared that a comprehensive list of ABED resources has been shared with the SD8 ABED team and this includes many resources for learning local First Nation and Metis culture and history.

Additional Agenda Items

Nil.

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 p.m.

Next meeting – Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 9:00 am PST