

**Indigenous Education Council
Minutes**

April 8, 2026

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm PST

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
Nerissa Joseph, Vice Chair, Splatsin
Kat Coleman, Principal, Yaqan Nukiy School
Nicole Courson, West Kootenay Metis Society
Marion Louie, Lower Similkameen Indian Band
Brenna Joseph, Splatsin
Julie Bremner, SD8 Board of Education Vice-Chair
Trish Smillie, SD8 Superintendent
Laury Carriere, SD8 Director of Aboriginal Education & Learning Services
Nona Lynn, SD8 Learning Innovator

Regrets: Janet Terbasket, Lower Similkameen Indian Band

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Aboriginal Territory

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

3. Changes to Proposed Agenda

Nil.

Item 6B – IEC School Visits will only take place the morning of April 14, not the 14th and 15th.

4. Adoption of Agenda

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

THAT the agenda for the April 1, 2026 meeting **BE ADOPTED**, as circulated.

The motion carried unanimously.

5. Adoption of Minutes

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

THAT the minutes of the February 18, 2026 meeting **BE ADOPTED**, as circulated.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. New Business

- a. IETF Preliminary Budget Presentation
Director Carriere provided an overview of IEC priorities as well as the IETF Preliminary Budget.

A summary of IEC priorities was reviewed.

- Prioritize adults in schools
- Integrate district structures to increase local First Nation culture and language learning opportunities
- Increase student staff learning about the local land area
- Increase student sense of identity, connection and belonging at school
- Increase connections with families
- Continue to support academic success and attendance
- Enhance indigenous grad honouring

The IETF Preliminary Budget was reviewed.

IETF 2025-2026

(actual)

795 students

\$1,423,050

IETF 2026-2026

(preliminary)

759 students

\$1,358,610

Difference of \$64,440

IETF amount per student \$1790

There were questions about how all teachers are Indigenizing curriculum and a reminder of the responsibility of all teachers to be doing this, and it is not the responsibility of AbEd staff or the IETF budget.

3:20 p.m. – SD8 Vice-Chair Bremner joined the meeting

3:25 p.m. – Chair Basil joined the meeting

A request was made that the Aboriginal Education department job descriptions be provided with the IEC at the next meeting for review, feedback and collaboration.

Director Carriere shared that we would like to work with local bands to work with people who know more in order to bring language to SD8 schools.

Director Carriere shared that the SD8 ABED internal review discussed the difficulty there is in finding staffing in SD8's remote area. We will need to keep this in mind.

Vice-Chair Joseph shared that SD8 is building stronger relationships in the community. Potential job postings can be shared in community as relationships are built.

Director Carriere provided an overview of the Services and Supplies budget line items from the previous year.

The services and supplies budget is intended to reflect the vision and priorities of the IEC.

Note: Costs that do NOT come from IETF:

- Does not include Director salary, mileage, professional development, travel or phone expenses.
- Schools pay for the event/activity TTOCs, bus transportation, honoraria for some guests, and resources from regular school operating funds.

Review of the preliminary services and supplies budget line items from previous year took place.

The IEC had questions about how we know the students are getting these funds spent on them and how scholarships work.

Director Carriere shared that discussion needs to continue around future scholarship funds. SD8 will need to ensure that we honor the scholarship funds that have already been allocated.

Director Carriere shared that her feeling is that funds are being used appropriately at schools and we can work towards formatting how school-based programming and budgeting is taking place so it more transparent for IEC review.

Discussion took place around the importance of having good student engagement.

Discussion took place that SD8 has higher graduation rates than many districts in the province. If SD8 is getting students through to graduation something is working well, so perhaps we don't want to make too many changes. We want success for all students.

3:54 p.m. – Superintendent Smillie left the meeting.

The IEC determined that a special meeting would be scheduled for budget discussions.

- b. IEC School Visits Discussion – April 14th
IEC Schools Visits will take place on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, in the morning. LV. Rogers Secondary and Redfish Elementary will be visited by the IEC.
Director Carriere will send school visit information to the IEC, with the understanding that only those available, will attend.
- c. Program Review – Special Meeting of IEC Chair and SD8 Board of Education –
It was determined that there will be a special meeting for the IEC Chair and SD8 Board of Education on Wednesday, April 29, 2026 from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm at the SD8 Board office.
- d. SD8 Board of Education Relationship Building Session – June 9, 2026 @ Time: TBD
Time will be coming soon.
- e. IEC Engagement Discussion
Engagement opportunities for the IEC to meet staff and visit schools will be built into the 2026/2027 school calendar.
- f. SD8 Draft IEC 2026-2027 Calendar and Work Cycle
Director Carriere provided an overview of the DRAFT IEC Calendar for 2026/2027 school year. It was determined that all IEC meetings will be placed in IEC member's calendars. Discussion took place around the potential for an August 13/14, 2026 IEC retreat in person in Creston for IEC voting members. Potential for a cultural learning experience at this time. Discussion took place around the fact that the September IEC meeting shall be virtual and the October meeting may be in person and will incorporate school visits.
Director Carriere provided a review of the 2026/2027 DRAFT IEC workplan.



Action Item: Calendar invite – send Chair Basil the agenda setting meetings.

- g. IEC Regional Session (November 2026)
Spirit Ridge
The regional group is working on the planning of the IEC regional session.
We will wait for more information.
- h. National Indigenous Peoples’ Day Discussion
Director Carriere asked the IEC what they would like to see take place in schools to celebrate National Indigenous Peoples’s Day.
Vice-Chair Joseph shared that it would be beneficial to the IEC to see a report from schools outlining what has taken place in schools. Would like to see a formal report from schools as to what has taken place showing what all the schools did for this day. This should happen for National Indigenous Peoples’ Day and the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.
Director Carriere shared that reporting from schools would be organized.
Discussion took place that Local First Nations are usually doing something to celebration National Indigenous Peoples’ Day, so it would be nice to see the school invited and come for learning. It would be good to identify what is going on in community to try to learn what is taking place. It would be nice to see people coming together for this learning.
If there is a way to compile what is going on at the local level to share with schools, it would be good to give guidance to the schools as to what is happening.
Suggestions of having an Indigenous day of learning for schools to facilitate Indigenous learning from local Knowledge Keepers. Examples- traditional foods and preparation, Indigenous games outside. Knowledge keeper circle. Discussion with Social Studies students classes. Story-telling. Language.
It's great to give the schools ideas of what to do during the day.
Vice-Chair Joseph shared that National Indigenous Peoples’ Day is about bringing community and schools together.

7. Old Business
Nil

8. Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 pm