

SD8 Indigenous Education Council Minutes

August 13, 2026
8:30 am – 4:00 pm

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

Present: Jared Basil, yaqan nukiy, Chair
Nerissa Joseph, Splatsin, Vice Chair
Brenna Joseph, Splatsin
Trina Williams, yaqan nukiy
Nicole Courson, West Kootenay Metis Society
Laury Carriere, SD8 Director of Aboriginal Education & Learning Services
Nona Lynn, SD8 Learning Innovator - Virtually

Regrets: Marion Louie, Lower Similkameen Indian Band

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 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. Changes to Proposed Agenda

Additions:
IEC Capacity Funds
BC Human Rights Statement

The group requested a standing item of Connection Time be added to all future wuqanqankimik IEC agendas.

4. Adoption of Agenda

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:**
THAT the Agenda of the August 13, 2026, meeting **BE ADOPTED**, as circulated with additions.

5. Adoption of Minutes

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:**
THAT the Minutes of the June 22, 2026, meeting **BE ADOPTED**, as circulated.

6. Welcome to IEC members - IEC Chair Jared Basil

Chair Basil welcomed everyone to the yaqan nu?kiy community. A round table of welcomes and introductions took place.

Chair Basil welcomed and thanked Trina Williams from yaqan nukiy for joining the IEC.

7. Business

- a. Naming of the IEC
Chair Basil provided an overview of the history of the name of the IEC.
yaqan nu?kiy has gifted the name wuqanqankimik to the SD8 IEC.
wuqanqankimik translates to “to take long strides”.

The name wuqanqankimik will be shared with the SD8 Board of Education early in the school year.

- b. Annual review of IEC Terms of Reference
A review of the wuqanqankimik IEC Terms of Reference took place.

Discussion took place around the fact that the IEC is working hard to follow IEC legislation that is in place.

- c. Review of School District Annual Processes/Timelines
Director Carriere provided an overview of the Budget Consultation and Review process that will be incorporated into the TOR.
- d. Land Acknowledgement
Discussion took place around how the SD8 land acknowledgment is used.

Director Carriere shared that a land acknowledgement takes place at the start of all district meetings, all public meetings, school assemblies and all meetings that take place within SD8. It is encouraged that with the standard land acknowledgement a personal connection is added around Truth and Reconciliation or actions that move Reconciliation forward.

- e. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
Director Carriere provided an overview of the IEC input from last year on National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Discussion took place around making sure to acknowledge the truth as well as the resiliency of Aboriginal peoples. The advice from this discussion will be shared with SD8.
- f. November IEC Regional Gathering at Spirit Ridge
An update was provided on the planning process for the Regional IEC Gathering at Spirit Ridge in November.

It was requested that if anyone has any feedback or suggestions for the upcoming IEC Regional Gathering, they should share this with Director Carriere.

- g. Program Summary
Director Carriere provided an overview of the program structure and priorities for the upcoming year.

8. Business

- a. Review of Engagement Pathway for 2026-2027
Discussion took place around the plan for family engagement for the upcoming school year.
- b. Review of IEC School Visits for 2026-2027
Director Carriere provided an overview of the upcoming school visits for the IEC during 2026/2027.
- c. Student Voice
Director Carriere shared how student voice has been facilitated to date and discussion took place around this.
Director Carriere is working with other school districts in the Kootenay region to work towards organizing a Regional Indigenous Student Leadership Summit.
- d. Review of District Knowledge Keepers Opportunities



Discussion around the importance of Nations endorsing Knowledge Keepers who share teachings of that Nation to ensure that they are recognized by the community and permitted by that Nation to do so. IEC voting members will provide names of approved Knowledge Keepers from their communities to support learning opportunities in SD8.

Knowledge Keeper meetings will take place during the 2026/2027 school year to support a more centralized process to ensure documentation requirements are done once and not every time there is a school visit.

e. IEC Capacity Fund

Director Carriere presented the IEC Capacity Fund budget proposal.

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

THAT the 2026/2027 wuqanqankimik IEC Capacity Fund budget proposal **BE APPROVED.**

f. BC Human Rights Special Program Application

Review of the IEC statement in support of the renewal of the BC Human Rights Special Program status for preferential hiring of Aboriginal applicants for positions within the Aboriginal Education Department.

9. Round Table Connection Time

A round table of connections and sharing took place.

10. Next Meeting

Friday, September 18, 2026: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm- Virtual

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.