



Indigenous Education Council
School District No. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen)

Mission Statement:

sysisuselx i? scmāmaya?. ma?łspu?usəlx ali? i? sqilx^w cawtət k^{wu} pǎam. ixi? ǎspiwt.

‘Enhancing students’ pride and success through traditional Okanagan and Similkameen people’s ways of learning.’

Agenda – Tuesday March 4, 2025 Location – OIB Council Chambers in Oliver

Lunch – 12:15 PM

Meeting Begins – 1:00 PM

Territory Acknowledgement – Scott Tremblay

Welcome – Shannon Peltier (for Ronnie McGinnis)

Meeting Minutes – Naryn Searcy

Agenda Items:

1. Introductions

Gloria Bent – LSIB Elder; Marion Louie – LSIB Education Coordinator; Charlotte Mitchell-USIB Elder, Cecelia Louis-Ralston – USIB Education Coordinator; Shannon Peltier – OIB Education Coordinator; Marcus Toneatto – Superintendent of Schools; Naryn Searcy – Director of Learning and Inquiry; Brenda Doroz-SD53 Trustee; Nicholas Azak – Indigenous Education Advocate SOSS/OKF; Jessica Stelkia-SD53 Indigenous Graduation Coach; Brad Burns – District VP of Indigenous Education; Scott Tremblay – Principal Oliver Elementary School; Tracy Harrington-Principal SOSS

Regrets: Veronica McGinnis – OIB Council Member; Helen Gallagher – District Teacher for Indigenous Education; Colleen Jaycna – SOSMA Representative and Métis Nation of BC Ministry of Education Early Learning K-12

2. Approval of the Previous Minutes from Jan 21 – Brad Burns

- Correction of notes about honorarium- should be that a voting member chooses the honorarium OR mileage
- Naryn will change the form (consensus reached-Brad will update Colleen)

3. District Indigenous Education Update – Brad Burns

- As presented (OMRIE Summit May 1-2; Student success plan meetings happening; Powwow fundraisers update)
- 4. IEC Budget Update – Naryn Searcy
 - No change since last IEC meeting (\$705.52 spent to date, and \$79,150.48 remaining)
 - Still one invoice for food to be submitted for the January 21 meeting. Honorariums for January meeting could also still be submitted.
- 5. Language in Schools and Recruitment and Retainment Discussion – Brad Burns
 - Posting for current language teacher on Oliver side could be more attractive/welcoming to applicants (qualifications and the sharing of multiple schools could be a deterrent)
 - District must post a position for a qualified applicant for at least 2 weeks before someone with a Letter of Permission can be considered (so a Letter of Permission option cannot be part of the job posting, but this could be shared verbally within the community)
 - A job posting that is reworded may get more job applicants
 - Education coordinators will work with Naryn to revise the job postings before end of April
 - Discussion about external credits, and newly approved external credits for Nsyilxcen 11/12 through OIB (great work Shannon!), and potential future credits such as archery and Indigenous Gateway to the Trades
 - Similar opportunities could be created on the Similkameen side
- 6. Honorary Chair Discussion – Naryn Searcy
 - At a meeting with Leona Prince (Assistant Superintendent, Indigenous Education, Ministry of Education) she mentioned that if Brad and Helen (SD 53 employees) are IEC Chair and Vice-Chair we should consider having an honorary chair who is a voting member for provincial meetings
 - The question was raised: what are the responsibilities/requirements/commitments of the honorary chair (how many provincial meetings etc.)
 - Naryn and Brad will reach out to Leona for more information about expectations for honorary chair
- 7. Advocates Report – Nick Azak
 - As presented
- 8. Student Reps Report – Nick Azak
 - As presented (voting members mentioned that they appreciated student videos from past meetings, and would appreciate advocate reports via video as well)
- 9. Ministry of Education Literacy Grant- Naryn Searcy
 - Literacy grant awarded by Ministry of Education and Child Care to all school districts in BC
 - SD53 received approx. \$239,000

- Money must be spent on K-12 staff professional development, literacy screening in K-3, and on providing information and support for parents around literacy
 - This is general funding for all students and not targeted funding, but we will keep the IEC informed of how it is spent and make sure we are always considering how the funding impacts Indigenous students (reviewing HAWD report etc.)
 - The district is in the process of prioritizing how this will be spent
 - We will be coordinating with the 3 education coordinators for LSIB, USIB, OIB re: ideas for supporting parents and communicating with parents
10. Grad Coach Report – Jessica Stelkia
- As presented (checking in with students; post-secondary applications and scholarships; working with executive functioning coach)
11. District Teacher for Indigenous Education Report – Helen Gallagher
- Helen currently attending ISPARC training to support advocates in the district with Indigenous sport initiatives
12. Final May 1 IEC Meeting Date Conflict with OMRIE Student Summit – Brad Burns
- Meeting moved to the morning (9:00 am on May 1st)
13. Start Time for Meetings – Brad Burns
- Lunch will be served at 12:30 and business part of the meeting will start at 1:00
14. Action Items from last meeting
- All completed

Action Items:

1. Meeting minutes will be sent to voting members
2. Updated IEC budget to reflect all costs up to May 1
3. Naryn to send out the IETF (Indigenous Education Targeted Funds) budget a week before the May 1 IEC meeting so voting members have time to review
4. The voting members will consider if anyone wants to be an honorary chair, and Naryn and Brad will contact Leona Prince to request more information about the responsibilities of the honorary chair
5. Marion, Cecelia, and Shannon will coordinate with Naryn to revise the current Language Teacher postings before the end of April.
6. Brad will communicate the request to advocates to use video for reports
7. Naryn will revise the honorarium form to state that a voting member must choose the honorarium or mileage reimbursement

Standing Additional Items:

1. Powwow @ SESS April 4 - 5
2. Indigenous Grad May 21st 5:00 PM @ Ashnola Powwow Grounds
3. Schedule for Future Meeting Dates
 - May 1st @ USIB Community Hall (9:00 am)

- 2025 – 2026 Meeting Dates

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn @ 2:33 pm

Next Meeting: May 1st 9:00 AM @ USIB Community Hall