



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

Mission Statement:

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ǎspiwt.

*Enhancing student pride and success through traditional Okanagan and Similkameen
peoples' ways of learning.*

*Thursday October 2, 2025 @ Conference Room Student Support Services (Annex) in Oliver
Lunch – 12:30 PM*

Meeting Begins – 1:00 PM

Territory Acknowledgement – Cam Adam

Song/Prayer – Shan Peltier

Meeting Minutes – Naryn Searcy

Agenda Items:

1. Introductions:

Tish Elkink-LSIB Education Council Member, Lindsay Fairweather – USIB Education Coordinator (Acting); Shannon Peltier – OIB Education Coordinator; Veronica McGinnis – OIB Council Member; Ross Everatt -South Okanagan Métis Association; Marcus Toneatto – Superintendent of Schools; Naryn Searcy – Director of Learning and Inquiry; Matilda Allison-LSIB Executive; Helen Gallagher – District Teacher for Indigenous Education; Brad Burns – District Principal of Indigenous Education; Cam Adam- Vice-Principal, SOSS

Regrets- Marion Louie- LSIB Education Coordinator; Charlotte Mitchell-USIB Elder; Brenda Doroz-SD 53 Trustee

2. Approval of Previous Minutes – Brad

3. IEC Membership Update – Brad/Naryn

- Tish Elkink new voting member for LSIB

- Lindsay Fairweather- attending today in place of Cecelia Louis-Ralston (USIB)
 - Ross Everatt- attending today in place of Colleen Jaycna (Métis)
 - Matilda Allison-attending today in place of Marion Louie (LSIB)
4. Honorary Chair Discussion – Brad
 - Brad reviewed request to have an honorary chair
 - Reviewed expectations-time commitment from Leona Prince
 - Reviewed reasons why an honorary chair was a good idea (local First Nations voice at the provincial level and to bring back information to the IEC)
 - Discussion of possible ways to fill the position (such as a rotating chair)
 - Shan Peltier expressed interest
 - Any expenses would be paid for by IEC Capacity Funding
 5. Ministry Document Review /Approval - Naryn
 - Indigenous Education Council 2024/25 Reporting Document
 - i. Shared and reviewed with IEC members. Naryn will send report to Ministry by October 3rd.
 - Indigenous Education Year-End Financial Report
 - i. Shared and reviewed with IEC members. Naryn will send report to Ministry by October 3rd.
 6. Review of the Targeted Funding Budget 2025-26 – Naryn
 - Final numbers not in yet- they will be shared at next IEC meeting but they are expected to be close to projected numbers so budget should be accurate.
 7. Review of IEC Budget Spending To Date – Naryn
 - In 2024-25, \$3,833.58 was spent from the IEC Capacity Funds. There is \$76,022.42 remaining.
 8. Regional IEC Conference (Nov. 19th @ Spirit Ridge) - Brad
 - a. Tuesday November 18th dinner and possible cultural event
 - b. Wednesday November 19 full conference day for all members of IECs in attendance.
 - c. Each district is responsible for making their own reservations at the resort.
 9. Criminal Record Checks for Supporting Adults in Schools – Brad
 - a. Any adult working independently with students should have a recent (this year) criminal record check and provide you with their professional registration/certification.
 - b. This should be kept at the school level in the main office and updated yearly.
 - c. Exceptions include: CYMH clinicians, ICY staff, Desert Sun Staff
 10. District Communication Documents Review – Naryn
 - a. Guidelines for Positive Communications
 - a. Reviewed document
 - b. Why Student Attendance Matters
 - a. Reviewed document

- b. Suggestions: Provide further resources for parents (not necessarily on this document) but on websites etc.; find ways to further emphasize the importance of attendance on graduation (to students in younger grades)
 - c. SD 53 AI Guiding Principles
 - a. Reviewed document
 - b. Some discussion about how AI use is being monitored in schools (teachers are adjusting and adapting their assessment)
- 11. District Principal Indigenous Education Update – Brad
 - a. Orange Shirt Day
 - a. Went well- 3 sites
 - b. Moving forward will involve more students
 - b. School Based Indigenous Education Budgets
 - a. Brad working with school-based administrators and Indigenous Education Advocates to make sure funds are completely spent and maximized to support students
 - c. Ancestry Forms Updated
 - a. Brad presented updated Ancestry Declaration form
 - b. Suggested change- add Indigenous student in last line, and add First Nation in the above part “Indigenous Ancestry” add First Nation.
 - c. Discussion of declaration of ancestry. Indigenous of what area?
 - d. Decision (consensus) to add the Stats Canada definition at the bottom of the form
 - d. Release of Information Form Updated
 - a. Brad reviewed updated document
 - b. OIB has their own document
 - c. We now have a way to record in MyEd that the Release of Information form has been signed by the schools
 - e. Student Success Plan Meetings
 - a. Brad reviewed what success plan meetings are (meetings with school teams and Brad (District Principal))
 - b. How do we support students? Meetings ensure every Indigenous student has a voice for them-and their success is being monitored- what are the supports how do we respond?
 - f. Indigenous Student Voice Advisory Council
 - a. Great day last year- students spent the afternoon- activities –going to report back to the group- first meeting via zoom- going out in November on the land- idea to try and start building capacity within schools – so they can be seen
 - g. Advocates at SBT, Staff Meetings and Behavioural Support
- 12. Advocates Report – As presented
- 13. Student Reps Report – As presented
- 14. Grad Coach Report – Jessica Stelkia- As presented
- 15. District Teacher for Indigenous Education Report – Helen Gallagher- As presented

Additional Items:

I. 2025-26 Indigenous Education Dates

Advocate Meetings:

September 17 @ SESS

October 30 @ SOSS

November 24 @ OSS

December 17 @ SESS

January 22 @ SOSS

February 18 @ OSS

March 31 @ SESS

April 30 @ SOSS

May 28 @ OSS

June 17 @ Gallagher Lake

Powwow Fundraisers:

SESS - December 10 @ SESS

SOSS - February 12 @ OIB Hall

OSS - February 24 @ Nk'Mip Campground Clubhouse

April 17-18 Powwow @ SOSS

May 5 Red Dress Day

May 15 Moose Hide Campaign Day

June 4 Indigenous Education Grad (location TBD)

June 19 National Indigenous Peoples Day SD 53 Events

2025-26 IEC Dates:

October 2, 2025 @ SBO

January 15, 2026 @ LSIB

March 5, 2026 @ OIB

May 21, 2026 @ USIB

Adjourn- 3:22 pm

Next Meeting: January 15 @ LSIB