



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION COUNCIL (AEC)

Wednesday, December 6, 2017
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
WFN Youth Centre – Board Room
(1880 Quail Lane)

MINUTES

Council Members:	Fernanda Alexander Westbank First Nation	Wilfred Barnes Westbank First Nation Elder	Ann Bell Lake Country Native Association
	Deb Butler Board of Education	Denise Clough Westbank First Nation	Chantelle Colthorp Kelowna Métis Association
	Roberta Robin Dods Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society	Julia Fraser Board of Education	Kelly L'Hirondelle Kelowna Métis Association
	Sheldon Louis Okanagan Indian Band	Edna Terbasket Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society	

School District Staff:	Terry-Lee Beaudry Central Okanagan School District	Kevin Kaardal Central Okanagan School District
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Guests:	Nina Ferguson Central Okanagan School District
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Regrets:	Joanne De Guevara Central Okanagan School District	Raf De Guevara Westbank First Nation	Jennifer Houde Okanagan Nation Alliance
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1. Opening Prayer

Wilfred Barnes led the opening prayer.

2. Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the Aboriginal Education Council (AEC) meeting and reminded the Aboriginal Education Council that the needs of our students is Council's first priority.

For Discussion / Decision

3. Adoption of the December 6, 2017 Agenda

M20-17 MOVED by Denise Clough, SECONDED by Ann Bell

**THAT: The Agenda for December 6, 2017 be adopted as presented.
CARRIED**

4. Review and Approval of the September 26, 2017 Aboriginal Education Council Minutes

M21-17 MOVED by Kelly L'Hirondelle, SECONDED by Deb Butler

**THAT: The Minutes for September 26, 2017 be adopted as presented.
CARRIED**

5. Okanagan Nation Alliance – Letter of Appointment

M22-17 MOVED by Kelly L'Hirondelle, SECONDED by Julia Fraser

THAT: The Okanagan Nation Alliance Letter of Appointment be accepted as attached to the agenda.

CARRIED

6. Lake Country Native Association (LCNA) Youth Group Sessions 2016/2017 – Final Report

Ann Bell thanked the District for their partnership which provides funding, enabling the LCNA the opportunity to bring in presenters for their youth group sessions and events. As noted in the report, a number of parents and family members also attend the events that LCNA organizes which creates a positive community connection.

M23-17 MOVED by Roberta Robin Dods, SECONDED by Sheldon Louis

THAT: The Aboriginal Education Council acknowledge receipt of LCNA Youth Group Sessions 2016/2017 Final Report.

CARRIED

The Deputy Superintendent requested approval from Ann Bell to share the LCNA Youth Group Sessions 2016/2017 Final Report with the Language and Culture Sub-Committee.

Ann Bell supported the report being shared with the Language and Culture Sub-Committee.

7. Review of Action Items

7.1 ACTION ITEM: *To explore best practices for a sustainable Elder in Residence program during the 2016-2017 school year. (Terry Beaudry)*

The Deputy Superintendent reported that since the first *'Building a Sustainable Elders in Residence Program'* meeting in August, a group went to the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT) to tour their facility and discuss their Elder in Residence program. As per Chief Lindley's request, the Deputy Superintendent has been working with Elder Rose Caldwell to research a sustainable Elders in Residence Program and will share what they have learned at the upcoming *'Building a Sustainable Elders in Residence Program'* meeting on December 13, 2017.

7.2 ACTION ITEM: *To relay to the Language and Cultural Program Sub-Committee Motion M91-16 (THAT: A review process to evaluate the efficacy of the Language and Cultural Program be created) at the first Language and Culture Program Sub-Committee meeting. (Joanne De Guevara)*

The Deputy Superintendent shared that at the first *Language and Cultural Program Sub-Committee* meeting that was held on November 20, 2017, the Sub-Committee was provided an overview of the Language and Culture program currently in place. The Deputy Superintendent and Edna Terbasket are co-creating an agenda for the second *Language and Cultural Program Sub-Committee* meeting on December 13, 2017.

7.3 ACTION ITEM: *To establish a Culture/Curriculum Committee to develop a local partnership agreement in regards to the development of local Aboriginal curriculum and learning resources. (Joanne De Guevara)*

The Deputy Superintendent suggested that the development of local Aboriginal curriculum and learning resources be forwarded to the *Language and Cultural Program Sub-Committee* for further discussion.

The AEC agreed to forward Action Item 7.3 to the *Language and Cultural Program Sub-Committee*.

7.4 ACTION ITEM: *To send Michelle DesRochers the Honourarium guidelines your organization follows. (AEC)*

Michelle DesRochers requested clarity regarding the purpose of collecting the Honourarium guidelines from each organization and shared that to date she has only received information from WFN.

Ann Bell noted that LCNA's Honourarium amounts can be found on the invoices she submitted with the LCNA Youth Group Sessions 2016/2017 Final Report.

The Deputy Superintendent reminded everyone to send Michelle their Honourarium guidelines/practice and advised that the information received will be shared at the next AEC meeting.

7.5 ACTION ITEM: *To follow-up with Rose Caldwell to see if she has confirmed Dr. Jeannette Armstrong's Spring 2018 availability to offer a two day workshop to train the Aboriginal Education Council on the principles of the Four Vital Voices of Community Enowkinwixw: A Syilx (Okanagan) Protocol of Respect. (Terry Beaudry)*

The Deputy Superintendent shared that a request has been sent to Dr. Armstrong regarding her availability to facilitate a two day Enowkinwixw workshop and her office is awaiting Dr. Armstrong's response.

7.6 ACTION ITEM: *To send Michelle Price a thank-you letter for being an Aboriginal Parent & Family Education Council representative on the AEC, including an explanation of the conflict of interest now that she is a District employee. (Terry Beaudry)*

The AEC reviewed the draft letter to Michelle Price and approved the letter as presented.

The Deputy Superintendent requested approval from the AEC to also gift Michelle Price with a gourd and the AEC agreed. Both the letter and gourd will be presented to Michelle Price at the same time. Trustee Deb Butler and Ann Bell agreed to take the gift and letter to Michelle Price.

The Superintendent of Schools/CEO joined the AEC meeting at 2:06 pm.

7.7 ACTION ITEM: *To revise the Call to Parents: Aboriginal Education Council to reflect the Aboriginal Education Council's suggested edits. (Edna Terbasket and Michelle DesRochers)*

Michelle DesRochers shared that she revised the *Call to Parents: Aboriginal Education Council* based on feedback from the September 26, 2017 AEC meeting and requested clarity on how to send the *Call to Parents: Aboriginal Education Council* out to parents.

The AEC decided that the *Call to Parents: Aboriginal Education Council* should be sent out through the District's Aboriginal student parent list and forwarded to the AEC to share out within their networks. It was also decided to organize a parent information night in January to bring parents with Aboriginal students together and share this call out at that meeting.

Action Item: *To send the Call to Parents: Aboriginal Education Council to District parents who have Aboriginal students and the AEC to share out within their networks. (Michelle DesRochers)*

Action Item: *To organize a parent information night in January to bring parents with Aboriginal students together and share the Call to Parents: Aboriginal Education Council at the meeting. (Terry Beaudry)*

7.8 ACTION ITEM: *To follow-up with Raf De Guevara on his commitment to the AEC. (Fernanda Alexander)*

The Chairperson shared that she connected with Raf De Guevara and as Chief and Council appointed him to the Aboriginal Education Council this is a WFN matter; and, not an AEC matter.

Old Business

8. Building a Sustainable Elders in Residence Program – Update

This item was discussed during Action Item 7.1.

9. AEC School Tour (October 5, 2017) – Debrief

The AEC members who attended the AEC School Tour on October 5, 2017 shared their experience and take-aways.

10. Equity Scan Project – Update

The Superintendent of Schools/CEO shared that the Equity Scan Project involves six Districts in the province and is being led by Dr. Scott Benwell and Kaleb Child. Each District is required to create a District Equity Scan Team for the purpose of identifying promising practices as well as stories and barriers to learner success.

The Deputy Superintendent shared that the District Equity Scan Team has met a couple times and is a diverse group comprised of Elder Pamela Barnes, community members, teachers, principals, vice-principals, and Aboriginal Program staff. At the District Equity Scan Team's first meeting, the Ministry of Education presented to the group about the project and outlined the workbook containing 74 questions.

At the District Equity Scan Team's second meeting, the group examined the 74 questions and aligned the questions with the Medicine Wheel as well as comprised a list of questions not included in the workbook.

The Deputy Superintendent advised that the AEC will be kept apprised of all District Equity Scan Team meetings and all Council members are welcome to join the meetings. An RSVP to the Deputy Superintendent's office is requested if an AEC member wishes to attend.

The AEC recessed at 2:43 pm.

Julia Fraser and Kevin Kaardal left the AEC meeting at 2:43 pm.

The AEC reconvened at 2:54 pm.

New Business

11. Aboriginal Education Program – Administration Update

Staffing Update

The Acting District Vice-Principal of Aboriginal Education reported that the Aboriginal Education Program started the 2017-2018 school year short of four Aboriginal Student Advocates. The District has recently hired the following new Aboriginal Student Advocates to fulfill the shortage: Chloe Edgecomb assigned to South Rutland Elementary; Sandra Whattam assigned to George Pringle Elementary; Rubina Waterhouse assigned to Mount Boucherie Secondary; and, Roxanne Phillips assigned to Oyama Traditional and Raymer Elementary. She also advised that two Youth and Family Support Workers have been hired (1.5 Full-Time Equivalent). Richard Gauthier and Gladys Stepaniuk will fulfill these roles.

The Deputy Superintendent shared that the District has had preliminary discussion with the union regarding the pay grade assigned to the Youth and Family Support Worker position and the position will be in the queue for a job evaluation review. The Youth and Family Support Worker positions are twelve months and the District will be looking for employee placements over the summer months. She also advised that contract negotiations are underway with a Mental Health Clinician who will supervise the clinical portion of the Youth and Family Support Worker's role.

Enhancing Student Learning (Grad Retreat, First Nations' Emergency Services Society of British Columbia, Elders in Our Schools)

The Acting District Vice-Principal of Aboriginal Education shared that the first Aboriginal Graduation Retreat was held on November 23, 2017 and went well. The grade 12 students are looking forward to the second Graduation Retreat in February where they will make drums. She also shared that the First Nations' Emergency Services Society of British Columbia (FNESS) is offering an opportunity for youth in grades 10-12 to participate in a firefighting boot camp and the Central Okanagan Public Schools has a small secondary student cohort attending.

Support Workers Summit 2018

The Acting District Vice-Principal of Aboriginal Education shared that the District will be hosting a Regional Support Workers' Summit on April 26-27, 2018 at Okanagan College. The Support Workers' Summit will include sessions on cultural teachings, land-based learning, well-being, and community work, providing a rich learning opportunity for over 200 support workers in the Okanagan mainline region.

The Acting District Vice-Principal left the AEC meeting at 3:20 pm.

National Recognition for Indigenous Student Dropout Rate Reduction (Mount Boucherie Secondary School's Academy of Indigenous Studies)

The Deputy Superintendent shared that Mount Boucherie Secondary School's (MBSS) Academy of Indigenous Studies received National recognition for reducing the indigenous student dropout rate. On October 30, 2017 there was a recognition ceremony at MBSS and Global News reported on the recognition.

(A video of Global News' report was intended to be shared but due to technology difficulties it was decided that the video would be sent out to the AEC via email.)

Edna Terbasket left the AEC meeting at 3:25 pm

12. Review of Future Agenda Items

The AEC reviewed the future agenda items and made a few revisions. The AEC also recommended scheduling a special meeting to discuss the use of the Aboriginal Education Program's surplus in January 2018.

Action Item: *To schedule a special AEC meeting to discuss the use of the Aboriginal Education Program's surplus in January 2018. (Terry Beaudry)*

Future Agenda Items

- **23rd Annual Aboriginal Career Fair Final Report**
 - **Use of Aboriginal Education Program Budget Surplus**
 - **Aboriginal Student Supports**
 - **Consistent After School Programs**
 - **Aboriginal Early Learning Partnerships** (Presentation by Early Learning Years Team)
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Meeting adjourned at 3:43 pm.

Future AEC Meetings:

- Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 9:00 am – WFN Gov't Office – Council Chambers
(Look into holding the meeting at Foundry Kelowna)
- Thursday, May 31, 2018 at 1:00 pm – Hollywood Road Education Services – Room 3