



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION COUNCIL (AEC)



Tuesday, September 26, 2017
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
WFN Gov't Office – Council Chambers
(515 Hwy 97)

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
	Edna Terbasket Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society		
School District Staff:	Terry-Lee Beaudry Central Okanagan School District	Kevin Kaardal Central Okanagan School District	
Guests:	Rose Caldwell Elder		
Regrets	Joanne De Guevara Central Okanagan School District	Raf De Guevara Westbank First Nation	Sheldon Louis Okanagan Indian Band

1. Opening Prayer

Wilfred Barnes led the opening prayer.

2. Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the Aboriginal Education Council meeting and shared that Karen Frazie, Okanagan Nation Alliance, has moved and a new Okanagan Nation Alliance representative will be appointed in the near future.

For Discussion / Decision

3. Adoption of the September 26, 2017 Agenda

Add: 'Renaming of the Aboriginal Education Council and Aboriginal Education Program' to New Business.

M17-17 MOVED by Ann Bell, SECONDED by Kelly L'Hirondelle

**THAT: The Agenda for September 26, 2017 be adopted as amended.
CARRIED**

4. Review and Approval of the June 13, 2017 Aboriginal Education Council Minutes

Amend 11.10 Action Item to read "local partnership agreement with WFN in regards....".

M18-17 MOVED by Deb Butler, SECONDED by Robin Dods

**THAT: The Minutes for June 13, 2017 be adopted as amended.
CARRIED**

5. siya? Celebration 2017 Final Report

The Chairperson requested that all outside organizations that receive funding from the Aboriginal Education Program provide an annual report of how the District targeted funding was spent.

The Deputy Superintendent noted that the siya? Celebration is a great opportunity for students and staff to attend and requested approval from the AEC to provide the siya? Celebration 2017 Final Report to all principals/vice-principals in the District.

The AEC agreed that the siya? Celebration 2017 Final Report should be shared with all principals/vice-principals in the District.

M19-17 MOVED by Kelly L'Hirondelle, SECONDED by Edna Terbasket

THAT: The Aboriginal Education Council acknowledge receipt of the siya? Celebration 2017 Final Report.
CARRIED

6. 23rd Annual Aboriginal Career Fair Final Report

Edna Terbasket shared that the 23rd Annual Aboriginal Career Fair Final Report will be provided at the next AEC meeting.

7. LCNA Youth Group Sessions 2016/2017 – Final Report

Ann Bell provided a brief verbal report of the 2016/2017 LCNA Youth Group Sessions, highlighting that 37 Aboriginal students attended sessions in the 2016/2017 school year. The LCNA Youth Group Sessions 2016/2017 – Final Report will be provided at the next AEC meeting.

Ann Bell shared that the LCNA Pow Wow is on November 18, 2017 and a poster will be provided for everyone to share with their communities.

8. Review of Action Items

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

The Chairperson shared that the first *'Building a Sustainable Elders in Residence Program'* meeting was held on August 29, 2017. In order for an Elders in Residence Program to be sustainable, there needs to be a group of Elders committed to support Aboriginal students in the District. It was also mentioned that the local territory be honoured when delivering an Elders in Residence Program on a regular basis.

Rose Caldwell joined the meeting at 9:25 am.

The Chairperson welcomed Rose Caldwell to the AEC meeting and everyone introduced themselves. Rose was an invited guest as she is working alongside the Deputy Superintendent in researching a sustainable Elders in Residence Program.

Rose Caldwell shared that she is researching current Elders in Residence Programs around the province. In her preliminary research, she found that the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT) in Merritt has an Elder in Residence Program and they have invited the District to tour their facility and discuss their Elder in Residence Program. She also advised that a review of Aboriginal students at each school has been done and the goal is to have Elders support seven middle/secondary schools and seven elementary schools, focusing on the schools with the highest Aboriginal student population.

The Deputy Superintendent thanked Rose Caldwell for meeting with her to start the conversation on building a sustainable Elders in Residence Program. Updates on the progress of *'Building a Sustainable Elders in Residence Program'* will be shared at future AEC meetings.

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

AND: *To send out an invite to AEC members for community representation on the Language and Culture Sub-Committee. (Michelle DesRochers)*

The Deputy Superintendent shared that the focus over the summer was to begin conversations on building a sustainable Elders in Residence Program. Prior to November, a Language and Culture Program Sub-Committee meeting will be scheduled.

Rose Caldwell expressed interest in being on the Language and Culture Program Sub-Committee.

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

See Action Item 8.2.

The Deputy Superintendent advised that the Rotary Centre of the Arts is running a play called 'A Kelowna Christmas Carol' and schools have been invited to attend a showing. As the wording in the invitation made reference to an 'Okanagan reboot' on Charles Dicken's classic, the District reached out to Jordan Coble, Sncewips Heritage Museum, to confirm if the teachings in the play are authentic to local culture and protocol.

The Deputy Superintendent shared that teachers have been targeted by multiple companies offering 'Indigenous' workshops/presentations and there is a concern on the authenticity of these offerings. She also shared that in Sooke over 400 local presenters have been vetted for their schools to use.

Kevin Kaardal joined the meeting at 10:01 am.

8.4 ACTION ITEM: *To organize 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 Chairperson shared that Dr. Jeannette Armstrong presented an overview of the principles of the Four Vital Voices of Community Enowkinwixw: A Syilx (Okanagan) Protocol of Respect at the September 25, 2017 WFN Chief and Council meeting. Dr. Armstrong could potentially offer the workshop to the AEC.

Rose Caldwell advised that to properly go through the Enowkinwixw process a specific question needs to be on the table for discussion and a time commitment of a least two days, without any distractions (i.e. cell phones), is essential. Participants should bring something of importance to them to affirm their commitment. In order for the Enowkinwixw workshop to be effective, all members of the Aboriginal Education Council must be committed to the entire process.

The AEC discussed whether or not they have full commitment, everyone present at the meeting affirmed their involvement and decided to move forward with asking Dr. Jeanette Armstrong if she is available in the Spring of 2018 to lead the Enowkinwixw workshop for the AEC.

Rose Caldwell advised that she will contact Dr. Jeannette Armstrong on behalf of the Aboriginal Education Council to check her Spring 2018 availability.

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 AEC questioned if an invite to participate in the Enowkinwixw workshop should be extended to anyone else (i.e. Aboriginal Education Program Staff) and decided to discuss this topic further at a future AEC meeting.

8.5 ACTION ITEM: *To provide information regarding the 2015-2016 after school program at George Pringle and why it is not running this year. (Joanne De Guevara)*

The Deputy Superintendent advised that the Aboriginal after school program at École George Pringle Elementary is no longer running as the program lost its funding. The school has since increased Aboriginal student support by increasing the number of Aboriginal Student Advocates and also offers other after school programs to all students.

Denise Clough joined the meeting at 10:38 am.

8.6 ACTION ITEM: *To send the AEC the Youth & Family Wellness Worker posting. (Michelle DesRochers)*

The Deputy Superintendent shared that the District is in the process of hiring Youth & Family Wellness Workers and will provide further details at the next AEC meeting. She also advised that Michelle will forward the external job posting to the AEC for Council to share out as they deem appropriate.

The AEC expressed frustration of the length of time it is taking to fill these positions and recommended that the District strive to have these positions filled by the end of November 2017.

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

Michelle DesRochers reminded everyone to provide her with their organization's Honourarium guidelines. To date, WFN is the only organization that has submitted their Honourarium guidelines.

8.8 ACTION ITEM: To connect with Marie James regarding two vacant parent representatives on the AEC. (Edna Terbasket)

Edna Terbasket shared that the Aboriginal Parent & Family Education Council is having difficulty finding representatives to join the Aboriginal Education Council.

The AEC discussed the resignation of Michelle Price as the Aboriginal Parent & Family Education Council representative who was on the AEC for a number of years and decided to send her a thank-you letter as well as outline the reasons for her conflict of interest.

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 that there is a conflict of interest with her continuing as a parent representative now that she is a District employee. (Terry Beaudry)

The AEC recessed at 11:15 am.

The AEC reconvened at 11:27 am.

New Business

9. Aboriginal Education Program – Administration Update

The Deputy Superintendent shared that the 13th Annual Aboriginal Education Report required a minor edit and provided everyone with revised copies of the report.

2017 Award Recipient – Thank-you Message

The Deputy Superintendent shared a thank you message from Flynn McCarthy, 2017 Award Recipient.

Staffing Update

The Deputy Superintendent advised that there are currently four unfilled Aboriginal Student Advocate positions and asked the Council to let her know of any potential candidates.

The Deputy Superintendent shared that in the month of September the District's Aboriginal Student Advocates are meeting with each Aboriginal student a minimum of 3 times.

October 5, 2017 AEC School Tour

The Deputy Superintendent asked the AEC to confirm whether or not they are able to attend the October 5, 2017 AEC School Tour. The following people confirmed their attendance: Chantelle, Deb, Julia, Kelly, and Robin. She also reviewed the draft agenda for the day.

The AEC requested that Michelle send out one more reminder as the entire AEC was not present at the meeting.

Action Item: To send a reminder to all AEC members to let Michelle DesRochers know whether or not they are able to attend the AEC School Tour on October 5, 2017. (Michelle DesRochers)

10. Equity Scan Project

The Deputy Superintendent shared that the Ministry of Education has seconded Dr. Scott Benwell and Kaleb Child to pilot an Equity Scan process involving six Districts. Each District will be required to create a District Equity Team for the purpose of identifying promising practices as well as barriers to learner success. The Central Okanagan Public Schools District Equity Scan Project Team will meet on Tuesday, October 3rd. AEC members were invited to join the District's Equity Scan Project Team and asked to contact Michelle DesRochers if interested.

The AEC requested that an invitation to join the District's Equity Scan Project Team be sent out via email to ensure those not present at the meeting had the opportunity to participate.

Action Item: To send an invitation to all AEC members to join the District's Equity Scan Project Team via email. (Michelle DesRochers)

11. Renaming of the Aboriginal Education Council and Aboriginal Education Program

The Deputy Superintendent advised that there are discussions within the community regarding using the word 'Aboriginal' versus Indigenous. This poses the question on whether or not the Board of Education should consider renaming the Aboriginal Education Council and/or Aboriginal Education Program.

The AEC discussed the possibility of an Okanagan name to replace the 'Aboriginal Education Council' name.

Wilfred 'Grouse' Barnes suggested the Okanagan word for 'Okanagan People plus friends'.

The AEC decided to reflect on the proposed renaming of the Council and have further discussion at a future AEC meeting, prior to taking any recommendation forward to the Board of Education.

12. Draft Call to Parents: Aboriginal Education Council Representation

The AEC reviewed the draft Call to Parents: Aboriginal Education Council Representation and recommended a few edits.

The Deputy Superintendent requested that Edna Terbasket work with Michelle DesRochers to revise the Call to Parents: Aboriginal Education Council Representation.

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)*

The AEC requested that the Chair follow-up with Raf De Guevera on his commitment to the AEC.

Action Item: *To follow-up with Raf De Guevera on his commitment to the AEC. (Fernanda Alexander)*

Future Agenda Items

- **Use of Aboriginal Education Program Budget Surplus**
 - **Renaming of the Aboriginal Education Council and Aboriginal Education Program**
 - **Principles of the Four Vital Voices of Community Enowkinwixw: A Syilx (Okanagan) Protocol of Respect**
 - **Aboriginal Recreational Teams**
 - **Language and Cultural Review**
 - **Elder in Residence Programs**
 - **Aboriginal Student Supports**
 - **Aboriginal Student Award Funding**
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Meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm.

Future AEC Meetings:

- Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 9:00 am – Hollywood Road Education Services – Room 3
(Subsequently changed to Thursday, November 9, 2017 from 1:00 pm – 4 pm)
- Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 9:00 am – WFN Gov't Office – Council Chambers
- Thursday, May 31, 2018 at 1:00 pm – Hollywood Road Education Services – Room 3