



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION COUNCIL (AEC)



9:00 am Thursday, September 17, 2015
Hollywood Road Education Services, Room 3
1040 Hollywood Road

MINUTES

Council Members:	Ann Bell Lake Country Native Association	Deb Butler Board of Education	Denise Clough Westbank First Nation
	Chris Derickson Westbank First Nation	Kelly L'Hirondelle Kelowna Métis Association	Amanda Montgomery Okanagan Nation Alliance
	Lee Mossman Board of Education	Edna Terbasket Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society	
School District Staff:	Terry-Lee Beaudry Central Okanagan School District	Joanne De Guevara Central Okanagan School District	
Guest:	John Simonson Director of Instruction, Human Resources Central Okanagan School District	Kevin Kaiser Aboriginal Resource Support Teacher K-12 Central Okanagan School District	
Regrets:	Raf De Guevara Westbank First Nation	Delphine Derickson Westbank First Nation Elder	Roberta Robin Dods Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society
	Hugh Gloster Central Okanagan School District	Greg Mazur Kelowna Métis Association	Michelle Price Aboriginal Parent & Family Education Council
	Dan Wilson Okanagan Indian Band		

1. Opening Prayer

Edna Terbasket led the opening prayer.

2. Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the Aboriginal Education Council Meeting and thanked everyone for accommodating his request to change the meeting date.

The Chairperson shared with the AEC that he brought a gourd and card to honour Kevin Kaiser, one of the UBC's top 100 educators. The card was passed around for everyone to sign.

For Discussion / Decision

3. Adoption of the September 17, 2015 Agenda

M62-15 MOVED by Deb Butler, SECONDED by Ann Bell
THAT: The Agenda for September 17, 2015 be adopted.
CARRIED

4. Review and Approval of the June 2, 2015 Aboriginal Education Council Minutes (*attachment*)

M63-15 MOVED by Edna Terbasket, SECONDED by Deb Butler
THAT: The Minutes of the Aboriginal Education Council Meeting for June 2, 2015 be adopted.
CARRIED

5. Review of Action Items

5.1 **ACTION ITEM:** *To provide the AEC with the transition rates of the Aboriginal students attending post-secondary school for a future AEC meeting. (Joanne De Guevara)*

The District Principal advised that, as per discussion at the June 2, 2015 meeting, exit interviews will be used to obtain this information. As such, information will be available for this action item by May 2016.

5.2 **ACTION ITEM:** To write and send a letter to the Board of Education, thanking them for their support. (attachment) (Chris Derickson)

The AEC reviewed the Draft letter to the Board of Education and recommended that the letter be amended to include copies going to the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent before being sent to the Board of Education.

M64-15 MOVED by Edna Terbasket, SECONDED by Amanda Montgomery
THAT: The letter to the Board of Education be amended to add copies to the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent and be sent to the Board of Education.
ABSTAINED: Deb Butler and Lee Mossman
CARRIED

6. November AEC meeting (to be re-scheduled)

The AEC decided to change the November 2015 AEC meeting to November 5, 2015 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at the WFN Government Office - Council Chambers. The Chairperson advised the AEC that he is not able to attend the meeting on this date and confirmed that the Vice-Chairperson is available and will Chair the meeting in his absence.

Old Business

7. Teacher Recruitment and Hiring Practices

The Assistant Superintendent introduced John Simonson who provided an overview of the District's current Human Resources hiring practices. Additionally, John Simonson shared that in September 2011 the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal approved preferential hiring of Teachers with Aboriginal ancestry. The Central Okanagan School District has been receiving approval from the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal for the last four years and has been given permission to continue this practice until September 2016. The Human Resources Department is currently working on its submission to the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal to extend the exemption and is requesting letters of support to include with their submission. Letters of support should be received by April 2016.

John Simonson advised the AEC that, upon inquiring with the legal counsel at the B.C. Public School Employer's Association (BCPSEA), preferential hiring of Okanagan Nation members who are credentialed teachers first before teachers who self-identify as having Aboriginal Ancestry would not be supported. John will pursue discussion with the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal.

John Simonson provided an example of a teaching posting from the external provincial hiring site *Make a Future* and the check-list teachers are required to fill out when applying for a Central Okanagan School District teaching position. Included in the check-list is a question asking if the applicant has Aboriginal Ancestry, noting that preference will be given to those applicants with Aboriginal ancestry. When an applicant has self-identified as having Aboriginal Ancestry, he/she is requested to provide additional information regarding his/her cultural connections. Due to privacy restrictions, this information will be included in the Annual Report to the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal without reference to names, ensuring employee confidentiality.

John Simonson advised the AEC that once a Teacher Tutor has been hired for the Aboriginal Education Program, they become part of the Central Okanagan Teacher's Association. During the interview process, the District Principal plays a key role, along with the school's principal, in determining the best candidate.

The AEC was provided with a copy of the Okanagan Language Teacher job posting and discussed the possibility of adding a requirement that applicants continue to grow their fluency. John Simonson advised that it would be possible to include this requirement the next time this job is posted.

The AEC discussed the potential of additional professional development for Okanagan Language Teachers, including the possibility of participating in the Syilx Language House being offered by Michele Johnson (information provided in the agenda package).

ACTION ITEM: *To send an inquiry to Michele Johnson, Syilx Language House Association, regarding potential professional development and the possibility of attending an AEC meeting to discuss the mentorship of Okanagan Language learners. (Joanne De Guevara)*

The AEC discussed resurrecting an Okanagan Language Program Sub-committee to discuss short-term and long-term plans for the program.

ACTION ITEM: *To make a recommendation at the next Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee meeting to create an Okanagan Language Program Sub-committee. (Joanne De Guevara)*

New Business

8. Appointment of a Vice-Chairperson

M65-15 MOVED by Deb Butler, SECONDED by Lee Mossman
THAT: The Aboriginal Education Council appoint Kelly L'Hirondelle as the Vice-Chairperson to the Council.
CARRIED

9. Kelowna Métis Association - Letter of Appointment/Board Resolution (attachment)

M66-15 MOVED by Deb Butler, SECONDED by Lee Mossman
THAT: The Kelowna Métis Association Letter of Appointment/Board Resolution be accepted as attached.
CARRIED

10. AEC Renewal of Membership

The AEC was provided an updated list of current members of the AEC, with mention of council members who require re-appointment letters.

ACTION ITEM: *To provide a re-appointment letter as required and to send the Letters of Re-appointment to the Assistant Superintendent's office. (AEC)*

11. Ministry of Education Directive

The Assistant Superintendent shared that the Ministry of Education's new curriculum will have an Aboriginal focus related to Aboriginal history, culture and perspectives. The Ministry of Education has designated one non-instructional day for the 2015-16 school to focus on supporting Aboriginal learners and integrating Aboriginal content and perspectives into the curriculum.

The Assistant Superintendent shared a new resource guide the Ministry of Education has released to support educators as they incorporate the First Peoples Principles of Learning into their pedagogical practise.

ACTION ITEM: *To send the AEC an electronic copy of the new resource guide. (Michelle DesRochers)*

12. Celebrating K-12 Aboriginal Education in British Columbia: Successes in Curriculum, Pedagogy and Policy

The Assistant Superintendent shared that an opportunity to highlight the Central Okanagan School District's Aboriginal Leadership Programs was recently provided. Joanne De Guevara, Kevin Kaiser, and Terry Beaudry co-wrote a chapter to be included in Jo-Ann Archibald's book *Celebrating K-12 Aboriginal Education in British Columbia: Successes in Curriculum, Pedagogy and Policy*.

The Assistant Superintendent read a few pieces from the chapter and advised the AEC that she will share the book once it's been published.

10:47 – Amanda Montgomery left the meeting.

13. The Language House (attachment)

The AEC acknowledged receipt of the Language House information.

14. District Principal's Administration Update

Staffing Update

The District Principal advised that three new advocates have been hired and that they should begin their new positions the week of September 21, 2015.

The District Principal reported that the position of an Aboriginal Youth and Family Counsellor has been renamed Aboriginal Youth and Family Support Worker. A posting is currently being developed for two 0.7 positions. These positions will report to a contracted clinical supervisor and District Principal, Joanne De Guevara. The Aboriginal Youth and Family Support Workers will work with students in the schools, but refer families to outside agencies.

Aboriginal Education Program Priorities for the 2015-2016 school year

The District Principal shared that various connections are being made to assist schools in the implementation of Aboriginal content in the new curriculum. Connections have also been made with the Central Okanagan Teacher-Librarian Association regarding resources libraries should order for their schools.

The District Principal shared that there are two more schools included in the leadership program and the Aboriginal Education Department is looking to implement a pilot project focused on residential schools for grade 5 teachers.

The District Principal shared that the Aboriginal Education Department has implemented a new data reporting program, which provides a more inclusive approach to recording support for each student receiving services from the Aboriginal Education Department. The District Principal would like to share the new program at a future AEC meeting.

ACTION ITEM: To provide the AEC a demonstration of the new data reporting program at a future AEC meeting in the new year. (Joanne De Guevara)

The District Principal provided information on the Aboriginal Fun Nights being held on Wednesday, October 7th and Thursday, October 8th. If council members are interesting in having a booth or providing prizes for the silent auction, door prizes, or kids games, please contact the Aboriginal Education office.

ACTION ITEM: To send the AEC the Aboriginal Fun Night posters electronically. (Michelle DesRochers)

11:15 am – The Aboriginal Education Council recessed.

11:25 am – The Aboriginal Education Council reconvened.

15. Delivery of the Okanagan Language Program

The AEC discussed concerns with the Okanagan Language Program being funded by targeted funds and determined that this topic should be vetted through the Okanagan Language Program Sub-committee to recommend short-term and long-term plans for the Okanagan Language Program.

The council decided to write a letter to the Board of Education to inquire with the Ministry of Education regarding funding the Okanagan Language Program from local funding, not targeting funding.

ACTION ITEM: To draft a letter to the Board of Education asking them to inquire with the Ministry of Education regarding funding the Okanagan Language Program through local funding, not targeted funds. (Ann Bell)

17. Request to Review Aboriginal Cultural Programs' Form – Question/Concerns *(attachment)*

The AEC discussed funding concerns with cultural programs in classrooms and the need for additional cultural programs targeted to Aboriginal students. Ann Bell suggested that the Request Form for Aboriginal Cultural Programs be posted on a site for teacher resources versus the District's public website.

ACTION ITEM: To provide the AEC with a breakdown of targeted funds allocated to cultural programs in classrooms at the next AEC budget meeting. *(Joanne De Guevara)*

18. Request for Funding – Lake Country Native Association Youth Group Sessions

Ann Bell provided information on the partnership with the Lake Country Native Association and the Central Okanagan School District to provide youth group sessions. The request for funding, in the amount of \$1,500, is to help fund the cost of outside cultural presenters.

M67-15 MOVED by Kelly L'Hirondelle, SECONDED by Denise Clough

THAT: The Aboriginal Education Council approves the \$1,500 funding request from Lake Country Nation Association for Youth Group Sessions.

ABSTAINED: Ann Bell

CARRIED

The AEC reaffirmed that groups who are provided with funding need to provide a report outlining how the funding was used.

ACTION ITEM: To provide the AEC with a report on how the \$1,500 was utilized to support the Lake Country Nation Association's Youth Group Sessions. *(Ann Bell)*

Updates

19. Aboriginal Parent and Family Education Council (APFEC)

No updates at this time.

20. Reconciliation Through Indigenous Education (UBC Faculty of Education Course)

The Assistant Superintendent shared information regarding the upcoming on-line course 'Reconciliation Through Indigenous Education' and encouraged council members to consider enrolling in the course.

Recognition

21. Recognition: Kevin Kaiser, Aboriginal Resource Support Teacher K-12 – Recipient of the UBC Faculty of Education "Education's 100 – Year of Alumni *Certificate of Outstanding Contribution*" Award

The Chairperson welcomed Kevin Kaiser, Aboriginal Resource Support Teacher K-12, and recognized Kevin for receiving the UBC Faculty of Education's "Education's 100 – Year of Alumni Certificate of Outstanding Contribution" Award. The Chairperson presented Kevin, on behalf of the Aboriginal Education Council and the District's students, with a gourd and outlined Kevin's accomplishments.

Kevin shared his appreciation for the recognition and the unwavering support he receives in the District to support Aboriginal students and teachers.

Future Agenda Items

- **Presentation: Aboriginal Early Literacy Pilot Project (February 2016)**
- **Budget Line Item: Community Initiatives (February 2016)**

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am

Future AEC meeting date: November 5, 2015 (WFN Gov't Offices – Council Chambers)