



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION COUNCIL (AEC)



Tuesday, June 13, 2017

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Hollywood Road Education Services – Room 3

(1040 Hollywood Road S.)

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	Roberta Robin Dods Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society
	Julia Fraser Board of Education	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	
Guests:	Nina Ferguson Central Okanagan School District	Melissa Feddersen Foundry Kelowna	Mike Gawliuk Canadian Mental Health Association
	Eileen Sadlowski Central Okanagan School District		
Regrets:	Chantelle Colthorp Kelowna Métis Association	Joanne De Guevara Central Okanagan School District	Raf De Guevara Westbank First Nation
	Karen Frazie Okanagan Nation Alliance	Kelly L'Hirondelle Kelowna Métis Association	Michelle Price Aboriginal Parent & Family Education

The Deputy Superintendent introduced Nina Ferguson, Acting Vice-Principal of Aboriginal Education.

1. Opening Prayer

Wilfred Barnes led the opening prayer.

2. Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the Aboriginal Education Council meeting as well as congratulated Edna Terbasket for receiving Okanagan College's highest honour, Honorary Fellow.

Edna Terbasket invited the AEC to attend the Okanagan College's Graduation Ceremony, where she will deliver her address, being held on June 29, 2017 at 7 pm at Okanagan College Kelowna Campus in the courtyard.

Melissa Feddersen and Mike Gawliuk joined the meeting at 9:20 am.

The Chairperson welcomed Sheldon Louis, newly appointed AEC representative from Okanagan Indian Band, as well as thanked Dan Wilson and Allan Louis for their time as members of the AEC. Everyone introduced themselves.

3. Presentation: FOUNDRY Kelowna Update

Mike Gawliuk, Director of Services Delivery and Program Innovation of the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), and Melisa Feddersen, Foundry Kelowna Centre Manager, provided an update of the BC Integrated Youth Services Initiative that was presented to the AEC on January 20, 2016. Since receiving support from the AEC for the concept of the BC Integrated Youth Services Initiative, Kelowna was chosen to be one of the five communities to receive funding for the initiative. The provincial initiative has since been named Foundry with site approval in Campbell River, Abbotsford, North Shore of Vancouver, Kelowna, and Prince George. Foundry is best described as a 'one-stop shop' for youth to access primary care, mental health care, addictions support, and social services.

As part of an evaluation of the Foundry, McCreary Centre Society is conducting a survey to gain a better understanding of the barriers as well as what's working well for youth and their families in accessing services and support. On May 10, 2017, the Board of Education approved grade 9 and

grade 10 student participation in the survey to garner further ability about how best to support our vulnerable youth.

Foundry Kelowna is located on Kirschner Road and will house consultation rooms, medical exam rooms, and meeting spaces. With the help of Jordan Coble, Sncewips Heritage Museum, First Nations Art is being incorporated into the final design elements of the space and will be featured prominently throughout the facility. There will be a community Open House in fall 2017; however, the AEC is invited to a tour at a time that would work best for them.

The Superintendent/CEO joined the meeting at 9:51 am.

The Chairperson thanked Mike and Melissa for their presentation.

Melissa Feddersen and Mike Gawliuk left the meeting at 9:53 am.

For Discussion / Decision

4. Adoption of the June 13, 2017 Agenda

M13-17 MOVED by Denise Clough, SECONDED by Edna Terbasket

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

5. Review and Approval of the March 20, 2017 Aboriginal Education Council Minutes

M14-17 MOVED by Deb Butler, SECONDED by Ann Bell

**THAT: The Minutes for March 20, 2017 be adopted.
CARRIED**

6. Okanagan Nation Alliance – Letter of Appointment

M15-17 MOVED by Edna Terbasket, SECONDED by Julia Fraser

**THAT: The Okanagan Nation Alliance Letter of Appointment be accepted as attached the June 13, 2017 agenda.
CARRIED**

7. Okanagan Indian Band – Letter of Appointment

M16-17 MOVED by Julia Fraser, SECONDED by Robin Dods

THAT: The Okanagan Indian Band Letter of Appointment be accepted as attached the June 13, 2017 agenda.

**ABSTAINED: Sheldon Louis
CARRIED**

Old Business

8. Aboriginal Education Program 2017-2018 Preliminary Budget

8.1 April 5, 2017 Presentation to the Finance and Legal Committee

Fernanda shared that she presented the AEC's budget recommendations to the Finance and Legal Committee on April 5, 2017.

8.2 April 19, 2017 Central Okanagan Public Schools Superintendent of Schools/CEO 2017-2018 Budget Recommendations

The Superintendent/CEO outlined his budget recommendations that went forward to the Finance and Legal Committee on April 19, 2017.

8.3 May 12, 2017 Budget Recommendations

The Superintendent/CEO outlined the budget recommendations that went forward to the Finance and Legal Committee on May 12, 2017.

8.4 May 24, 2017 Board of Education Decisions

The Superintendent/CEO shared that the Board of Education approved the addition of one (1.0) FTE teaching position (from Core Funding) to support the Ministry mandate to indigenize the redesigned curriculum once the Aboriginal Program Budget (including surplus) is expended. The Okanagan Language Teacher position will continue to be a line item on the Aboriginal Program Budget. The Superintendent/CEO also shared that he has directed staff to look into providing behaviour support that is culturally sensitive.

The Deputy Superintendent advised that the new 1.0 FTE teaching position to support the Ministry mandate to indigenize the redesigned curriculum has not been filled as of yet and preferential hiring will be given to a certified teacher with Aboriginal ancestry. This teacher will work alongside the Instructional Leadership Team to support teachers in indigenizing the curriculum.

The AEC raised concerns with the anticipated previous year surplus, noting the importance of reducing surplus funds in the 2017-2018 school year. Additionally, AEC members had questions regarding the timeline for establishing a sustainable Elders in Residence program.

The Deputy Superintendent advised that in response to the Call for Elders sent out in May 2017, a few local Elders have expressed interest in helping to design a sustainable Elders in Residence Program. A meeting will be scheduled in July to start to move forward with developing a sustainable Elders in Residence program. For the 2016/2017 school year, Wilfred Barnes has been providing Elder in Residence services.

The AEC questioned who selects the Elders and the Superintendent/CEO reminded the AEC that the hiring of employees is the responsibility of the District's Human Resources Department. The AEC has the authority to recommend programs/services; however, does not have the authority to be involved in Human Resources affairs.

8.5 Review of the Aboriginal Education Program 2017-2018 Preliminary Budget

Eileen Sadlowski, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, outlined the Aboriginal Education Program 2017-2018 Preliminary Budget of \$3,321,170.

The Superintendent/CEO left the meeting at 11:00 am.

A possible discrepancy was noted regarding the percentage of the Okanagan Language Teacher position coming from Targeted Funding. The District will look into this line item and revise the budget accordingly.

The AEC recessed at 11:10 am.

Julia Fraser left the meeting at 11:10 am.

The AEC reconvened at 11:22 am.

9. After School Programing – Collated Data

The committee received the collated data as attached to the agenda.

10. 2017/2018 AEC Meeting Schedule

The AEC requested that a Doodle Poll be sent out regarding potential 2017/2018 AEC Meeting dates and suggested Tuesdays and Thursdays.

ACTION ITEM: To send the AEC a Doodle Poll with potential 2017/2018 AEC Meeting dates (Tuesdays/Thursdays) and schedule the 2017/2018 AEC Meetings accordingly. (Michelle DesRochers)

11. Review of Action Items

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

As per above, a meeting will be scheduled in July 2017. Further updates will be provided at an upcoming AEC meeting.

AND: To send Michelle DesRochers the names of Elders interested in participating in establishing an Elder in Residence Program. (AEC)

The action item is considered to be completed.

11.2 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)*

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

The Deputy Superintendent advised that a meeting will be set up in August. This meeting will coincide with the Enowkinwixw training.

11.3 ACTION ITEM: *To design 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. (Jennifer Houde)*

The AEC discussed whether or not a two day workshop regarding the Four Vital Voices of Community Enowkinwixw: A Syilx (Okanagan) Protocol of Respect was necessary and decided that this training is very important to build a foundation of understanding.

The Deputy Superintendent will look into who can provide 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. This training will coincide with the Language and Cultural Sub-Committee meeting.

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 (coinciding with the Language and Cultural Sub-Committee). (Terry Beaudry)*

11.4 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)*

This Action Item was deferred due to Joanne De Guevara's absence.

11.5 ACTION ITEM: *To send the AEC a few potential dates for the AEC School Tour and determine which date works best for everyone. (Michelle DesRochers)*

The Deputy Superintendent informed the AEC that only 3-4 people were available to attend an AEC School Tour before the end of the 2016-2017 school year and questioned how best to arrange a tour with quorum.

The AEC agreed that an AEC School Tour is still important and requested that another Doodle Poll be sent out with dates in early October 2017.

Action Item: *To send the AEC a few potential dates for an AEC School tour in early October 2017 and determine which date works best for everyone. (Michelle DesRochers)*

11.6 ACTION ITEM: *To review the Ministry of Education's Report 'Aboriginal Report 2011-2012 – 2015/2016 – How Are We Doing?'. (AEC)*

This action item is considered complete.

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

The Deputy Superintendent advised that the District is currently negotiating with CUPE and are working on a Letter of Understanding to increase the salary beyond the union's grade level scale. Once a job posting is ready, Michelle will send out.

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

The AEC was reminded to send Michelle the Honourarium guidelines their organization follows.

11.9 ACTION ITEM: *To send five copies of the final Aboriginal Education 13th Annual Report to each organization represented on the AEC. (Michelle DesRochers)*

Michelle handed out five copies to each organization present at the AEC meeting and will send copies to those organizations not represented at the June 13, 2017 meeting.

11.10 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/Terry Beaudry)*

As per Action Item 11.2 above, a meeting will be set-up in August 2017.

11.11 ACTION ITEM: *To draft a letter on behalf of the AEC to the Ministry of Education outlining the need for the province to provide additional core funding for Aboriginal Education learning resources and staff to support the implementation of the redesigned curriculum. (Fernanda Alexander/Terry Beaudry)*

A copy of the Board of Education's letter to the Ministry of Education (MOE) and the MOE's response was provided with the agenda package.

New Business

12. Aboriginal Graduation – Debrief

The AEC debriefed the 2017 Aboriginal Graduation Ceremony and provided the following feedback:

- Encourage Elders and youth to wear traditional clothing
- If the Button Blanket is going to be displayed, other Aboriginal blankets should be included
- The day is about the students, the AEC should be in the background
- Communicate to Advocates that they should accommodate extra people the best they can
- The Territory should be acknowledged by an Okanagan Person, if present

Ann Bell shared that each year she gives a donation toward the Aboriginal Student Awards and challenges all AEC members to do the same.

13. Parent Voice on Aboriginal Education Council

The AEC discussed the importance of getting the parent's voice back to the table and recommended that a Call Out to Parents be sent out as well as connecting with Marie James, Chair of the Aboriginal Parent & Family Education Council.

Action Item: *To connect with Marie James regarding two vacant parent representatives on the AEC. (Edna Terbasket)*

Action Item: *To send a Call to Parents to sit on the Aboriginal Education Council. (Terry Beaudry / Michelle DesRochers)*

14. National Aboriginal Day

The AEC queried what was planned for the upcoming National Aboriginal Day.

Edna Terbasket shared that the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society organizes an event every year and has stations for students from 10 am – 1 pm (cap is 60 students).

The Deputy Superintendent shared that there are events happening at various schools in the District.

Future Agenda Items

- **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**

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm.