

**FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION COUNCIL
MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023 10:00 am until 3:00 pm**

PARTICIPANTS IN PERSON:

Chris van der Mark, Superintendent, SD27
Cheryl Lenardon, Deputy Superintendent, SD27
Grant Gustafson, District Principal Indigenous Education
Tracy Hubner, Recording Secretary
Miriam Schilling, Education Coordinator, Xat'sull First Nation (Soda Creek Band)
Pamela Kozak, T'exelc (Williams Lake First Nation)
Lacey-Dawn Testawich, Cariboo Chilcotin Teachers Association
Marlene Swears, Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Assoc.
Dawna Short, Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Association
Rosalie Montgomery, Yunešit'in Government
Melanie Johnny, Tl'etinqox Govt. (Anaham Band)
Mary Forbes, Trustee SD27
Michelle Noskey, Cariboo Friendship Society
Shirley Diablo, A/Education Coordinator Tl'esqox (Toosey Band)
Agnes William, Xeni Gwet'in First Nation
Catherine Groundwater, Education Coordinator Esk'eteme

PARTICIPANTS ON-LINE: There were no participants on-line.

SPECIAL GUESTS: Nara Riplinger, Teacher Presenter from Columneetza Jr. Sec.
Jennifer Routtu, Teacher Presenter from Chilcotin Road Elem.
Keegan Follack, Educ. Assistant/Youth Coordinator, Xat'sull First Nation (Soda Creek Band)

NOT AVAILABLE:

Mabelene Leon, Ulkatchot'en (Ulkatcho First Nation)
Kayla Fayter, Ulkatchot'en (Ulkatcho First Nation)
Harold Duncan, Alternate Educ. Coord. Stswecem'c/Xget'tem First Nation (Canoe Creek/Dog Creek Band)
Calvin Dubray, Education Director, Esk'eteme
Michelle Archie, Educ. Sr. Mgr. Tsq'ésceñ First Nation
Sue Sim, President, IUOE
Lenore Case, Tšideldel First Nation
Ashley Camille, Educ. Coordinator, Stswecem'c/Xget'tem First Nation
Latisha Kirechuk, Chair, District PAC SD27
Audrey Sinclair, Educ. Assist. ?Esdilagh First Nation
Angie Delainey, Trustee SD27
Vacant, Education Director, Ulkatchot'en (Ulkatcho First Nation)

A. Call to Order: Rosalie Montgomery, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

ii) Welcome to Secwepemc Territory:

Pamela Kozak from Williams Lake First Nation provided a welcome to Secwepemc Territory.

ii) Traditional Opening:

Shirley Diablo from Tl'esqox provided a traditional opening.

iii) Introductions: Introductions were done.

B. AGENDA & PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Review/Additions/Deletions to the Agenda for December 4, 2023

Motion – THAT the First Nations Education Council adopt the agenda of its meeting dated December 4, 2023, as circulated.

Moved: Dawna Short **Seconded:** Pamela Kozak

Review/Approval of the Minutes of the November 6, 2023 Meeting:

Motion – THAT The First Nations Education Council adopt the minutes of its meeting dated November 6, 2023 as circulated.

Moved: Marlene Swears **Seconded:** Pamela Kozak

C. REPORTS:

i) Superintendent's Report: Chris van der Mark

[Superintendent's Report](#) (Full Board of Education Agenda is posted online.)

Good discussion of the Equity Scan four years ago and how far we have come. Discussion has become foundational in Strategic Planning. Lots of work still to be done.

Considering engaging in Equity Scan again or a more robust review through a third party.

Superintendent informed FNEC of impending retirement. Council members appreciative to know that Deputy Lenardon will be assuming the role as she has led much of the work.

ii) **Finance, Facilities & Transportation Committee Report: Trustee Angie Delainey**

Trustee Delainey (Trustee Forbes Chaired the November Meeting).

[Link for Report](#)

iii) **Education Committee: Trustee, Anne Kohut**

[Link for Report](#)

iv) **Policy Committee: Trustee, Mary Forbes**

[Link for Report](#)

v) **Indigenous Education Department Budget Report: Grant Gustafson**

Budget:

Grant shared the Indigenous Education Department budget along with an update on staffing levels.

Motion THAT the First Nations Education Council receives the reports of the Superintendent, the District Principal, Indigenous Education, Finance, Facilities and Transportation Committee, Education Committee as submitted.

Moved: Dawna Short **Seconded:** Marlene Swears

APPROVAL BY CONSENSUS

D. BUSINESS:

i) **CULTURAL PROPOSALS:**

There were no proposals today.

ii) **Indigenous Role Models: Tracy Hubner**

Registration booths continue in the high schools.

Deadline for applications is Friday, December 15, 2023, at 4:30 pm

iii) **Special Presentation 11:45am by Nara Riplinger, Teacher, Columneetza Jr. Sec.**

Nara showed her presentation on the Columneetza/Lake City Secondary annual salmon trip.

FNEC requested that she send application process to Indigenous Education Department so that it can be forwarded to all Education Coordinators next year.

iv) **Special Presentation: Jennifer Routtu, Teacher, Chilcotin Road Elementary 1:00pm**

Jennifer shared a presentation on her class trip to Tl'esqox (Toosey Band).

v) **Information Share from FNEC Conference on "IEC" Terms of Reference:**

Grant Gustafson shared the legislation change with Indigenous Education Councils. These councils are now mandatory in all School Districts.

The IEC will not be a committee of the board but be an independent body, which may impact our bylaws.

Specific Terms of Reference will be produced by the Ministry in the new year via a Ministerial Order.

Terms of Reference will be a base. These will be provincial requirements.

There is reference to how secretarial support will be administered for the committee since the committee is not a SD27 committee. Chris Van der Mark added that they will not have a SD27 Secretary.

We will keep business as usual until new changes come out. We are expecting this to be out this spring.

vi) **Information Share from FNEC Conference on LEA template: Grant Gustafson**

Grant spoke about the LEA's or services for on-reserve students. 7/11 Bands in this district have LEAs.

First Nation Bands may choose to use the model LEA or keep their current LEA. FNEC and MoECC have worked together on co-development of the model LEA. This should be out early spring.

Bands can implement LEA model at their request. Changes to template need to be negotiated.

vii) **School of Choice: Cheryl Lenardon, Deputy Superintendent**

Cheryl reminded FNEC of the new legislation giving First Nations the choice of catchment school. Individual families can still follow the School of Choice process.

A letter to Chiefs and councils will go out. If bands are going to choose a different catchment school, they have a deadline to meet by the third week of January.

The decision on which school will be selected as catchment will be done through band internal process.

viii) Teams: Grant Gustafson

Grant sent out many invites to join the FNEC Team.

We will use posts in the FNEC Team to be able to talk to each other. Please contact Grant if you need assistance.

E. STUDENT LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT:

ix) Harvesting Protocol discussion: Grant Gustafson

We do not have a district harvesting protocol in SD27. Grant shared a draft of a Harvesting Policy we could implement. This would ensure that staff and students remember to give back and be respectful of the environment.

There could be nations with shared territory that would have different protocols. The schools do not know this.

Grant Gustafson asked the Education Coordinators to talk to their Chief and council for feedback on policy and to vote at future meeting.

FNEC do not want to see a territorial map here.

E. Student Learning and Achievement:

i) Annual Plans and \$ amounts proposed: Grant Gustafson

Grant is requesting \$100,000 from surplus to support school Annual Plans. Based on 10 days of honorarium/school and remaining funds broken down by Indigenous student FTE.

All school plans are in the FNEC Team site.

Grant would like FNEC to consider allocating this funding to the schools based on their Annual Plans and what they have planned.

The schools are showing intentional efforts to cover indigenous culture.

We have over \$400,000 dollar surplus. If effective, we could look at this template for subsequent years.

School will be responsible to post on focus area, which will be shared at monthly FNEC meetings.

CONSENSUS ‘IN PRINCIPLE’. IF THEY DO NOT HAVE A KNOWLEDGE KEEPER - YOU NEED TO GO BACK AND FILL IT IN ON ANNUAL PLAN. SCHOOLS TO BE REQUIRED TO REPORT ON THIS FULL AMOUNT.

ii) **Invitation to Knowledge Keeper List: Grant Gustafson**

This was a reminder to FNEC for knowledge keepers to be on our elder list for SD27. Please send us their names. Then Tracy will reach out and see if they wish to be on our list.
We have had zero entries to date.

iii) **Annual Indigenous People’s Day Poetry Contest: Tracy Hubner**

Deadline is January 31, 2024. Reminder that this contest is open to all students K-Grade 12. Volume 7 of the winning poems is now on the website.

F. Close of Meeting:

Adjournment:

Recommended Motion – THAT the meeting of the First Nations Education Council dated December 4, 2023 be adjourned 1:55 pm.

Motion: Melanie Johnny

<p>Next FNEC meeting Monday, February 5, 2024 10:00 am until 3:00 pm Lunch Provided</p>
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