

**FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION COUNCIL
MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024 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
Mary Forbes, Trustee SD27
Sue Sim, President, IUOE
Rosalie Montgomery, Yunešit'in Government
Lacey-Dawn Testawich, Cariboo Chilcotin Teachers Association
Miriam Schilling, Education Coordinator, Xatšull First Nation (Soda Creek Band)
Pamela Kozak, T'exelc (Williams Lake First Nation)
Melanie Johnny, Tl'etinqox Govt. (Anaham Band)
Michelle Noskey, Cariboo Friendship Society

PARTICIPANTS ON-LINE:

Calvin Dubray, Education Director, Esk'eteme
Keegan Follack, Educ. Assistant/Youth Coord. Xatšull First Nation

SPECIAL GUESTS:

NOT AVAILABLE:

Catherine Groundwater, Education Coordinator Esk'eteme
Marlene Swears, Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Assoc.
Dawna Short, Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Association
Latisha Kirechuk, Chair, District PAC SD27
Audrey Sinclair, Educ. Assist. ?Esdilagh First Nation
Dora Grinder, A/Education Coordinator Tšideldel First Nation
Linda Scales, A/Education Coordinator Tl'esqox (Toosey Band)
Mabelene Leon, Ulkatchot'en (Ulkatcho First Nation)
Gail Bittner, Ulkatchot'en (Ulkatcho First Nation)
Harold Duncan, Alternate Educ. Coord. Stswecem'c/Xget'tem First Nation (Canoe Creek/Dog Creek Band)
Michelle Archie, Educ. Sr. Mgr. Tsq'ésceñ First Nation
Louise Harry, A/Educ. Coordinator, Stswecem'c/Xget'tem First Nation
Joy Holt, Education Director, Ulkatchot'en (Ulkatcho First Nation)
Agnes William, Xení Gwet'in First Nation

A. Call to Order: Rosalie Montgomery, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

ii) Welcome to Secwepemc Territory:

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

ii) Traditional Opening:

Melanie Johnny from Tl'etinqox Govt. provided a traditional opening.

iii) Introductions: Introductions were done.

B. AGENDA & PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Review/Additions/Deletions to the Agenda for February 5, 2024

Motion – THAT the First Nations Education Council adopt the agenda of its meeting dated February 5, 2024, as circulated.

Moved: Pamela Kozak

Seconded: Mary Forbes

Review/Approval of the Minutes of the December 4, 2023 Meeting:

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

Moved: Mary Forbes

Seconded: Pamela Kozak

C. REPORTS:

i) Superintendent's Report: Chris van der Mark

- Superintendent van der Mark reviewed the Ministry announcement regarding restrictions on cell phones. There will be more information coming but our schools are reviewing how electronic device use is addressed in their Codes of Conduct.
- Discussions are occurring about secondary school configuration in Williams Lake. What is ideal? What supports smooth transitions and student success?
- Learning Rounds on February 15 and Non-Instructional Day on Feb 16 included Dylan Wiliam, Jo Chrona, Denise Van Dalen, Carole Fullerton, and Bryan Gidinski
- HR and others have been busy with recruitment. We have been more successful having TTOC coverage this year but a number of positions to fill for coming year. HR is doing a fabulous job.
- Elders Posters – these are spectacular. More vibrant indicators of the work being done to make local Indigenous learning and culture part of everyday life in our schools.

- Thank you to Michelle Archie and Grant Gustafson for their work to have a signed LEA with Tsq̓éscēn First Nation.
- Superintendent van der Mark participated in *High Performance Systems for Tomorrow*: a global conversation on what is happening post pandemic. FNEC and BCTF were part of the session. Interesting conversation. It was noticed that the ability to create space to disagree respectfully is hard with social media a particularly challenging space.

January: [Superintendent's Report](#)

December: [Superintendent's Report](#)

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

January: [LINK for Report](#)

December: [Link for Report](#)

iii) **Education Committee: Trustee, Anne Kohut** (Mary Forbes reported)

January: [Link for Report](#)

December: [Link for Report](#)

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

January: There was no Policy meeting

December: [Link for Report](#)

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

Budget and Staff levels:

District Principal Grant Gustafson shared the targeted funds budget and an update on staffing levels, hours, cultural funding allocations.

Update that the ISW positions at Cataline and Dog Creek have been filled. FNEC members were encouraged to have candidates contact us regarding the posting that remains unfilled.

Use of surplus: FNEC supports temporary increase of some ISW hours for remainder of year

Discussion raised (CD) around how District Principal position funded as it is, and also re-opened a question of clerical staff role resulting from misperceptions about reference at previous meeting re: staffing related to IEC terms of reference. District reiterated that we would not be discussing this or specific roles until we see the new Terms of Reference. Currently we function under the existing TOR of the FNEC table.

There is no proposed impact on or discussion of SD27 staff.
Chair Montgomery reiterated the need to wait until we see terms of reference for IECs

IEC Discussion: IEC terms of reference will be reviewed when available

Orange shirt day:

\$1,500.00 per year is given to the Orange Shirt Society from SD27. The Orange Shirt Society puts the September 30th event on each year; however, it is not sustainable for them to do this every year. Last year was the 10-year event. They appreciate the \$1,500.00 per year. Discussion re: potential additional contribution from FNEC contribute

FNEC would like Phyllis Webstad to come and talk to FNEC about plans for next year's event.

Elder Program:

Education Coordinators asked to share names of elders who would be willing to go into the schools. Schools are always looking for elders to come forward to share culture.

Discussion on calling it "Knowledge Keeper Program" rather than Elder Program.

There was a request to have an outline of what the district's expectations of elders would be.

Grant to put together an outline of expectations.

Spending priorities: any ideas here? Discussion

Surplus:

We have already agreed to Skyline Medicine Wheel 20k.
Outdoor classroom at Lake City Secondary (WL) 50-200k.
Looking at school library resources.
Also looking for input on other ways to spend surplus that supports targeted students.
Please share ideas with Grant.

Discussion around Feeding Futures:

It was brought to attention that some bands are still being invoiced for all students.

Grant said he will follow up with Principals. It was outlined that Principals were given direction to not invoice any band for food services until they have communicated with Education Coordinators and identified students with needs who will be supported with Feeding Futures funds

There will be retroactive adjustments to the bands for this billing procedure.

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: Pam Kozak Seconded: Michelle Noskey

APPROVAL BY CONSENSUS

D. BUSINESS:

i) CULTURAL PROPOSALS:

1. Columnetza Jr. Secondary School: \$4,928.18

There was discussion on this cultural proposal:

CONSENSUS

2. Horse Lake Elementary School: \$500.00

There was discussion on this cultural proposal:

CONSENSUS

3. Grow Lac La Hache Proposal: \$3,043.33

There was discussion on this cultural proposal:

CONSENSUS

4. Cataline Elementary School: \$4,038.83

There was discussion on this cultural proposal:

CONSENSUS

5. Lake City Secondary School: \$2,145.50

There was discussion on this cultural proposal:

CONSENSUS

ii) **Data Review: Grant Gustafson**

Grant showed FNEC SD27 data:

Data shown included attendance rate, proficiency scale breakdown, letter grade breakdown, school wide write results, DART results, and graduation rates over 20-year period.

Attendance is a continuing concern and schools are implementing strategies from the FNEC attendance tool kit.

iii) **District Plan Priorities: Cheryl Lenardon**

Discussion around process for developing the new District Plan:

There will be numerous opportunities for public engagement. There are more than 85 feedback sessions to be held at the school and district levels including staff, students, parents, and caregivers, CCTA, IUOE, FNEC, DPAC. Individual feedback is also invited. Link on website.

See attached presentation with feedback from FNEC added in the meeting as it was provided.

Deputy Superintendent Lenardon encouraged FNEC members to see the website for information about our strategic plan including progress and success stories.

iv) **Harvesting Protocols – feedback discussion: Grant Gustafson**

This was brought forward at the last FNEC meeting for members to bring forward.

Concerns were brought forward over shared territories.

SD27 cannot be put in the middle of those debates.

Agreement that it is political and we need to leave it there.

Discussion around adding community contact to the document.

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

Deadline for applications (Form 1) was Friday, December 15, 2023. At that time, we received 28 applications. We are now at about 23 candidates as a few have dropped out.

*Essay Writing Workshop took place here in the boardroom on Jan. 19, 2024. Our facilitator once again was Robert Fahoum. He did a great job connecting with the students.

*Deadline for their Package and Form 2: Is March 8, 2024

*Currently working on a Public Speaking Workshop for the students. We hope to have a date set by next week.

Role Model Celebration: Principals really want us to not be too close to the graduation.

E. STUDENT LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT:

i) Annual Indigenous Peoples Day Poetry Contest: Tracy Hubner

Deadline was January 31, 2024. As of 4:30 Friday we had 478 entered and another huge pile to be entered yet.

ii) Focus Area Page Tour: Grant Gustafson

Grant shared the focus area page on the SD27 website. A few highlights:

- Columneetza Pow Wow – many schools participated.
- Pow Wow Dancing at 150 Mile Elementary and Cataline Elementary
- Playing Lahal at Chilcotin Road Elementary.
- Elder posters in all schools.

iii) School of Choice:

Bands reminded that if they have elected to change their catchment school to please communicate their wishes.

F. Close of Meeting:

Adjournment:

Recommended Motion – THAT the meeting of the First Nations Education Council dated February 5, 2024 be adjourned 2:14 pm.

Motion: Pamela Kozak

<p>Next FNEC meeting Monday, March 4, 2024 10:00 am until 3:00 pm Lunch Provided</p>
