

**FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION COUNCIL  
MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2024 10:00 am until 3:00 pm**

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**PARTICIPANTS IN PERSON:**

Chris van der Mark, Superintendent, SD27  
Cheryl Lenardon, Deputy Superintendent, SD27  
Grant Gustafson, District Principal Indigenous Education  
Tracy Hubner, Recording Secretary  
Rosalie Montgomery, Yunešit'in Government  
Lacey-Dawn Testawich, Cariboo Chilcotin Teachers Association  
Keegan Follack, A/Education Coordinator, Xatšúll 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  
Calvin Dubray, Education Director, Esk'etemc  
Loretta Wiengart, Education Portfolio, Esk'etemc  
Agnes William, Xeni Gwet'in First Nation  
Mabelene Leon, Ulkatchot'en (Ulkatcho First Nation)  
Mary Forbes, Trustee SD27  
Joy Holte, Education Director, Ulkatchot'en (Ulkatcho First Nation)  
Sue Sim, President IUOE

**PARTICIPANTS ON-LINE:**

Dora Grinder, A/Education Coordinator, Tšideldel First Nation  
Marlene Swears, Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Assoc.  
Dawna Short, Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Association  
Shirley Diablo, Education Coordinator, Tl'esqox

**NOT AVAILABLE:**

Latisha Kirechuk, Chair, District PAC SD27  
Audrey Sinclair, Educ. Assist. ʔEsdilagh First Nation  
Gail Bittner, Ulkatchot'en (Ulkatcho First Nation)  
Catherine Groundwater, Education Coordinator Esk'etemc  
Michelle Archie, Educ. Sr. Mgr. Tsq̓ésceñ First Nation  
Kimberley Ikebucchi, Principal Tatla Lake Elem./Jr. Secondary School  
Linda Scales, A/Education Coordinator Tl'esqox (Toosey Band)  
Harold Duncan, Alternate Educ. Coord. Stswecem'c/Xget'tem First Nation (Canoe Creek/Dog Creek Band)  
Louise Harry, Educ. Director, Stswecem'c/Xget'tem First Nation  
Craig Munroe, Principal 150 Mile Elementary School (unable to attend)

**A. Call to Order: Rosalie Montgomery, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:09 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 provided a traditional opening.

**iii) Introductions:** Introductions were done.

**B. AGENDA & PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

**Review/Additions/Deletions to the Agenda for March 4, 2024**

**Motion** – THAT the First Nations Education Council adopt the agenda of its meeting dated March 4, 2024, as circulated.

**Moved:** Pamela Kozak

**Seconded:** Laceydawn Testawich

**Review/Approval of the Minutes of the February 5, 2024 Meeting:**

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

**Moved:** Pamela Kozak

**Seconded:** Laceydawn Testawich

**C. REPORTS:**

**i) Superintendent's Report: Chris van der Mark**

[Superintendent report slideshow.pptx](#)

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

February Report: [Feb Mtg Link](#)

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

February Report: no meeting in February.

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

February Report: [Policy Meeting February](#)

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

District Principal Gustafson showed the updated staffing allocations to FNEC. Additional hours were allocated out as approved in February FNEC meeting.

FNEC member (CD) raised the question of funding the District Principal position with targeted dollars. There was no recommendation from FNEC.

Tsilhqot'in Language teacher posted at both campuses and Carrier Language Teacher at Anahim Lake and Secwepemc Language Teacher for Dog Creek. FNEC members were encouraged to share posting to potential candidates.

Marie Sharpe Indigenous Support Worker position filled effective March 4, 2024.

Next year's staffing will be discussed at the April meeting.

Skyline Outdoor project update: we are meeting with the contractor next week.

Spending of surplus: please bring your ideas to the table.

District Principal Gustafson suggested that we could have an elder feast to get elders into the schools.

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

**Moved: Joy Holte**

**Seconded: Keegan Follack**

**APPROVAL BY CONSENSUS**

**Special Presentations:**

**District Principal Gustafson shared Tatla Lake's presentation for Principal Kimberley Ikebuchi.**

**Craig Munroe, Principal from 150 Mile Elementary School: unable to attend – Rescheduled for April's meeting.**

**D. BUSINESS:**

**i) CULTURAL PROPOSALS:**

**There were no proposals submitted for this meeting.**

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

- \* Public Speaking Workshop March 1, 2024, was facilitated by Kaylee Billyboy.
- \* Deadline for the Candidate's Package and Form 2: is March 8, 2024
- \* Role Model Selections: Possibly following April 8<sup>th</sup> FNEC meeting and the next day.

Role Model celebration date confirmed as Thursday, May 23 at 4:30 pm at Lake City Secondary Campus.

iii) **Elder Knowledge Keeper description: Grant Gustafson**

District Principal Gustafson shared an initial draft of expectation for Knowledge Keepers.

There was discussion on what should be included in a document to guide Knowledge Keepers and schools.

District Principal Gustafson will bring forward a draft at the April meeting incorporating the suggestions including the separation of any requirements from activities and responsibilities.

Grant to revise with input and bring back to FNEC in April.

iv) **Update on IEC and LEA:**

See Superintendent Report.

v) **BCTEA Information: Grant Gustafson**

Review of provincial reporting templates.

Review of BCTEA required forms.

Asked Education Coordinators to be thinking about transportation concerns for any of their students.

**E. STUDENT LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT:**

i) **Attendance Report update: Grant Gustafson**

Review of FNESC attendance tool kit being used by schools and discussion about how Education Coordinators can work with schools to support improved attendance.

ii) **Annual Indigenous Peoples Day Poetry Contest: Tracy Hubner**

Deadline was January 31, 2024. A total of 715 Poems were received. The most ever. Winners are receiving gift cards for bookstores both in Williams Lake and 100 Mile House.

Honorable Mention students receive a book from us.

Teachers with a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Place winner receive indigenous books for their classroom.

**iii) Focus Area Page Tour: Grant Gustafson**

District Principal Gustafson shared the focus page entries on screen and encouraged members to review posts under the Indigenous culture tab on the SD27 website.

**iv) Equity in Action: Ministry production**

Viewed 'Equity in Action' videos from Ministry of Education. Video used as steppingstone to providing feedback to district's Strategic Plan.

**v) Graduation 2024: dates shared.**

Lake City Secondary Graduation: June 7, 2024

Peter Skene Ogden Secondary: June 14, 2024

**F. Close of Meeting:**

**Adjournment:**

**Recommended Motion** – THAT the meeting of the First Nations Education Council dated March 4, 2024 be adjourned 1:57 pm.

**Motion:** Mabelene Leon

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Provided by Melanie Johnny

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Next FNEC meeting Monday, April 8, 2024</b> <b>10:00 am until 3:00 pm</b> <b>Lunch Provided</b></p>
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