



School District #28  
Aboriginal Education Centre  
241 Kinchant St  
Quesnel, BC V2J 2R3  
250-991-5550

**Aboriginal Education Council Meeting**

Date: March 13, 2024

Location: ?Esdilagh, #4,423 Elliott Street

Time: 9:12 a.m.

**In attendance:**

Lori Donald	Metis Association
Terri Boyd	Lhtako Red Bluff Band
Audrey Sinclair	?Esdilagh
Dorine Green	Quesnel Friendship Center
Doreen L'Hirondelle	SD 28 Aboriginal Education Principal
Julie-Anne Runge	School Trustee
Dan Lowndes	Superintendent of Schools
Tania Black	Casual - Aboriginal Ed Secretary

Acknowledgement of Lhtako Dene Territory: We acknowledge we are meeting on the traditional territory of the Lhtako Dene.

Prayer – Terri Boyd

Introductions

**AGENDA**

- Review of Agenda items
- Review minutes of January 10, 2024  
**Motion** to approve: Dorine Green. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Lori Donald passed

**Debrief Indigenous Focus Day – February 2, 2024**

- Total cost: \$22,101.18
- Feedback/Evaluations: Were overall very positive. Feedback from principals and district staff is that there was there was lots of learning that was well-received and lots of involvement. Dan Lowndes states IFD was amazing. Dan also notes that IFD has shifted from high level learning to a more involved local and cultural learning opportunity.
- Doreen noted that everyone was pleased with Kevin as a presenter.

### **Audit from two schools (Aboriginal Education follow-up)**

- Overall a positive audit. Summary that the changes recommended are mainly about documentation.

#### Strengths:

- Dan states that the audit thought that the “wrap around support” at the schools and the direct support to students
- Doreen prepared and provided a whole binder of content to the auditors.
- Positive spotlight on the student support structures.
- Discussion of new initiatives will happen at the next ‘how we’re doing’ meeting.

#### Weaknesses:

- Improve documentation of student services.
- Update and change some forms. i.e. parental consent form for services should have an ‘opt out’ option and be done each school year. The consent is currently done once for the K-7 years and once again for the grade 8-12.
- AIM should focus more on student services provided and should not include meetings or other admin tasks. Attendance for student activities should be included for services provided re: culture, academic and social/emotional supports.

### **Aboriginal Education update:**

- a) Video – Indigenous focus Day – February 2, 2024
  - Excellent video of the IFD activities. Doreen initiated so that there would be a record of the day and all of the efforts. Doreen would like to see it made available to view on the Aboriginal Education SD28 website. Produced by Shattered Lens productions.
  - Dan enquired if the video could be shared more widely. All council members in agreement. The video will be shared with Dan Lowndes for a presentation at the school board meeting on March 13, 2024
- b) Attendance initiative:
  - Looking at an attendance module. Doreen is working on a term of reference for the initiative. This will be developed after spring break.
- c) Budget update
  - April meeting – approval – targeted funds (Jennifer Woollends). Jennifer will come to the April meeting to discuss requests for funds to support postings in district and assist in discussion for budget decision making.
  - Doreen questioned if council would like to see a more detailed statement of revenue and expenses at meeting. The overall discussion concluded that more detail would be helpful, especially for next year’s potential new council. This is for members to have a grasp on what the normal is for expenditures.
  - Bill 40. Dan has commented that he understands changes are coming for Indigenous council. He has not heard any definite details but states that it sounds like there is going to be shift to more community level empowerment on

the council. Note that a more detailed Rev/Exp report will be helpful information through any transition that may happen.

#### **Request from QDTA and CUPE Presidents to attend AEC**

- Discussion. Council considers it positive and gratifying that CUPE and BCTA representatives are interested and would like to ensure that their communication to their members is appropriate.
- Julie-Anne states that perhaps a different way to meet their needs and to provide more regular information and updates to the stakeholders. Improved communication to QDTA and CUPE may fulfill their needs.
- Doreen notes that it will not always be appropriate for them to be included in meetings and it may be difficult to gauge ahead of time which meetings they will have to be excused from to avoid a conflict of interest.
- Dan notes that their role as CUPE and QCTA representatives is to advocate for their members. This representation on Council will likely not be a good fit for upcoming changes to Council structure in the next school year. Terri is unsure but doesn't think so either.
- Consensus by Council to deny the request.
- Dan will respond to Dawn Rodger and Jeanette Beauvillier of the decision of Council.
- AEC is not really the appropriate vehicle for gathering of information.

#### **Request: ESD Teacher position – Human Rights Exemption**

- SD28 would like permission to hire a non-indigenous teacher to fill vacant ESD position which is under targeted funding. This would only be for the remainder of this school year.
- *Discussion:* Efforts have been made in and out of district to hire an Indigenous ESD teacher. Consensus is that the priority is to fill the position for this school year so students have the support that they need.
- *Motion:* Dorine Greene "That council will support the hire of a non-Indigenous person to fill the ESD position for the remainder of the school year". Audrey Sinclair seconded. All in Favour.

#### **Video: Equity in Action: Moving Forward Together – Ministry of Ed. and Child Care**

- Powerful video. This is accessible to view on the Ministry of Education and Child Care website.
- *Discussion:* Dan states that SD28 was one of the first school districts to participate in Equity in Action and now all school districts are participating in some way.

## Other items

- *Nuxalk Dakelh Grease Trail Educational Resource*. Doreen was involved in the development of the resource. It will be used in a pilot in SD28 by 5 teachers next year.
- SD 28 has the copyright so it can be used assessed and changed as teachers work with it in their classes.

## Community Updates

### ?Esdilagh:

- Staff turnover, looking for a new band manager. There had been a few events happening, such as during the first week of spring break we were hoping a “spring break science week” in the town office location. There has been some “crock pot cooking” being planned, this will consist of learning to cook healthy meals that they get to take home, and after competing a few different meals/weeks (from my understanding) they’ll be able to take the crock pot home to keep. There were a couple youth that will attend the Empowering Our Youth conference in Kelowna during the second week of spring break. We also had an opportunity to have Maggie come to teach us some medicine making. We also have an Easter egg hunt planned

### Métis:

- Received a Community Wellness Grant, this was used towards the cost of a Bannock workshop and a Tea Workshop with Sharron Primeau.
- There will be a garage sale held on March 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Genealogy – Family History Fair hopefully to happen near the end of April.
- 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Community Event - Dinner and Dance at Barlow Creek Hall at 5:30pm

### Friendship Centre:

- Amy Robertson will be doing birch basket workshops. High demand and her workshops fill up before it can even go out to the public.
- Tammy Burrows and Dorine Greene will facilitate an Elder / Youth ‘Spring into Health’ workshop on March 20,21,22. Lunch provided. The workshop will cover breathwork to reduce anxiety etc., nutrition, and healthy movement. A DJ mix of Elder and Youth songs is expected to be well received. Dorine will have a poster out by the end of the day.
- Tony has suggested to start a plan for Indigenous people day – recruiting is in the works for committee members

Trustee:

- Julie Ann the winter games used many SD28 school buildings, everyone was very respectful and it was the biggest sleepover ever. The opening video is amazing, it's available online for viewing. AGM is set for April 2024 and Denise Augustine is the speaker.
- Started information on the budget process, re: information gathering.
- Spring Break – Capital projects are in schools
- AGM is set for the north west trustees

Lhtako/Red Bluff:

- The Youth Groups and afterschool programs/snacks are going over well, counsellors are seeing changes in children.
- The grand opening of the Arbor and Pow Wow will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> August at the new site. There will be 6 professional drummers and 2 local drummers. Poster should be out soon. Preparing areas for camping, portable washroom facilities & showers. There will be security onsite – there will be some security training for the Pow Wow.
- Winter Games went very well, great feedback
- Terri has requested speakers for “Bullying in Schools”, possible elders/RCMP. There have been 3 incidents in the last week, is it possible to have Terri or chief speak with the school team. Doreen will speak with Terri about this, get more information and make a plan.
- 2 new councillor positions will be up in April.

Round Table – RE: Grave Error Book:

- Book circulating in community about residential schools being not true. Received a copy at DAO requesting to teach the truth. Chair, Vice Chair & Ministry are brainstorming how to deal with this. Meet with Lhatko, may have negative impacts, not sure how to respond yet.
- Terri is against this book and she will be writing a letter to the City of Quesnel mayor and Council.
- Dan stated the School district looking in to it collectively, before responding. Start with a meeting with Lhatko Red Bluff Band.
- Dan - Book by Grave Error, is circulating, have talked to the ministry and other school districts of how to move forward, Dan will respond on behalf of SD28
- Continue talks at new council meeting

Adjournment: 11:17AM

**Next AEC meeting April 17<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00AM**

**Location: Aboriginal Education Centre Room 303**