



# Indigenous Education Council (IEC)

## Meeting Minutes

April 10th, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.

DSBN Education Centre, 191 Carlton St., St. Catharines

### Participants:

- Community, Students, Parents & Guardians: 15
- Tehahenteh
- DSBN Indigenous Education Department Staff: 4
- Marianne Groat, Student Achievement Leader for Indigenous Education, Curriculum
- Kirsty Howie, Student Achievement Leader for Indigenous Education, Well-Being
- Ann Gilmore, Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well Being
- Marian Reimer Friesen, Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well Being
- Alison Vegh, Administrative Assistant

### 1. Welcome

Marianne Groat, Student Achievement Leader for Indigenous Education, welcomed and thanked everyone for participating in the meeting.

### 2. Traditional Opening

The session was opened by Tehahenteh

### 3. Introductions

An Anishinabek Nation calendar and the Ted Nolan book "Life in Two Worlds" were presented to attendees.

Kirsty Howie led the group in a sharing circle, to allow attendees to meet and know each other better.

### 4. Indigenous Student Trustee Update - Clayton Mishibinijima & Dale McKay

Clayton and Dale spoke about their recent trip to Camp Olympia with the Indigenous Student Leadership group. They shared feedback from these students about what they felt was going well in schools such as regular use of the Land Acknowledgement, FNMI clubs, and staff support for creating community among Indigenous students. They also shared some places where improvements could be made, including supporting staff to pronounce Indigenous words properly.

### 5. Feedback Summary

At the last in-person meeting, participants were asked to provide feedback on a variety of topics including visual representation, opportunities for students in community, and future meeting structure. Marianne Groat gave a brief overview of the responses received and invited

participants to provide further input into two topics: Parent engagement and programming for Indigenous students.

To support table discussions, Student Achievement Leader for Indigenous Well-Being, Kirsty Howie, and Superintendent Ann Gilmore shared that suggestions from previous meetings focused on specialized programs for Indigenous students. They requested feedback on the potential benefits, concerns, or input to help guide the next steps in exploring the creation of a program tailored specifically for Indigenous students with smaller participant numbers.

At the May meeting, a summary of IEC feedback from this and previous meetings will be shared as we look towards plans for the 2025-2026 school year.

**6. General Updates**

**Board Action Plan (BAP) Update** – Marianne Groat invited anyone that has an interest in being part of a BAP sub committee to sign up or email her.

**Student Achievement Action Plan (SAP)** – Superintendent Marian Reimer Friesen shared the Ministry of Education reporting structure for all Ontario school boards as they work toward improvement goals. The new DSBN SAP will be posted to the board website on April 30, 2025: [link](#). Feedback is welcome and encouraged, using the digital feedback form, email, or by sharing at the next IEC meeting.

**7. Future Meetings:**

An invitation will be sent out for the upcoming virtual meeting on Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

**8. Traditional Closing**

The session was closed by Tehahenteh

**9. Meeting adjourned at 7:25p.m.**