



# Indigenous Education Council (IEC)

Meeting Minutes

February 13th, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.

[Virtual Meeting](#)

## Participants:

- Community, Students, Parents & Guardians: 10
- Marianne Groat, Student Achievement Leader for Indigenous Education, Curriculum
- Kirsty Howie, Student Achievement Leader for Indigenous Education, Well-Being
- Georgie Groat, Retired Student and Achievement Leader and External Consultant
- Ann Gilmore, Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well Being
- Marian Reimer Friesen, Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well Being
- Alison Vegh, Administrative Assistant

## Regrets: Tehahenteh

### 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 Kirsty Howie, DSBN Student Achievement Leader for Indigenous Education, Well-Being

### 3. Introductions

Marianne Groat introduced the DSBN staff participating in the meeting.

An update on roles within the Indigenous Education team was provided. Kirsty Howie was congratulated on her appointment to the role of Student Achievement Leader for Indigenous Education, Well-Being. Working with Superintendent Ann Gilmore, Kirsty will work along side the wellness team (e.g., Indigenous Supports Advisor, Social Worker, Re-engagement Coach) offering support to students and families.

Marianne Groat will continue in the role of Board Lead and Student Achievement Leader for Indigenous Education with a focus on Ministry priorities (e.g., Board Action Plan), Community connections, professional development and curriculum. Marianne will be working with Superintendent Marian Reimer Friesen.

### 4. Indigenous Student Trustee Update - Clayton Mishibinijima

Clayton discussed a recent RISE Up symposium hosted by the DSBN Equity and Inclusion team for secondary students, highlighting its focus on inclusion and diversity. He noted the

excellent student leaders and the positive experience from the event.

## 5. Board Action Plan for Indigenous Education

Georgie Groat, retired Student and Achievement Leader and External Consultant, addressed the Board Action Plan (BAP). This plan is based on Ministry templates and funding models and provides a place for DSBN to capture work happening in our board. DSBN work aligns with provincial requirements, the DSBN Strategic Plan priority “Walking Together”, and input from the IEC, students and families.

All Boards are required to have a board action plan that grows over time, and thus the initiatives do not change significantly from year to year. Rather, the depth of the work grows in response to feedback and needs. This year’s work is based on input from the IEC in past years as well as suggestions put forth by students, families, and community.

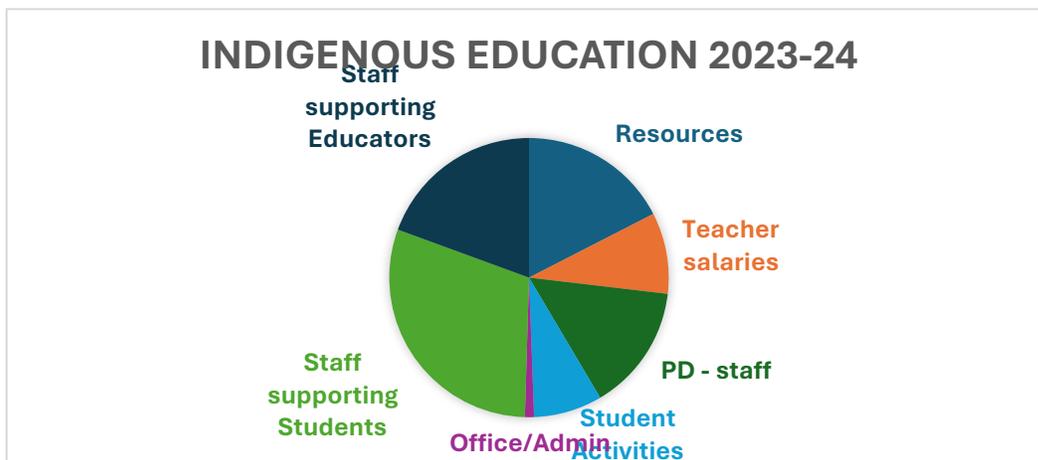
DSBN falls under three broad categories:

- Indigenous Education Council
- Student Wellness
- System Support

The DSBN initiatives are:

- Supporting First Nations, Inuit & Metis Students
- Engaging with Community (families, organizations & treaty partners)
- Supporting Educators & Staff
- Supporting all Students
- Using Data
- Staffing

The Ministry of Education also requires a yearly submission of financial transactions related to BAP funding. Georgie presented a pie chart to show how the 2023-2024 funds were spent, breaking down broad sections to help IEC participants visualize the spending (i.e., resources includes authentic books and materials, art supplies, supports for families to remove barriers, staffing to support both educators and students, etc.).



Any interested IEC participants can email [Georgie.groat@dsbn.org](mailto:Georgie.groat@dsbn.org) to join a sub-committee to talk more in depth about the BAP and ongoing initiatives.

**6. Feedback Process**

Georgie will resend the feedback form from the December meeting for those who would like to add their thoughts to the questions we discussed, and I will also send a separate form around tonight's meeting. Please reach out to Kirsty or Marianne if you have any questions.

**7. Future Meetings:**

An invitation will be sent out for the upcoming meeting in April

Date	Virtual/In-person
Thursday April 10, 2025 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.	In-person @ DSBN Education Centre, 191 Carlton Street St. Catharines
Thursday May 29, 2025 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.	Virtual

**8. Traditional Closing**

The session was closed by Kirsty Howie

**9. Meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.**