



Indigenous Education Council (IEC)

Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.

In-Person Meeting

Participants:

- Parents/Guardians and Community Members: Anne Potter, Annette Marcon, Jean-Jacques Séguin, Katherine Warwick, Nicole Leween, Amanda Karle, Meghan Hines
- Tehahenteh – Indigenous Elder - Six Nations
- DSBN Indigenous Education Team: Emily Bernicky, Sheila Maracle, Feather Kearns, Corry Carter, Angelica Hill, Scott Lasher, Marianne Groat, Kirsty Howie
- Georgie Groat, External Consultant
- Ann Gilmore & Marian Reimer Friesen, Superintendents of Student Achievement & Well Being
- Alison Végh & Trisha Miller, Administrative Assistants

1. Welcome

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

2. Opening

The session was opened by Bennett Potter

3. Community Circle

The IEC committee gathered in a circle and shared what they were thankful for, described a “star” moment in their lives and something they wished for.

4. Indigenous Student Trustee and Leadership Team Update

On behalf of the student leadership team, Kirsty shared updates on recent events. This year, more than 54 self-identified students from 14 schools have registered to take part in the Indigenous Student Leadership Team. A recent team building session was well attended and enjoyed by the group. Grades 7 & 8 students took part in the annual Youth Symposium, engaging in leadership learning and Haudenosaunee Social Dancing. Participation grew significantly this year, with 51 elementary schools and 179 Indigenous students attending over the two-day event – nearly double last year’s numbers.

5. IEC Website Feedback

A feedback summary was presented to the group following their suggestions from the last meeting for improving the external website for Indigenous Education.

We will work towards:

- Making it easier to navigate
- Clarifying how to access support
- Explaining self-identification better
- Showcase programs and supports
- Strengthen community connections
- Provide a feedback/questions option

6. DSBN Board Action Plan

a. 2024/2025 Update

The 2024/2025 BAP is completed, has been reviewed, signed and submitted to the Ministry of Education.

b. 2025/2026 Overview

This year we will continue to share and ask for feedback on the Board Action Plan (BAP). All Ontario school boards are required to create a BAP to support the development and implementation of the First Nation, Métis and Inuit Policy Framework.

In the 2025/2026 BAP framework, there are 4 primary focus areas:

- i. Supporting Students
- ii. Supporting Educators
- iii. Engagement and Awareness Building
- iv. Supporting Indigenous Education Planning

Initiatives for the 2025-2026 BAP were shared with the group for feedback and suggestions.

7. Closing

The session was closed by Bennett Potter

8. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Future Meetings

- ❖ **Thursday February 19th, 2026**, virtual – 5:30p.m. – 6:30p.m.
- ❖ **Thursday April 16th, 2026**, at the DSBN Education Centre. 5:30p.m. – 7:00p.m.
- ❖ **Thursday June 4th, 2026**, at the DSBN Education Centre. 5:30p.m. – 7:00p.m.