



Indigenous Education Council (IEC)

Meeting Minutes

October 9th, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.

In-Person Meeting

Participants:

- Parents/Guardians and Community Members: Anne Potter, Annette Marcon, Heather McLean, Jackie Labonte, Jamie Homer, Jean-Jacques Séguin, Katherine Warwick, Krystal Brant, Larissa Deschamps, Nicole Leween, Peter Engels, Richard Haraszti
- Additional Participants (e.g., Community Members and Students): 8
- DSBN Indigenous Education Team: Emily Bernicky, Sheila Maracle, Feather Kearns, 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 & Marian Reimer Friesen, Superintendents 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. Opening

The session was opened by Barrett Dockstator followed by a time when all participants gathered in a circle to share two or three words that described them.

3. Honourarium Update

The DSBN values the presence and participation of community members as a part of the Indigenous Education Council. Policy A -07: Expense Allowances for Members of Board Advisory Committees was recently updated to include the Indigenous Education Council. Superintendents Ann Gilmore and Marian Reimer Friesen shared the following:

- To respect your time and commitment, new this year, community members will be provided with an honourarium in the amount of \$25 per meeting attended (does not apply to DSBN staff or students)
- At the end of the school year, the payment will be made based on the attendance as reflected in the meeting minutes
- If anyone is facing any barriers to participating, please do not hesitate to reach out so we can take reasonable steps to help accommodate you

4. Team Introductions

Marianne Groat recognized the Indigenous Education team and introduced Georgie Groat, retired Student and Achievement Leader and External Consultant.

5. IEC Updates

Georgie welcomed both new and returning members and gave a brief history of IEC from its establishment in 2008. Georgie provided updates on IEC which are highlighted in point 5 and 6 below. She encouraged members to reach out for a more detailed recap or to discuss any of the past work of the IEC, to email Georgia.groat@dsbn.org

6. Indigenous Student Trustee and Leadership Team Update

Student voice is central to the IEC. September 2025 marks the fourth year of DSBN's Indigenous Student Leadership Group. Last year, student reps shared their experiences, needs, and ideas for improvement. We also introduced the restructured IEC, designed to reflect and respond to student perspectives. Their feedback continues to shape our work and will guide us moving forward.

This year there are more than 36 self-identified students from 14 schools who have registered to take part in this group. This year's Indigenous Student Trustee is Barrett Dockstator, and the Co-chairs of the Indigenous Student Rep group are Illyana Hildago and Kyla Sandy.

Barrett spoke to the group regarding his role as student trustee. The student leaders shared that the group is looking forward to their first meeting October 28th. Barrett also spoke about the upcoming Gr. 7/8 Youth Symposium and the recent evening with the Three Nolans. Kyla introduced herself to the group and that she is looking forward to helping Barrett with the DSBN Indigenous Student group.

Georgie thanked the student leader for their passion, commitment.

7. Indigenous Education Council 2024-2025 Year in Review

Georgie provided the group with a summary of the 2024-2025 school year, highlighting how the input from students, families, community organizations, and staff, supported a reimagined **Indigenous Education Council (IEC)** placing student voice at the centre. Discussions focused on revitalizing these meetings by shifting from Robert's Rules to a First Nations governance model rooted in consensus. Last year's group shared valuable insights on Indigenous education in our school board, including:

- ❖ **Representation:** Desire for Indigenous identity to be visible in schools through displays, authentic resources, curriculum integration, etc.
- ❖ **Student Opportunities:** Interest in a variety of opportunities such as drum circles, workshops, youth nights, and board-wide events, especially for younger students
- ❖ **Parent Engagement:** Need for more resources and opportunities to support families
- ❖ **Programming Feedback:** Continued opportunities for input into Indigenous student programs

- ❖ **Communication & Connection:** Request for a community message board to share events, opportunities, and strengthen ties with Friendship Centres

Georgie shared that the work of the Indigenous Education Council (IEC) aligns closely with DSBN's Strategic Plan to *Redefine Excellence*, particularly the Walking Together priority. This priority emphasizes the importance of Indigenous education and voice, and commits to reconciliation by:

- ❖ Honouring Indigenous rights, identities, and perspectives
- ❖ Supporting student well-being
- ❖ Amplifying Indigenous voices
- ❖ Sharing historical truths to drive lasting change

8. Board Action Plan Update

This year we will continue to share and ask for feedback on the Board Action Plan.

Board action plans (BAP) for Indigenous Education are created in all school boards to support the development and implementation of the First Nation, Métis and Inuit Policy Framework.

All Boards are required to have a board action plan that represents the work we are doing with students; educators and the initiatives being funded. If anyone is interested, we would welcome the formation of a sub-committee to discuss the BAP further. This will be included on the IEC feedback form. Georgie can be reached by email – Georgia.groat@dsbn.org

June Goal for IEC

To provide IEC with the opportunity to advise, consult and collaborate on how best to support Indigenous students and improve Indigenous student outcomes, while also supporting the board to identify community issues that might impact Indigenous education.

June Goal for DSBN Team

To use feedback from IEC to further develop board priorities and initiatives including student programming, supporting educators, and embedding indigenous content in curriculum.

9. IEC Discussion and Feedback

Georgie reviewed the conversation guidelines for discussions and feedback.

The Guidelines developed for discussions were reviewed:

- ❖ Create a space where everyone feels **valued** and **safe**
- ❖ Be **curious** and open to different perspectives
- ❖ Hold space for **diverse voices** and **rich discussion**
- ❖ Focus on **current needs** and **future goals**

Tables engaged in an exploration of the DSBN Indigenous Education Website, with an invitation to provide feedback on ways the site could be improved for parents and community. Feedback regarding updates to the external website was gathered and will be collated and discussed at upcoming meetings.

10. Future Meetings for IEC 2025-2026

- ❖ **Thursday November 20th , 2025**, at the DSBN Education Centre. 5:30p.m. – 7:00p.m.
- ❖ **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. ****Please note change from date announced at the meeting.**

11. Closing

The session was closed by Barret Dockstator

12. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.