	stqaʔtxʷɬn'iwt sqilxʷⁱ **WESTBANK FIRST NATION** #301 – 515 Highway 97 South Kelowna, B.C. V1Z 3J2 Phone: (250) 769-4999 Fax: (250) 769-4377 www.wfn.ca *Community. Leadership. Pride.*	**MINUTES** **sənsísyustən** **SCHOOL BOARD** **sʔaslásq̓t, míktúʔtin (Tuesday, May) 19, 2026**

The Meeting took place at Sensisyusten School and via Zoom.

SCHOOL BOARD:

Emma Dovell
Hailey Causton
Eden Derickson
Sara Tronson
Rose Lube

STAFF:

Denise Clough	Director of Community Services
Joanne De Guevara	Principal
Andrea Kenzie	Governance Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER	**Agenda is attached to these minutes as Exhibit "A."**
	Called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.
NEW BUSINESS	
	Approval of Minutes skɨxʷíẇs, sknír'mn (Monday, February) 23, 2026
	FY2027 School Budget Presentation **Supporting Documents attached to these minutes as EXHIBIT "B."**

	Discussion:
	• Andy, Finance Manager, presented the proposed FY2027 school budget.
	• Projected revenue for FY2027 is approximately $969,000.
	• Projected expenditures are approximately $2.5 million.
	• Approximately $1.6 million is expected to be transferred from WFN to support the school budget.
	• The budget is expected to result in a small year-end surplus of approximately $54,000–$57,000.
	• Projected revenue includes approximately:
	  ○ $566,000 from the Province of British Columbia;
	  ○ $155,000 for special education;

	○ $122,000 for language and culture; ○ $105,000 in interest revenue; and ○ $20,000 from the Government of Canada. • The School Board discussed the increase in special education funding. It was explained that funding is based largely on student numbers and student needs. • Current student enrollment was noted to be approximately 76 students, which helps account for the increase in funding compared with previous years. • Finance confirmed that the budget figures had been reviewed and discussed with school staff, including Joanne and the financial analyst. • Projected expenditures include approximately: ○ $1.8 million for administration; ○ $248,000 for special education; ○ $196,000 for language and culture; ○ $113,000 for the school bus; ○ $27,000 for School Board expenses; and ○ depreciation associated with computers and minor furniture/equipment. • It was confirmed that the school bus costs are fully reflected in the school budget, with corresponding revenue transferred to cover the expenditure. • WFN transfers include approximately $1.2 million for administration, $164,000 for special education, and $74,000 for language and culture. • Language and culture funding is supported through a combination of external funding and WFN funding, as available external funding is not sufficient to cover the full program. • The Board asked whether it was required to formally approve the annual budget. • It was clarified that the budget is presented to the School Board for information and proceeds through the appropriate WFN/Council process. The Board's involvement is generally greater where additional or special funding is requested outside of the regular school budget. • It was noted that the projected surplus provides a small contingency and that additional grants may also be accessed throughout the year to offset program costs.

DIRECTION	• The School Board received the FY2027 School Budget presentation for information.
	Staffing Update **No Supporting Documents**
	Discussion: • Joanne advised that Brent Szucs submitted his resignation from his full-time teaching position to spend more time with family. • Brent has been with the school for several years and has developed strong relationships with students and the school community. • Although leaving his full-time position, he expressed an interest in remaining connected to the school, including potentially returning as a Teacher on Call or volunteering when opportunities arise. • A teacher position has been posted and there are currently applicants. • The posting closes Sunday. • Joanne circulated updated interview questions to the Board. • The interview questions were adjusted slightly, including the addition of a question regarding trauma-informed training and practice. • Staff currently meet every second week to discuss trauma-informed practices, common approaches, and how these practices apply specifically within the school and community. • The Board discussed the Elder's involvement on interview panels. • Rose will be the first person contacted for the Elder seat on school-related interview panels. If she is unavailable, Joanne will connect with the Board regarding an alternate representative. • Rebecca, a previous teacher/student teacher, was discussed as a potential candidate. • Board members recalled her positively and noted her previous work with students. • Joanne agreed to reach out to Rebecca, if current contact information is available, to determine whether she may be interested in applying.
	Principals Report

	Supporting Documents attached to these minutes as EXHIBIT "C."

	Discussion:
	• Joanne provided the Principal's Report and highlighted current school activities and initiatives.
	• Swimming programming for Kindergarten to Grade 3 recently concluded.
	• Students continue to participate in on-the-land programming and upcoming outdoor activities.
	• Staff language learning continues each Monday afternoon and is mandatory for staff.
	• The current language focus is on practical words and phrases relating to classrooms and the school environment so staff can use the language more consistently throughout the school day.
	• Language learning has been game-based and has also provided an opportunity for staff development and team building.
	• Discussions have begun regarding potential collaborative work to develop additional language and cultural resources.
	• Funding has been secured for the new outdoor cultural space in the former portable area.
	• The proposed cultural space will include features such as:
	  ○ a covered fire area;
	  ○ grass/open space for activities such as archery;
	  ○ covered work areas;
	  ○ space for fish preparation and other cultural activities; and
	  ○ areas where students can participate in land-based and traditional learning.
	• The project has gone to tender and the school is waiting to determine contractor interest and a potential start date.
	• The hope is for construction to begin during the summer, subject to the tender process and scheduling.
	• Planning continues for the Siya event on June 18.
	• The event is being scaled back compared with previous years, with a stronger focus on children and families rather than vendors.
	• Two school staff members are participating in the

	planning alongside other WFN departments/groups. • The school's PAC has been particularly active this year, with approximately 10 members participating when there is full attendance. • The Board acknowledged the significant work being done by PAC members. • Potential PAC training opportunities were discussed, including available governance funding that may be used for eligible PAC training. • Information regarding an upcoming Indigenous-focused training opportunity was discussed and will be circulated to PAC members despite the short notice. • The school's partnership with the RCMP continues to be positive. • RCMP members have maintained a regular presence at the school, including participating in morning Circle, visiting students during breakfast, preparing lunch approximately once per month, and providing safety-related presentations. • RCMP have also provided programming with older students relating to drug and alcohol awareness. • RCMP-supported after-school programming for girls and boys included activities such as games and cooking. • UBCO students recently toured the school and learned about the school and its programming. • Representatives from the Child and Youth Advocacy Centre also toured the school and discussed their services and potential opportunities for partnership. • Further discussion would be required regarding confidentiality and how a potential partnership would operate. • PAC recently hosted a school dance, which was well received by students. • PAC purchased speakers that can be used for future events. • Consideration was given to holding another dance around Halloween, potentially allowing broader participation. • PAC also held a flower fundraiser and generated funds through the dance/concession activities. • PAC is preparing its annual report and has elected

	positions for the upcoming year. • The school's soccer team has started under Coach Brent. • Brent's contribution to school sports, including basketball and soccer, was acknowledged. • Staff have indicated an interest in continuing school sports programming, and Brent may remain involved as a volunteer after leaving his full-time position. • Transition planning is underway for Grade 5 and Grade 6 students moving to the next school. • Students have participated in a school tour and staff are working with the receiving school to support students who may require additional transition assistance. • Staff continue participating in bi-weekly trauma-informed practice discussions to develop common language and consistent approaches when supporting student behaviour. • Work is also being done to localize these practices and connect them with the school's cultural values and approach. • Students have participated in significant on-the-land programming, including harvesting traditional plants and working with sage. • Students participated in the May 7 fish release ceremony involving sockeye salmon and kokanee fry. • Language and culture staff completed an all-day archery workshop and are now certified to provide archery programming with students. • UBCO's Science Department continues to provide the Geering Up program, with science activities connected to grade-level curriculum. • Older students also toured the UBCO campus. • The school recently hosted Ready, Set, Learn for incoming Kindergarten students and families. • Community Services, speech and language supports, occupational therapy, and other wraparound supports participated so families could learn about available services. • Approximately 12 Kindergarten students are currently anticipated for September, although enrollment may change before the start of the school year. • The Board discussed the updated teacher interview

	questions, including the question relating to integrating Indigenous worldviews and perspectives. • Members discussed the importance of understanding not only general Indigenous perspectives but also local practices, knowledge, and ways of learning. • Joanne explained that the interview questions are intended to identify whether candidates have practical experience applying Indigenous perspectives in the classroom rather than simply theoretical knowledge.
	Member Parent School Board Seat **No Supporting Documents**
	Discussion: • The vacant Member Parent seat was advertised twice. • The first posting did not result in any applicants. • The second posting was distributed through several channels, including communication to school families and incoming Kindergarten families. • One application was received from Kim. • It was noted that one Board member had a family relationship with the applicant and therefore would not participate in the decision. • The Board reviewed the process for filling the seat. • The School Board makes a recommendation to Chief and Council, with Council having final authority to make the appointment. • Members discussed whether sufficient effort had been made to advertise the vacancy. • It was noted that the position had been advertised twice and communicated through multiple channels. • The seat is specifically a Member Parent seat and therefore has eligibility requirements relating to having a child attending the school. • Members discussed Kim's relevant background and experience, including work involving early years and community programming. • There was general agreement that, following two recruitment attempts and with Kim being the sole applicant, the recommendation should proceed.
	Semi Annual Report to Council **No Supporting Documents**
	Discussion:

	• The Board discussed the requirement to provide its semi-annual report to Chief and Council.
	• Members reviewed the current reporting format and questioned whether it appropriately reflects the actual responsibilities and work of the School Board.
	• It was noted that many of the questions in the current report relate to operational school activities that are already covered through Joanne's monthly Principal Reports.
	• Members expressed concern that repeating Joanne's work within the Board's report could make it appear that the Board itself completed operational work undertaken by school staff.
	• The Board discussed developing a reporting format that better reflects the Board's governance responsibilities, including:
	  ○ Board effectiveness;
	  ○ meeting attendance/frequency;
	  ○ strategic planning;
	  ○ governance work;
	  ○ policy development/review;
	  ○ major Board decisions and recommendations; and
	  ○ progress against strategic priorities.
	• Joanne's Principal Reports could be attached or otherwise provided separately as the operational school update.
	• It was noted that providing Principal Reports to Council as information may also support transparency and accountability.
	• The School Board's strategic planning work was identified as an example of the type of work that should be captured within the Board's own reporting.
	• The current reporting requirements/form will be discussed further with Lori as part of the Terms of Reference review.
	• The Board also noted that the reporting document appeared to contain outdated strategic plan goals and should be updated to reflect the current strategic plan.
	• The report will be returned for correction/update before being finalized.
	• Enrollment information will also be required for the

	report.
	School Board Terms of Reference **No Supporting Documents**
	Discussion: • The Board discussed whether the Terms of Reference review should be completed by a subcommittee or by the full Board. • Members agreed that it would be more effective to review the Terms of Reference together as a full Board rather than having a subcommittee review them and bring recommendations back. • HR involvement may be required for portions of the Terms of Reference dealing with hiring and the respective roles of Board/Elder representatives. • It was noted that school teachers and other employees are WFN employees and the Board needs to maintain appropriate boundaries regarding operational and employment matters. • Previous concerns regarding the Elder representative's role on interview panels were discussed. • Members agreed that the Terms of Reference likely do not require a complete rewrite but should be cleaned up and clarified. • The current Terms of Reference state that meetings are to occur bi-monthly/every two months, although meetings may occur more frequently when required. • Members discussed potentially using alternating meetings to focus specifically on governance matters and policy review. • The next School Board meeting is expected to focus primarily on the Terms of Reference. • Laurie Bowen will be asked to participate. • The Terms of Reference will also need to be reviewed against the current WFN strategic plan and updated where necessary.
	Board and School Staff Relationship **No Supporting Documents**
	Discussion: • The Board discussed creating an opportunity for School Board members and school staff to meet in an informal setting.

	• Members felt this would help staff understand who sits on the Board and allow Board members and staff to build relationships outside of formal governance processes. • This could also support future collaborative work such as strategic planning. • An annual or semi-annual informal gathering was suggested, such as a barbecue or lunch. • It was suggested that an event could potentially be held before the beginning of the school year when teachers return to work.
ADJOURNMENT	The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.