



ATTENDANCE REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION – Trustee Marianne VanBuskirk
May 20, 2025 Public Board Meeting



BC SCHOOL TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION 2025 AGM

Event Dates in Vancouver:

Thur. Apr. 24th 1:00pm-9:00pm

Fri. Apr. 25th 7:30am-7:00pm

Sat. Apr. 26th 7:30am-5:00pm

Respectfully honouring traditional, ancestral and unceded lands of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

2 of my favourite education sessions: Indigenous Education and Student Success...

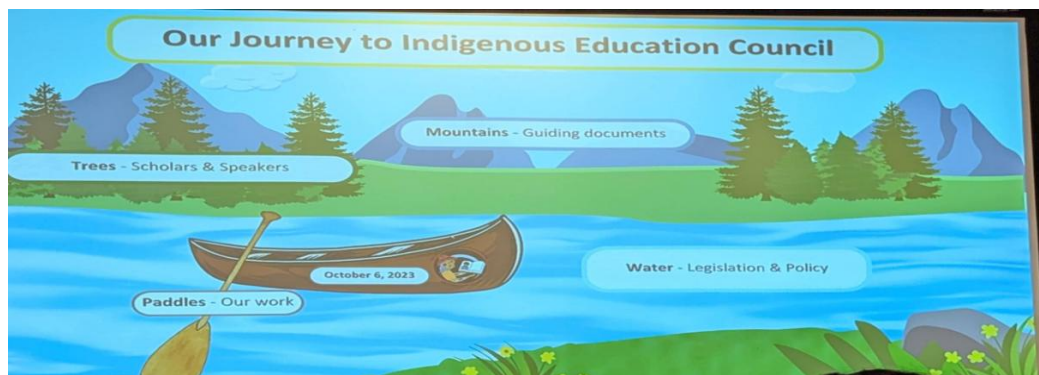
Thursday 1:15-2:30 Indigenous Education

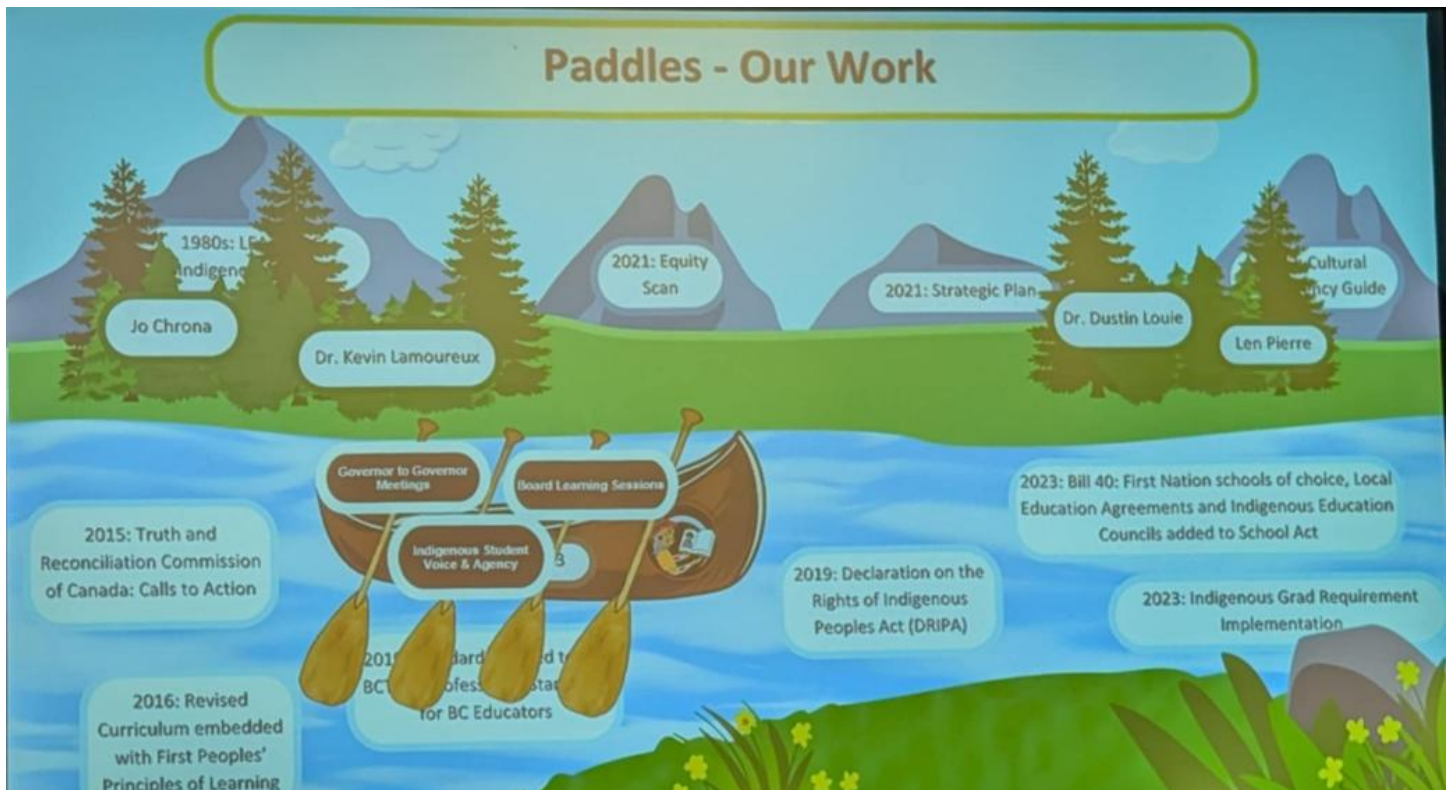
Presentation by Chilliwack SD33, Sea to Sky SD48, Conseil Scolaire Francophone SD93

An excellent 3-part presentation on successful collaboration methods with Indigenous Education Councils.

SD33 Chilliwack: Our Journey to Indigenous Education Council – meaningful collaboration with IECs is the key to a successful relationship. Photo slides depict symbolic ways to express such a journey, beginning with the:

- 1) MOUNTAINS represent guiding documents/resources i.e. strat plan, district equity scan, cultural literacy guide);
- 2) WATER represents Legislation & Policy (Min. of Educ. Directives, Bill 40, Indigenous Grad Requirement Implementation, DRIPA, etc.);
- 3) TREES represent scholars and speakers (local, provincial, national i.e. Jo Chrona, Dr. Kevin Lamoureux);
- 4) PADDLES “our work – district work – working together – such as Board education sessions, Governor to Governor meetings, Indigenous student voice.





“The importance of allyship – like reconciliation, it is a relationship - and it is a 2-way street.” SD33 ensures that IEC Collaboration results in a good working relationship as well as allyship.

Allyship

Actively listening to Indigenous voices and experiences is crucial in fostering meaningful relationships and understanding their unique perspectives.

- **Understand the historical injustices**
- **Support Indigenous Leadership and Perspective**
- **Focus on culture revitalization**
- **Building meaningful relationships**
- **Reflect on your own privilege, biases and identities**
- **Take action towards the social justice work**



Allies 4 Inclusion Diversity, Equity, Accessibility (IDEA) Committee

The IDEA Advisory Working Committee. This group advises on procedures, practices and regulations. For the first year (2023/2024), the primary focus of the work will be on SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity). The focus then shifts to other topics such as Anti-Racism or Truth & Reconciliation, in the following years.

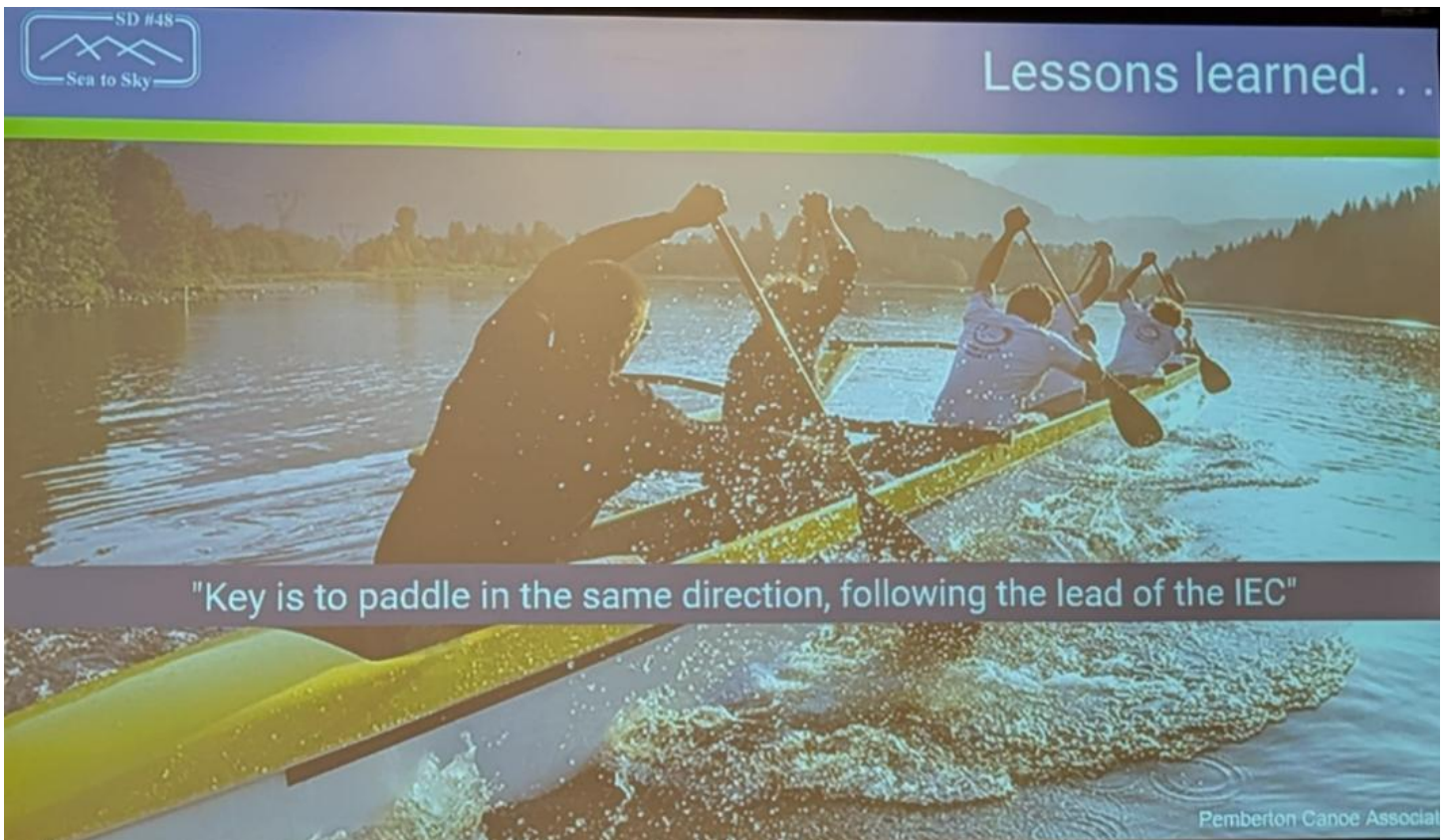
Committee Goals

- Increase awareness
- Increase confidence
- Increase knowledge of available resources
- Increase knowledge of training opportunities
- Help answer questions from parents/community
- Foster an understanding of and commitment to allyship

"Beyond the business – that's where the work starts!"
SD33



And then Sea to Sky SD48 – similar paddle theme



Department Vision:

We endeavour to create a rich, culturally relevant learning environment with the belief that students learn best in a safe, secure and respectful learning environment supported by connections between school and community, with a strong sense of identity and culture, using the First Peoples' Principles of Learning.

SD48's Key Strategies:

- Language revitalization
- Decolonized teaching practices such as place-based learning, inquiry projects, and experiential learning with access points for all students
- Indigenous Leadership programming

SD93 Conseil Scolaire Francophone de la Colombie-Britannique:

Throughout the year, the CSF supports the well-being of all its students.

To that end, and with all the respect Indigenous peoples are entitled to, we maintain a strong commitment and work to develop programs that will benefit all our students.

In accordance with the [Indigenous Education Enhancement Agreement](#), we aim to

- **Promote self-esteem and pride in all our students**
- **Improve their academic success and provide them with what they need for their transition to life after high school**
- **Develop a sense of leadership that will enable all our students to play a role in their communities**

French version of First Peoples Principles of Learning:



Thursday 2:45-4:00pm – Student Success

Presentation by Gordon Swan, Courtney Lawrance, Daris Peerless, Max Gomez-Bull, Lisa Bernoties, Amanda Amaral, Kate Kerr, Cael Read, Alexis Proust, Evelyn McGowan, Adriane Moulard, Jane Kempston, Daniella Bennie

Who we are



- Daris Peerless
• Grade 12
• Gidgalang Kuuyas
Naay Secondary
School
- Max Gomez-Bull
• Grade 12
• Daaxigan Sk'ad'aa
Née K-12 School
- Evelyn McGowan
• Dir. Community
Engagement
• McCreary Centre
Society



What we did

Designed, created, and administered the Haida Gwaii Student Voice Survey

Learned data analysis, and analyzed responses from 164 students in Grades 7-12

Identified key findings and recommendations, and presented to school & community leaders

2025 Haida Gwaii Student Voice Survey



Student recommendations

1. Connect with Elders & culture
2. Train staff in youth mental health
3. Ensure reliable transportation
4. Incorporate nature into school
5. Support student-led activities
6. Build school pride
7. Teach life skills for the future



“What if we designed schools not FOR students, but WITH them?”

SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS OF STUDENT VOICE

“What if we designed schools not for students, but with them?”



- **Strategic Plan Consultation:** Student input shaping district priorities.
- **Inclusion Initiatives:** Student-driven policies for greater equity.
- **Budget Consultation:** Student voices influencing funding decisions for mental health, equity, inclusion, and technology.

Friday: Branch Meetings; More Education Sessions (Data & Evidence; Communications & Community Engagement); Candidates Forum and Parliamentarian Address; Provincial Council Meeting; CUPE BC Reception.

Saturday, April 26, 2025 – full morning/afternoon session – BCSTA 2025 Business Session

Elections (candidates' speeches; selecting the 2025-27 BCSTA Board of Directors), Inauguration
Substantive Motions; Trustee Debate; Voting on Motions.

Conclude with a photo of Vice-Chair Lachmuth bringing forward a motion regarding Anti-Racism



BCSTA members actively debate the merits of every decision, and then stand by those decisions as we advocate on behalf of students in our districts.

BCSTA members do this via resolutions at our annual general meeting in the spring, and at smaller Provincial Council governance meetings over the year.

Overall – a very good AGM. I like the new format where we have a hard stop on the Saturday and not “possibly” carry on to the Sunday. However, I would still encourage that the BCSTA look at a hybrid model where we could opt to attend virtually. Also, as individual Boards, we could vote electronically together. Perhaps more meaningful for each Board.

Many thanks to the BCSTA Executive as well as the Professional Learning Committee and the hard work of all the Branches and Presenters who put together an excellent AGM.