



KEE TAS KEE NOW TRIBAL COUNCIL EDUCATION AUTHORITY

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

March 26 and 27, 2025

Meeting Platform: In-Person

Doubletree by Hilton, Edmonton

Attendees:

| | |
|--|---|
| Board Members: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chief Ivan Sawan, Loon River First Nation 2. Councillor Melva White, Loon River First Nation 3. Councillor Heather McTaggart, Loon River First Nation 4. Councillor Bryan Laboucan, Lubicon Lake Band 5. Councillor Timothy Sawan, Lubicon Lake Band 6. Councillor Vera Laboucan, Lubicon Lake Band 7. Chief Gilbert Okemow, Peerless Trout First Nation 8. Councillor Corrine Alook, Chair, Peerless Trout First Nation 9. Councillor Julianne Noskiye, Peerless Trout First Nation 10. Councillor Darren Auger, Whitefish Lake First Nation 11. Councillor Clifford Laboucan, Whitefish Lake First Nation 12. Councillor Dale Tallman, Whitefish Lake First Nation | KTCEA Staff: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Daphne Mai'Stoina, Superintendent 2. Pearl Calahasen, Deputy Superintendent 3. Kimberly Carifelle, Associate Superintendent Corporate Services 4. Gwena Cunningham, Associate Superintendent Learning Services & Academic Success 5. Gord Atkinson, Superintendent Facilities & Operations 6. Jay Calahasen, Communications Manager 7. Krystal Whitehead, Executive Assistant 8. Lindy Fors, Inclusive Education Manager 9. Wendy Calahasen, Curriculum Design Manager |
| Absent / Regrets: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. | KTC Leadership, Admin Staff & Other Guests: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scott Hickling, CEO, KTC 2. Cora Ostermeier, Data Consultant 3. Councillor Troy Laboucan, Lubicon Lake Band |

1. Call to Order

Chair, Corrine Alook

- **Motion 2025-03-26 #1: The March 26/27, 2025 Board meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.**
- **Moved by Councillor Bryan Laboucan, Seconded by Chief Ivan Sawan.**
- **All in favour, motion carried.**

2. Prayer

- 2.1. Chief Ivan Sawan gave the opening prayer.

3. Introductions/Roll Call

- 3.1. All members introduced themselves.

4. Board of Declaration - manâtisiwin (recording)

Jay Calahasen

5. Acknowledgement of Observers

- 5.1. Lubicon Lake Band Councillor, Troy Laboucan



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6. Approval of Agenda

- **Motion 2025-03-26 #2: The Board approved the March 26-27, 2025 Board meeting agenda as presented.**
- **Moved by Chief Ivan Sawan, Seconded by Chief Gilbert Okemow.**
- **All in favour, motion carried.**

7. Swearing in New Board Members:

- 7.1. Heather McTaggart, Loon River First Nation
- 7.2. Melva White, Loon River First Nation
- 7.3. Dale Tallman, Whitefish Lake First Nation

8. Board Committee Selection Update

- 8.1. The Board selected their committees.

9. December 4 and 5th, 2024 Minutes

- **Motion 2025-03-26 #3: The Board of Directors approved the December 4 and 5, 2024 Board meeting minutes as presented.**
- **Moved by Chief Ivan Sawan, Seconded by Councillor Darren Auger**
- **All in favour, motion carried.**

7. January 14, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes

- **Motion 2025-03-26 #4: The Board of Directors approved the January 14, 2025 Board meeting minutes as presented.**
- **Moved by Chief Ivan Sawan, Seconded by Clifford Laboucan**
- **All in favour, motion carried.**

10. Business Arising from the Minutes

- 10.1. Loon River First Nation and Lubicon Lake Band Nations meetings to be set up to discuss education matters.

11. Organizational Presentation

- 11.1. Dr. Daphne Mai'Stoina presented on Indigenous Governance scenarios for the Boards consideration.
 - 11.1.1. Tibetha Kemble will be conducting an Indigenous Governance literature review; she will give a preliminary presentation to the Board in June.
 - 11.1.2. Dr. Dwayne Zarichny, Superintendent of Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education will present about school boards governance at Strategic Planning in May.

12. Recess

- 12.1. The Board meeting recessed at 9:03 pm.



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13. Call to Order

- **Motion 2025-03-26 #5: The Board of Directors called the meeting to order at 9:07 am.**
- **Moved by Chief Ivan Sawan, Seconded by Councillor Timothy Sawan.**
- **All in favor, motion carried.**

Superintendent Report

14. Corporate Services Update

14.1. Strategic Planning Update

- 14.1.1. May 5 - 9, 2025 at Lake Louise, agenda to follow.
- 14.1.2. AGM will occur with Chair/Vice Chair elections.
- 14.1.3. Insurance renewal due March 2025, our rates have decreased this year. Appraisals are being completed.

14.2. Financial Update

- 14.2.1. Associate Superintendent Kim Carifelle gave an overview of the Financial Report.
- 14.2.2. ISC hasn't sent our financial update yet, we will do a presentation in June to the Board.

- **Motion 2025-03-26 #6: The Board of Directors accepted the Financial Report that was presented as information on March 26, 2025.**
- **Moved by Councillor Bryan Laboucan, Seconded by Councillor Heather McTaggart.**
- **All in favor, motion carried.**

14.3. Staff Update

- 14.3.1. Certified staff (including Cree Language) - 90 with 3 unfilled positions. Support staff 77 filled with 4 unfilled positions. Facilities staff 48 with zero unfilled positions.
- 14.3.2. The exit interview process has been a challenge as they don't want to fill out a survey.
- 14.3.3. Retention allowance grant questioned and discussed. Administration will explore the parameters of the The Retention Allowance grant.
 - 14.3.3.1. Supporting the teachers in isolation was discussed; making them feel welcome with any fun activities in the community so they feel they belong.

14.4. Indigenous Services Canada Presentation Re: NFR

- 14.4.1. Indigenous Services Canada presented the NFR grant, which offers First Nations flexible, predictable funding with full control over service design and delivery, and no recipient audits from Canada, while emphasizing local accountability and annual increases to address inflation—though it currently excludes K-12 education from its escalator clause. As of 2025/26, new groups including health, education authorities (EAs), and tribal councils will join the grant, with ongoing discussions to address concerns like K-12 funding gaps and ensure broader recognition of long-term agreements.



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15. Facilities & Operations Update

- 15.1. Associate Superintendent Gord Atkinson updated the Board on groundskeeping and building maintenance, the new food delivery truck, food waste audit, maintenance care requests, information technology, cybersecurity, transportation routes, the Facilities & Operations Committee, playground information, and the OH&S parent community video.
- 15.1.1. Maintenance Care number of users was requested.

16. Learning Services & Academic Success Update

- 16.1. Learning Service's efforts are focused on finalizing student records, addressing data gaps in grades, attendance, and inclusive education, and preparing for a smooth transition into the next academic year.
- 16.2. Key initiatives include improved data accuracy through staff training, enhanced mental health supports, expanded literacy programming, and culturally grounded education efforts—alongside upcoming events like the Youth Symposium and new early learning programs.
- 16.3. The High School Readiness Project was discussed.

16.4. 2025-2026 School Calendar

- 16.4.1. Calendar suggestions were made concerning traditional week, April 2 Native Provincials, and PD's.

- **Motion: The Board of Directors accepted draft 3 as the 2025-2026 calendar with recommended changes.**
- **TABLED**

17. Deputy Superintendent Update - deferred to next meeting

- 17.1. Leadership Academy
- 17.2. School Attendance Data

18. Communications Update - deferred to next meeting

19. Superintendent Update - deferred to next meeting

- 19.1. KTCEA Conference Survey
- 19.2. Assessment Data

- **Motion: The Board of Directors approves the Superintendent Report as presented.**
- **TABLED**

20. Discussion Items - deferred to next meeting

21. Closing Prayer

- 21.1. Bryan Laboucan closed the meeting with prayer.

22. Adjournment

- 22.1. The meeting adjourned at 1:03 pm