



**Central Okanagan  
Public Schools**

Together We Learn

## **CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS - BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Finance and Planning Committee Meeting**

#### **Public Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 29, 2026, 5:00 pm**

**School Board Office**

**1040 Hollywood Road S**

**Kelowna, BC**

Board of Education: Trustee J. Fraser, Committee Chair  
Trustee L. Tiede, Committee Member  
Trustee C. Desrosiers, Committee Member  
Trustee A. Geistlinger  
Trustee L. Guderyan  
Trustee V. Johnson

Staff: Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO  
Kate Cumming, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer  
Jon Rever, Superintendent of Schools  
Josh Currie, Assistant Director of Operations  
Gail Prokopchuk, Transportation Manager  
Lise Bradshaw, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Partner Groups: Simone Gauthier, CUPE Indigenous Advocate Shop Steward and  
Teri Wishlow, CUPE President (*via Zoom*)  
Nicola Baker, COPAC President  
Susan Bauhart, COTA President  
Nina Ferguson, COPVPA Rep

**The Central Okanagan Board of Education acknowledged that this meeting was being held  
the unceded, Traditional Territory of the Okanagan People.**

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### **AGENDA**

April 29, 2026 Committee Agenda – amended by:

- moving 6.1 ‘Comprehensive Review – Transportation of Secondary Students’ to earlier  
in the Agenda, as Item 5.1.

- adding 'Committee Correspondence' as Item 8 along with the following emails:
- 2026-04-29 Email from M. Toal and B. Buffam re: Upcoming Reduction of Literacy Intervention services for vulnerable learners.
- 2026-04-29 Email from M. Bencze regarding submission of evidence for LDIP CEA position review.

## **REPORTS/MATTERS ARISING**

### **Finance and Planning Committee Public Meeting Report - April 15, 2026**

Trustee Geistlinger suggested that the word "site" be added to the following paragraph under Items of Special Mention:

*Trustee Fraser reported that she, the Board Chair and Trustee Desrosiers, along with staff, gave Premier David Eby a tour of the new Ecole George Pringle Secondary School site.*

April 15, 2026 Committee Report - received as amended.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT PERIOD**

Meghan Toal, a parent of two children in School District No. 23 (one enrolled in the Evolve literacy program), read her letter to the Committee about her child's experience in the program and his resulting success in literacy. She shared her concerns regarding the planned removal of Certified Education Assistants from the program.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS' QUERIES/COMMENTS**

None.

## **DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **Comprehensive Review – Transportation of Secondary Students**

The Committee Chair provided an overview of the Board's request for a review of secondary student bus routes.

The Transportation Manager reviewed the memo provided to the Committee. Two possible options were presented: transition senior secondary students to BC Transit where available, or adjust secondary start and dismissal times by 15 minutes to allow three daily runs (elementary, middle, and secondary). Staggered start times would reduce student wait times, eliminate five bus routes, increase ridership, and result in estimated annual savings of approximately \$560,000. It was noted that the time change would affect all secondary students, not only bus riders.

Trustees discussed sustainability, student developmental benefits of later start times, impacts on timetabling, activities, employment, safety, and future catchment changes. The Transportation Manager advised that the model is considered sustainable and could be implemented as early as September, though timely decision-making and consultation would be required.

Fleet maintenance pressures related to an aging bus fleet and rising repair costs were also noted. The COPAC President emphasized the importance of public consultation, while Committee members acknowledged challenges associated with consultation timelines and budget constraints, and the wish to keep the conversation with BC Transit open.

Outcome:

**The Finance and Planning Committee recommended:**

**THAT: The Board of Education direct the Superintendent of Schools to explore adjusting secondary school start and dismissal times by 15 minutes;**

**AND THAT: The Superintendent of Schools provide a plan for public consultation.**

*6:08 pm: The Transportation Manager left the meeting.*

## **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

### **Central Okanagan Public Schools Superintendent of Schools' Operating Budget Recommendation Report for 2026/2027**

The Superintendent responded to Meghan Toal's earlier comments regarding the proposed changes to the Learning Disability Intervention program model. He affirmed the program's value and CEA contributions, and advised it will continue to serve approximately 220 students, with a shift to a teacher-led model which allows for an increase in other CEA positions to address District-wide student complexity. He and the Secretary-Treasurer/CFO noted budget pressures and the program's annual cost as factors in the proposed staffing changes. Assistant Superintendent Al Lalonde responded to questions from Committee members regarding the program and the restructuring for 2026/2027.

The Superintendent of Schools, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO, and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer responded to Committee members' questions regarding the Budget Recommendation Report, including:

- Overall increase in CEA positions
- Calculation of the \$4.2M shortfall
- Declining enrollment and budget pressures
- Hiring teaching staff for the Healthy Safe and Inclusive Schools Framework
- eSchool 23 and Career Programs restructuring
- Decline in the ELL Program

- Indigenous targeted funding and staffing
- French Immersion enrollment trends
- CEF Fund
- Trustee indemnity cost
- Senior administrative staff, and the provincial average for salary costs
- PAC input regarding school spending

*7:19 pm the COPVPA rep left the meeting.*

Outcome:

**The Finance and Planning Committee recommended to the Board:**

**THAT: The Board of Education approve the Central Okanagan Public Schools Superintendent of Schools' Operating Budget Recommendation Report for 2026/2027, as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the April 29, 2026 Finance and Planning Committee Meeting.**

## **DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **Financial Update – March 31, 2026**

The Assistant Secretary-Treasurer provided the Financial Update as of March 31, 2026. The District's spending to March 31, 2026, is trending higher than expected. Due to overall inflationary cost increases, many expenses are projected to exceed budget including, but not limited to, software licensing fees, utilities, fuel and supplies. Teacher and support staff illnesses are projected to exceed budget and benefit costs continue to put pressure on the budget. As a result, on April 8, 2026, a message was shared with all principals, vice-principals and managers, requesting that schools and departments take a conservative approach to spending on non-essential items between April 8 and June 30, 2026.

The Superintendent of Schools, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO, and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer responded to Committee members' questions regarding:

- Spending conservation period
- Illness trends
- Wellness Working Committee
- French Immersion spending

**Outcome:**

**The Finance and Planning Committee recommended to the Board:**

**THAT: The Board of Education receive the Financial Update as of March 31, 2026 as presented, and forward to the Board of Education as an Information Item.**

**ITEMS REQUIRING SPECIAL MENTION**

Trustee Fraser acknowledged that Tuesday, April 28, 2026 was the National Day of Mourning.

The Superintendent of Schools recognized that Friday, May 1, 2026 is National Principals Appreciation Day and acknowledged the leadership of these administrators in the District.

*7:40 pm Trustee Guderyan left the meeting.*

**COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE**

- 2026-04-29 Email from M. Toal and B. Buffam re: Upcoming Reduction of Literacy Intervention services for vulnerable learners.
- 2026-04-29 Email from M. Bencze regarding submission of evidence for LDIP CEA position review.

**RECOMMENDATIONS/REFERRALS TO THE BOARD**

**May 20, 2026 Public Board Meeting**

- Adjusting Secondary School Start and End Times/ Public Consultation (Action Item)
- Central Okanagan Public Schools Superintendent of Schools' Operating Budget Recommendation Report for 2026/2027 (Action Item)
- Financial Update – March 31, 2026 (Information Item)
- Committee Correspondence received.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**May**

Finance:

- Auditor's Report to the Finance and Audit Committee – Initial Communication on Audit Planning for the Year
- Financial Update - International Education Program

Planning:

- Annual Transportation Update
- Capital Plan Submission

**June**

Finance:

- School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year 2026/2027
- 2025/2026 Draft Accumulated Operating Surplus Review
- Proposed Multi-Year Financial Plan (2026/2027 to 2028/2029)
- Annual Review of Financial Planning and Reporting Policy

Planning:

- Energy and Sustainability Presentation

**FUTURE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Wednesday, June 27, 2026

4:00 pm, Main Board Room

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

**Questions - Please Contact:**

Trustee Julia Fraser, Committee Chair at [Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca](mailto:Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca)

Kate Cumming, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer at 250-860-8888 or [Kate.Cumming@sd23.bc.ca](mailto:Kate.Cumming@sd23.bc.ca)

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Julia Fraser, Chair