



Central Okanagan
Public Schools
Together We Learn

PUBLIC EDUCATION AWARENESS COMMITTEE (PEAC)

MINUTES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 4:00 pm
School Board Office – Welcome Centre Meeting Room

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Jessica Anjos COPVPA	Terry Beaudry District Staff	Wayne Broughton Trustee	Luke Campbell COPVPA
	Mary Hope COTA	Cathie Mutter CORTA	Justin Schneider District Staff	Jasmeet Virk COPVPA
	Deannie Zahara COPAC			
ABSENT:	Nolan Chapman COTA	Meran Couzens CUPE	Shelley Yost CUPE	October Angell-Janfield DSC

1. Welcome

Justin welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged that the PEAC meeting is being held on the unceded Traditional Territory of the Okanagan Syilx people.

2. Agenda – October 3, 2023 (Approval/Additions)

The Committee approved the October 3, 2023 agenda as presented.

3. Minutes – May 30, 2023

The Committee approved the May 30, 2023 minutes as distributed.

4. Review Amendments to Public Education Awareness Committee – Terms of Reference

The Committee reviewed the amended Public Education Awareness Committee Terms of Reference (TOR) and suggested additional changes:

- COTA, COPVPA, and COPAC will each have three representative seats on the Committee. Since there were no representatives from CUPE or the District Student Council at today's PEAC meeting, Terry will contact them to determine the number of representative seats to include in the TOR composition.
- The Committee decision-making model will be described as a collaborative decision-making model since decisions made by the PEAC are done by collaboration and support from the group, not through consensus of a majority vote.

The amended Terms of Reference will be forwarded to the Board of Education for approval.

Action Item: Determine the number of CUPE and District Student Council representative seats to include in the Terms of Reference (*Terry Beaudry*)

Future Agenda item: Add "Review the Committee Composition of the Terms of Reference" to the last PEAC meeting of the school year.

5. "Together We Learn" Online Newspaper – Fall Edition

Justin shared that the District's theme of "Wonder" for the 2023-2024 school year will be the theme of the *Together We Learn* Fall edition, with a focus on Wonder and the "awe" of the natural world. This could include stories about science and outdoor learning. After the PEAC decides on story ideas, Justin will take the ideas to a journalism class and further connect with admin/educators.

The Committee discussed article ideas for the Fall edition of *Together We Learn*:

- Land Based Learning. Teachers involved in LBL will attend in-service on November 3rd. Contact Kevin Kaiser and Kyla Shields.
- Take a Hike Program, Gateway Program, and Woodworking at Central Schools. Contact Nathen Elliott.
- BC Student Leadership Conference (BCSLC) at RSS on October 19-21.
- The RSS Outdoor Education Program. Contact Stacey Smith.
- The OKM Grad Lake O'Hara hike.
- Rose Valley Elementary's "sit spots".
- Steve Labrie gifted trees from students at Rose Valley Elementary. West Kelowna will plant those trees in spring.
- Oyama Elementary's learning garden. Students follow the garden from seed to plate.
- Many students in grade 4 or 5 write a hypothesis of what might happen. "I wonder... My hypothesis is..."
- There are many opportunities with STEM gearing up. UBCO is in classrooms through their Dental program. "How often do you clean your teeth?" Contact Andrea Locke through Health Promoting Schools. The connection is through the UBCO Nursing Program.
- Wondering can also take you backwards. Sometimes you wonder about something and it leads you to more research. "I wonder what it was like when the dinosaurs lived?"
- The new Library Learning Commons at Central School. They preserved a part of the heritage classroom in the library. Alternate education students are now excited about the past. Contact Misty Smith, Teacher Librarian at Central.
- Lego. District Robotics Competition. Contact Tobias Blaskovits.
- The Clubhouse Farm offers tours. Students dig in the dirt for the day. Connection is through Ellison Elementary.
- Students could finish the phrase and relate it to science: "I wonder about....." (dinosaurs, what stars are, etc.)
- Have a student do an article with Dr. Bill Cohen about the meaning of Wonder.
- Include website links to simple science experiments instead of crossword puzzles, etc.
- Contact principals to inquire about unique innovative science projects at their schools.
- Contact Karla Lockwood, Science teacher at KLO. She may be a good source for science related stories.

Action Item: Please forward additional article ideas to Justin.

6. Public Engagement and Advocacy

Advocacy: A Standing agenda item at General Affairs Committee

Trustee Wayne Broughton shared that the General Affairs Committee meetings will have a dedicated advocacy component at all meetings going forward. The intent is to start addressing the Advocacy Plan and to follow some of the proposed actions.

The General Affairs Committee is a public meeting and the public is invited to attend to hear about advocacy.

Annual Board of Education Capital Advocacy Plan 2023-2024

Trustee Broughton shared that the Annual Board of Education Advocacy Plan 2023-2024 was approved by the Board on September 27, 2023. The overall idea is to ensure that the Advocacy Plan remains aligned with the District's Strategic Plan and that the Board of Education promotes the best interest of students by keeping engaged with everyone involved. This includes getting municipal government, families, parents, schools, the public, the media, and community partners on side and knowing what the top priorities are.

Terry Beaudry recommended a connection of information sharing between the General Affairs Committee and the Public Education Awareness Committee.

Future Agenda Item: Add "Update on the Capital Advocacy Plan" to the PEAC Meeting agenda following each General Affairs Committee Meeting. (*Trustee in attendance at PEAC to report out*)

5:04 pm – Jessica Anjos left the meeting.

Additional ideas for the Fall edition of *Together We Learn*:

- "What's happening in the District – Capital Projects"
- The Board Chair could write a piece about Advocacy for Public Education

7. Bus Safety Campaign

Justin has been working with Gail Prokopchuk, District Transportation Manager, on the Bus Safety Campaign. The Capital News will produce posters for the campaign and Justin requested the PEAC to help with their distribution. A radio advertisement has been created and is currently running with a single message for the public to stop for the flashing red lights. Justin played the radio advertisement for the PEAC.

8. Other (Agenda Items)

PEAC members shared closing comments around the table.

Future Agenda Item: Demystifying/clarifying/illuminating what is happening in our schools. Talk about correcting misinformation and rumours cultivated by some community groups.

Meeting ended at 5:25 pm.

Proposed 2023-2024 PEAC Meeting Schedule:

(Tuesday's at 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm)

November 14, 2023; February 27, 2024; April 23, 2024; and May 28, 2024.