



**Central Okanagan
Public Schools**

Together We Learn

CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS - BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

Finance and Planning Committee Meeting

Public Meeting

Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 4:00 pm

School Board Office

1040 Hollywood Road S

Kelowna, BC

Board of Education: Trustee J. Fraser, Committee Chair
Trustee L. Tiede, Committee Member (*joined meeting at 4:03 pm*)
Trustee C. Desrosiers, Committee Member
Trustee W. Broughton (*by Zoom*)

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

Absent: *David Widdis, Planning Manager*

Partner Groups: Mary Hope, COTA 2nd Vice-President
Teri Wishlow, CUPE President and Jana Laing, Secretary-Treasurer
Nicola Baker, COPAC President
Scott Sieben, COPVPA Past President
Kylie McCullough and Desiree Stomp, DSC Representatives

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

Trustee Broughton was assigned as acting Voting Committee member due to the absence of Trustee Tiede.

AGENDA

Due to an emergent issue at the Transportation Department, Item 6.1 *Transportation of Senior Secondary Students on BC Transit* is being deferred to the February 11, 2026 Finance and Planning Committee meeting.

January 21, 2026 Committee Agenda - approved as amended.

REPORTS/MATTERS ARISING

Finance and Planning Committee Public Meeting Report - November 19, 2025

November 19, 2025 Committee Report - received as distributed.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' QUERIES/COMMENTS

None.

4:03 pm: Trustee Tiede joined the meeting and assumed her role as voting Committee member.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

2025/2026 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw

The Assistant Secretary-Treasurer presented the 2025/2026 Amended Annual Budget which reflected updated revenues and expenses based on actual enrolment and expenditure patterns.

As previously reported, the District experienced an unexpected decline in student enrolment for the first time in a decade. As of September 30, 2025, enrolment decreased by 160.3125 FTE compared to the previous year, and the projected increase of 150 FTE did not materialize, resulting in a total reduction of 310.3125 FTE. This generated a \$2.797M decrease in Operating funding; however, other enrolment-related adjustments created a net increase of \$725,000. Combined, these changes required a net Operating budget adjustment of \$1.87M.

The District secured an additional \$3.93 million in Classroom Enhancement Fund support, allowing the addition of approximately 32 FTE teachers to address composition needs.

On the expense side, instructional costs were adjusted to reflect decreased enrolment, which led to staffing reductions in certain schools and the decision to leave some vacant positions unfilled. Service and supply budgets were updated to reflect lower enrolment, and there was an increase in insurance premiums for district-wide student liability coverage.

Within District Administration, service and supply budgets increased to accommodate rising software and insurance costs. In Operations and Maintenance, funding was added for gym floor

refinishing, inflationary cost pressures, and increased amortization costs following updates using the Ministry of Education and Child Care calculation tool.

Committee members asked for information and clarification on the summer student program for the Learning Technology department, after school programs for the Indigenous Education Department, whether the renovations to Hollywood Road Learning Centre were on budget, and the District Administration expenses.

Outcome:

The Finance and Planning Committee recommended to the Board:

THAT: The Board of Education of School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) give first reading to the School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 in the amount of \$386,023,000.

THAT: The Board of Education of School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) give second reading to the School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 in the amount of \$386,023,000.

THAT: The Board of Education of School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) give all three readings to the School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 in the amount of \$386,023,000.

THAT: The Board of Education of School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) give third reading and adopt the School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 in the amount of \$386,023,000 on the 28th day of January, 2026.

Financial Update – December 31, 2025

As recommended by the Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia, the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer provided an analysis of the financial revenue and expenditures for the six months ending December 31, 2025, and an update on the Classroom Enhancement Fund.

The District's spending is progressing as expected. Key financial risks for the District include the cost of sick leave and benefits, as well as unexpected cost increases in some major spending categories (fuel, supplies, software, insurance). The cost of sick leave is budgeted using historical patterns applied to current staffing levels.

Due to the decline in student enrolment, senior staff took measures to address the revenue shortfall:

- A decrease in student enrolment led to a reduction in teaching staff at certain schools.
- Unfilled positions were left vacant to avoid direct impact to existing positions.
- Secondary schools identified efficiencies in their student timetables.

- Where appropriate, use of the Classroom Enhancement Fund (CEF) to address classroom composition.
- Allocation of a portion of the 2024/2025 unrestricted surplus to the 2025/2026 Amended Budget.

The CUPE President queried the details for the unfilled positions left vacant. The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO did not have the information on hand, but advised it was necessary in order to balance the budget. The Committee Chair requested that this query be referred to the Coordinating Committee.

Outcome:

The Finance and Planning Committee recommended to the Board:

THAT: The Board of Education receive the Financial Update as of December 31, 2025 as presented, and forward to the Board of Education as an Information Item.

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

Transportation of Senior Secondary Students on BC Transit

Deferred to the February 11, 2026 Finance and Planning Committee meeting.

2026/2027 Budget Survey Questions

The Committee discussed the list of draft budget survey questions for consideration and made the following changes:

1. Considering the educational programs and services that are currently provided at your school, what is most important to you and why?
2. What changes modifications to programs, services and/or activities would you like the District to consider as the 2026/2027 Annual Budget is developed?
3. What other information would you like the District to know that will help develop next year's (2026/2027) Annual Budget?

The Committee discussed the input from partners and the community which will help prioritize and direct resources to where they will best support students and families. The Committee Chair suggested a pre-amble to the survey to advise of the likely budget pressure for the 2026/2027 year.

2025/2026 Ministry of Education and Child Care Funding Recalculation

The Assistant Secretary-Treasurer/CFO provided information on the recalculated Operating grant funding tables from the Ministry of Education and Child Care following the September, 2025 enrolment count.

ITEMS REQUIRING SPECIAL MENTION

Trustee Desrosiers reminded the Committee of the upcoming Strategic Plan Engagement sessions.

RECOMMENDATIONS/REFERRALS TO THE BOARD

- 2025/2026 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw (Acton item)
- Financial Update – December 31, 2025 (Information item)
- 2026/2027 Budget Survey Questions (Information item)
- 2025/2026 Ministry of Education and Child Care Funding Recalculation (Information item)

ITEMS FOR FUTURE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

February

Finance:

- Transportation of Senior Secondary Students on BC Transit
- 2026/2027 Budget Presentation
- School Fees Summary

Planning:

- Annual Facility Grant (AFG) Plan

April (1st Meeting)

Finance:

- Central Okanagan Public Schools Superintendent of Schools/CEO 2026/2027 Budget Proposal Report
- Budget Consultation Input Received
- Trustee Indemnity for the 2026/2027 Fiscal Year
- Report on Secondary School Bus Routes

April (2nd Meeting)

Finance:

- Central Okanagan Public Schools Superintendent of Schools/CEO 2026/2027 Budget Recommendations Report
- Financial Report at March 31st

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

- February 11, 2026
- April 15, 2026
- April 29, 2026

4:00 pm, Main Board Room
1040 Hollywood Rd. S., Kelowna

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 pm

Questions - Please Contact:

Trustee Julia Fraser, Committee Chair - Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca
Kate Cumming, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer at Kate.Cumming@sd23.bc.ca

Julia Fraser, Chair