

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
CENTRAL OKANAGAN
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNUAL REPORT – October 24, 2018

Policy states that the Chairperson of the Board shall provide an annual report at the Board's annual meeting, except in an election year when the report shall be provided at the Board meeting prior to the Inaugural meeting.

I am therefore submitting my report at this last regular public meeting of the Board before the November 7th swearing in of the new Board of Education.

Throughout the school year, the Superintendent of Schools/CEO provides reports and updates on a regular basis, so the Chairperson's Report will just touch on some of the major accomplishments and challenges we have experienced in 2018. At the end of this report I have provided a link to the Superintendent of Schools/CEO Report on Student Achievement 2018.

The year began with our long-time Secretary-Treasurer, Larry Paul, leaving the District and moving to Alberta. Eileen Sadlowski, our Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, took over and brought to the position her knowledge and understanding of our School District and of the Board's strategies for continuing to serve all the students in our care.

With approximately 22,750 students and over 3,000 staff members associated with our 43 schools, the Central Okanagan School District is a large and complex organization. We are the largest single employer within the Okanagan, with an annual budget of over \$250 million. As the 5th largest School District in the province, we are also one of the districts which continues to grow and we continue to experience space issues in many of our schools.

The District continues with the implementation of the decisions resulting from the Supreme Court ruling which have resulted in the smallest class sizes in the District's history. More than 200 new teachers have been hired since January, to cope with both the growth in the District (estimated at 340 more students in September) and the changes due to the Memorandum of Agreement and Letter of Understanding between the Ministry and the British Columbia Teachers' Federation.

The Board made some significant decisions regarding grade re-configurations on the Westside. Although not able to move to the preferred grade configuration of K-5, 6-8, and 9-12, throughout the Westside, Grade 5s were moved to middle school, and Constable Neil Bruce Middle now serves students in grades 6-8, while Glenrosa Middle is a grade 6-9 school.

Glenrosa Middle will see further changes in September 2019, with a late French Immersion program (Grade 6) opening, and the current Grade 5s and 6s from the George Pringle French Immersion program also transitioning to Glenrosa Middle rather than traveling to Kelowna to attend KLO Middle. As well, a "middle" French Immersion Program (Grade 4) will open at Hudson Road Elementary in September 2019.

Earlier this year, the Ministry announced that a new middle school will be built in Lake Country. The Board is in the process of choosing a name for the school which will open in September 2021. The construction of Canyon Falls Middle School in Okanagan Mission is going smoothly, with the opening scheduled for September 2019.

The replacement of Rutland Middle and Glenmore Elementary, and the building of new Secondary Schools on the Westside and in Glenmore, have been identified as the Board's top priorities in the 5 Year Capital Plan. The timing and the order of these projects being approved is out of the Board's hands – the Ministry of Education makes those decisions, but we continue to promote the need for these capital projects.

The new Board Office/Administrative building was, finally, occupied during Spring Break. The name of the building, Central Okanagan Public Schools Board of Education Learning Centre, reflects our District Motto, *Together We Learn*. The grand opening is scheduled for November 15, 2018, by which time we hope to have ironed out all the kinks that come with a new building. Having the Board Office and Hollywood Road Education Services on the same site has resulted in many efficiencies – no more travelling between two sites, using time and gas, and easier collaboration between the staff in both buildings.

Our first School Community Learning Forums were hosted in Rutland, Mount Boucherie and the Central Schools areas. The excitement shown by students as they explained the innovative ways they are approaching their learning was contagious, and the support of school staff and parents was evident. Thank you to the host schools, district staff and everyone who helped with the success of these forums.

At Public Board Meetings, trustees have learned about many innovative programs in the School District; heard from students about how they are connected to their communities; and celebrated successes of students and staff members alike. *"Inside 23"* has become an important part of Board Meetings, and reminds trustees to focus on what's important – our students and providing them with the tools they need in the 21st Century.

As always, there is much to celebrate in our School District. While the Board often recognises outstanding staff members and students at our public meetings, we know that there are countless unsung heroes throughout the District - teachers, support staff and administrators who go the extra mile for the students in their care, and the students themselves who strive to be the best they can be, sometimes against great odds.

None of the things we celebrate could have been accomplished without our teachers, support staff, administrators and senior staff, as well parents and community members. Many of our employees work behind the scenes, keeping our 43 school sites in good working order; keeping our financial books straight; looking after payroll; and driving our school buses. Many of our staff members volunteer as well. Some coach our students, and give extra time to support them in a variety of different activities.

The Board appreciates the input received from our partner groups and school administrators. The participation on committees and attendance at Board Meetings by representatives of the Central Okanagan Teachers' Association, the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 3523, the Central Okanagan Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association, the District Student Council, and the Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council is vital in helping the Board hear

everyone's point of view before making a decision. Thanks to all our partners for their work in supporting public education and the students we all serve.

We also appreciate the community partnerships that have grown over the years. Community members volunteer their services, provide funds for projects at schools, and generally show a great deal of support to our schools and our students. These are non-profit groups, service clubs and individual volunteers.

From Early Learning Consortiums, to UBCO Programs, to partnerships with Okanagan College and BCIT, the Safe Schools Committee and the Health Promoting Schools Committee, our community partners bring a wealth of knowledge to the table.

I also wish to thank our senior staff for the exceptional work they do on behalf of our students each and every day. I should particularly mention the three staff members I have worked with most closely: the Superintendent of Schools/CEO Kevin Kaardal, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO Eileen Sadlowski, and Deputy Superintendent Terry Beaudry.

Also, thank you to my fellow trustees for your commitment to the governance and oversight of our School District. You should be proud of your efforts on behalf of the students, parents, staff and community members of the Central Okanagan.

Three of our current trustees will not be returning to the Board. Each of them brought a different dynamic to the Board table, and we wish Trustees Mossman, Gorman and Butler all the best in their future endeavours.

Respectfully submitted
Moyra Baxter
Chairperson, Board of Education
Central Okanagan Public Schools

Superintendent of Schools/CEO Report on Student Achievement 2018:
<http://www.sd23.bc.ca/Publications/Superintendent%20of%20Schools-CEO%20Report%20on%20Student%20Achievement%202018.pdf>