



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

### **Education and Student Services Committee Public Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 6:00 pm  
Via Zoom**

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

Staff: Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO (*absent*)  
Terry-Lee Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools  
Yvonne Hildebrandt, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Partner Groups: Lori Dawson Bedard, COTA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President  
Nathan Hind, COPAC Executive Member  
Jared Birkeland, COPVPA Vice-President  
Jessica Teasdale, CUPE Executive Member  
Mila Kresina, District Student Council Member

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

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### **AGENDA**

April 17, 2024 Committee Agenda – approved as presented.

### **REPORTS/MATTERS ARISING**

#### **Education and Student Services Committee Report – January 17, 2024**

January 17, 2024 Committee Report - received as distributed.

## RECOGNITION/PRESENTATION/DELEGATIONS

### **2024 Early Learning Initiatives Report**

Jamie Robinson, Assistant Superintendent, Jordan Kleckner, Director of Instruction – Learning and Innovation, and Brenda Kirsch, District Principal – Early Learning and Child Care, presented the 2024 Early Learning Initiatives Report. The early years of a child's life lay the foundation for lifelong learning and children who participate in high-quality early learning experience increased cognitive, physical, emotional, and social development. Policy 701 – Early Years Partnerships was approved by the Board of Education in 2005 and states that the "Board of Education recognizes the importance of the early years and the shared responsibilities in ensuring a safe and optimal transition from home to school for our earliest learners. [Furthermore], certain opportunities which provide for Partnerships which enhance the preschool years and support all facets of early learning development (social, emotional, physical, creative and intellectual development) are important to the Board."

Central Okanagan Public Schools supports the increasing complexity of early learning through the following four core areas:

1. Professional development targeting assessment and literacy instruction for educators in the District's elementary schools,
2. Kindergarten transition from early years through eleven preschools, eight StrongStart Centers, Seamless Day Kindergarten, Early Learning for Families, and Ministry funded Early Learning Programs on school grounds,
3. 56 child care programs operating on school grounds,
4. Community partnerships anchored in recent research and best practice to foster the holistic development of children.

The District Assessment Committee engaged in conversation over the past two years with educators at all 32 elementary schools to garner feedback regarding instruction and assessment in early literacy. A District working group comprised of 40 educators, principals and vice-principals came together over multiple sessions to identify the trends within the collected feedback and to co-develop recommendations for future explorations. These recommendations were examined through consultation with several early literacy researchers across North America which has resulted in draft changes to the Early Learning Profile.

The 2024 Early Learning Initiatives Report outlines the next steps in supporting and enhancing early learning in Central Okanagan Public Schools. The focus on early learning initiatives will continue to be an important District priority over the next several years.

## **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

### **Springvalley Middle School – Outdoor Education Academy Fee Increase**

Thomas Gruenenwald, Principal – Springvalley Middle School, and Ryan Taylor, Teacher – Springvalley Middle School, presented the proposed fee increase for the Outdoor Education Academy at Springvalley Middle School. The fee per Outdoor Education Academy student, approved by the Board of Education in 2016, does not cover the price increase for equipment replacement, Teachers Teaching on Call, and transportation. Due to the popularity of the Outdoor Education Academy, a second field study was added, providing one field study in the fall and one in the spring, which has increased expenses for the Academy. The proposed fee increase will ensure the Outdoor Education Academy is financially sustainable moving forward.

#### **Outcome:**

**The Committee recommended that the Board of Education approve the proposed fee increase of \$75 (from \$225 to \$300/student) for the Outdoor Education Academy (Springvalley Middle School), as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the April 17, 2024 Education and Student Services Committee Meeting.**

### **École George Elliot Secondary School – Soccer Education Academy Fee Increase**

Jim Laird, Principal – École George Elliot Secondary School, presented the proposed fee increase for the Soccer Education Academy at École George Elliot Secondary School. Since the Soccer Education Academy was established in 2008, the original fee per student participating in the academy has remained the same despite there being many changes in the program from 2008 to 2024. Due to increased instructor fees, facility rentals, transportation fees, and equipment replacement costs, the fee per student no longer covers the expenses. The proposed fee increase will ensure the Soccer Education Academy is financially sustainable moving forward.

#### **Outcome:**

**The Committee recommended that the Board of Education approve the proposed fee increase of \$50 (from \$350 to \$400/student) for the Soccer Education Academy (École George Elliot Secondary School), as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the April 17, 2024 Education and Student Services Committee Meeting.**

### **École George Elliot Secondary School – Hockey Academy Fee Increase**

Jim Laird, Principal – École George Elliot Secondary School, and Brent Sookochoff, Teacher – École George Elliot Secondary School, presented the proposed fee increase to the Hockey Academy at École George Elliot Secondary School (GESS). Since the Hockey Academy at GESS began in 2009, student fees for the Hockey Academy have remained the same. Due to price increases for arena ice rentals and instructor fees, and inflationary costs of equipment, it is necessary to increase fees. The proposed fee increase will ensure the Hockey Academy is financially sustainable moving forward.

**Outcome:**

**The Committee recommended that the Board of Education approve the proposed fee increase of \$125 (from \$600 to \$725/student) for the Hockey Academy (École George Elliot Secondary School), as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the April 17, 2024 Education and Student Services Committee Meeting.**

*7:19 pm – Meeting Recess*

*7:24 pm – Meeting Reconvened*

**Cultural Performances Program Review (Level 2)**

Raquel Steen, Assistant Superintendent, provided an overview of the Cultural Performances Program Level 2 Review. This is the first review completed for the Cultural Performances Program since its inception in 2002.

The Cultural Performances Program, guided by the Central Okanagan Public Schools Board Policy 520 – Cultural Performances, was created to support the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care's Arts Education Curriculum. Responses from the surveys, focus groups, and interviews, conducted during the Level 2 Cultural Performances Program Review, confirms that the presentation of cultural performances to students meets the goals within Policy 520, to:

- Assist the teaching of the Ministry's prescribed curriculum;
- Provide some students access to a wider variety of cultural experiences than they would otherwise have access to;
- Introduce students to possible career or recreation choices / related support careers and activities in the performing arts; and,
- Provide an opportunity for students to practice appropriate audience skills.

Overall, feedback from the Level 2 Cultural Performances Program Review indicates that the present model for elementary schools is functioning well, providing students with a variety of performing art experiences during their time in the primary and intermediate grades. Feedback at the middle and secondary level is mixed due to the significant differences in developmental stages of students in grade 6 through 12. At the middle and secondary schools, leadership students often organize cultural and spirit events for their schools. Providing opportunities for staff and students to choose performances that align with their school's theme or focus would provide students with more connection at the upper grade levels. Feedback from the Cultural Performance Advisory and Selection Committees indicates that contracting the highest quality performances is becoming more challenging as performer fees have increased with inflation.

Based on the review, the goals of the Cultural Performances Program Review are being met; however, some of the feedback provided suggests that a re-examination of these goals and the policy would be timely to align with the current re-designed curriculum and the ever-changing

demographic in our community. In addition, the term "cultural" has a much broader definition to consider that may not have existed at the time of establishing the policy and the resulting program.

The Cultural Performances Program Review recommendations include retiring Board Policy 520 – Cultural Performances in January 2025, since the work is already well underway for contracts with artists for September 2025, and developing a new Administrative Procedure that differentiates Cultural Performances Program procedures for elementary, middle and secondary, and ensures that students continue to experience a variety of cultural performances under the new procedure.

**Outcome:**

**The Committee recommended that the Board of Education approve the Cultural Performances Program Review (Level 2), as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the April 17, 2024 Education and Student Services Committee Meeting.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS/REFERRALS TO THE BOARD/COORDINATING COMMITTEE/OTHER COMMITTEES**

***Public Board Meeting Action Items***

- *Springvalley Middle School – Outdoor Education Academy Fee Increase*
- *École George Elliot Secondary School – Soccer Education Academy Fee Increase*
- *École George Elliot Secondary School – Hockey Academy Fee Increase*
- *Cultural Performances Program Review (Level 2)*

***Public Board Meeting Information Items***

- *2024 Early Learning Initiatives Report*

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

May 15, 2024

- Draft Program Review Cycle & Meeting Schedule 2024-2025
- Career Life Programs & Dual Credit Programs Report  
*Assistant Superintendent (A. Lalonde)*
- Reading Intervention Outreach (RIO) Program Report  
*District Principal of Inclusive Education (M. Kaupp) – moved to Fall 2024*

June 19, 2024

## **REVIEW LEGEND**

### **Level One Review**

- District-wide surveys involving all stakeholders
- Focus Groups
- Interviews with key staff and clients

### **Level Two Review**

- Surveys to a representative sample group of stakeholders
- Optional Focus Groups and personnel interviews as appropriate

### **Level Three Review**

Limited or no surveying and/or interviews to gather informal feedback

## **FUTURE EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

All meetings start at 6:00 pm.

May 15, 2024; and June 19, 2024.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

### **Questions - Please Contact:**

Trustee Lisa Guderyan, Chair at [Lisa.Guderyan@sd23.bc.ca](mailto:Lisa.Guderyan@sd23.bc.ca)

Terry-Lee Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools at 250-470-3225 or [Terry.Beaudry@sd23.bc.ca](mailto:Terry.Beaudry@sd23.bc.ca)

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Lisa Guderyan, Chair