



Central Okanagan
Public Schools
Together We Learn

PUBLIC EDUCATION APPRECIATION COMMITTEE (PEAC)

MINUTES

Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 4:00 pm
Via Zoom

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Jessica Anjos COPVPA	Luke Campbell COPVPA	Mary Hope COTA	Cathie Mutter CORTA
	Justin Schneider District Staff	Jasmeet Virk COPVPA	Teri Wishlow CUPE	Shelley Yost CUPE
	Deannie Zahara COPAC	Yvonne Hildebrandt Recorder		
ABSENT:	Terry Beaudry District Staff (on secondment)	Jesse Bruce District Staff	Kellie Garcia COPAC	No Representative Trustee
	No Representative 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 – November 12, 2024 (Approval/Additions)

The Committee approved the November 12, 2024 agenda as presented.

3. Minutes – October 1, 2024

Revision to Agenda Item 4. Public Education Initiatives of Partnership Groups for Promotion:

- *"Large scrapbooks in the collection...were returned to...(Springvalley Elementary Middle School)".*

The Committee approved the October 1, 2024 minutes as amended.

4. Fall/Winter Priorities for Promotion

PEAC members shared their association's Fall/Winter priorities, events and initiatives for promotion in the District, including:

- COPAC – Recruitment priorities. Nicola shared that, at the November COPAC meeting, Jon Rever, Assistant Superintendent, presented some of the District's work on Family and Community Engagement in schools. Over the remainder of the year, there will be a greater push to have parents and families more involved in the School Community Learning Plan's goals and conversation in PAC meetings. It would be great to include this in the *Together We Learn* newspaper.
- CORTA – Cathie is hoping to reach more prospective members by sharing COPAC news and Central Okanagan Public Schools news through social media. There are almost 100 followers. CORTA members can see the *Together We Learn* newspaper because it is published on Facebook. The CORTA membership contact list is created by the BC Retired Teachers' Association and cannot be shared; however, if the District sends information to Cathie, she can share it through email with CORTA.
 - A campaign to follow the District on Facebook could be discussed and shared with CORTA.
 - Retired teachers are a huge part of the school community and when a retiree picks up a TTOC shift, the school and students are overjoyed. It would be worth it to invite retired teachers to events, to keep them connected.
 - COPAC will discuss this at their next meeting to see if there are any other ideas.

4:17 pm – Luke Campbell joined the meeting.

- Jessica shared that COPVPA checks to see if it is okay to connect with past teachers. A personal invitation is really touching for retirees. The *Together We Learn* newspaper could include a blanket invitation to past teachers, to let them know they are welcome in our space.
- Cathie shared that the challenge at the CORTA is to ensure contact information and email addresses are current. They are currently working on the COPVPA list of retirees.
- Mary shared that this is also an issue for COTA when teachers retire. There needs to be some FOIPPA around it.
- Membership activity on the CORTA website is improving. There are more than 500 retirees on the contact list and they know they can stay in touch.
- The priority of reaching retired members seems to be a priority for CORTA, COPVPA and COTA.
- Jasmeet shared that Pearson Road Elementary PAC talked about sharing school priorities. It would be nice to highlight ways of community engagement with the school.
- Nicola shared that COPAC would like to hear about successful ideas that have improved school culture and student learning, anything that is non fundraising related. More parent involvement results in higher achievement in students. It doesn't have to be a big thing. It could be a small opportunity for parents to get that connection.
- COTA – Teacher recognition. Mary shared that recently a teacher at Peachland Elementary School was recognized in the math world. COTA did not know about the recognition ahead of time. COTA usually finds out about teachers being recognized through Inside 23. This is an example of something that could be shared out, an acknowledgement for the hard work that teachers are doing.
 - Recognition of community members has been included in past *Together We Learn* editions and more membership could be celebrated for their work. It is nice when custodians, teachers and those that make up school communities are celebrated. Justin would love to do something to promote recognition.
 - Nicola will put a call out through PACs to see if they want to recognize a teacher, student or family member. Justin will provide guidelines and suggested that students or a PAC member could interview the custodian, etc.

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

Justin shared that he visited journalism classes at the end of October and provided journalism students with general story ideas for the *Together We Learn* Fall edition. The students are free to follow up their stories however they would like, including creating videos or written articles. Completed stories will be coming to Justin over the next two weeks. Justin is following up on a couple of ideas for the recurring section.

Action Item: Please forward messages and articles that fit in with the theme "Family and Community Engagement" to Justin before the end of November so there is time for revision.

The PEAC provided the following story ideas:

- A feature piece on the connection between CORTA and the "Old School" exhibit at Kelowna Museums. The exhibit runs from November 2024 to March 2025.
- UBCO STEM Engagement Day is November 13th from 10 am to 2 pm. This is a free event for students. (Contact is Tobias Blaskovits). Nicola will ask teachers to take photos at the event and send them to Justin.

6. District Website

The PEAC provided feedback on how the District website is being used, what is working well, and what needs to be improved:

- A few links from the old website are not redirecting within the new website.
- Staff listings are gone from the new website and email addresses are no longer published. This is challenging for parents who need to contact their student's teacher.
- Parents can phone the school office and ask for teachers' emails. Students also know their teachers' names. The teacher's email address is usually included in the course summary handout at the beginning of the course.
- Principals can directly message their parents to remind them that they can contact the school office to inquire about the names of their child's teachers and their emails.
- Staff email addresses will not be made available on the website due to cybersecurity issues.
- The 'Contact Us' page on some school websites has more information available about their staff than others. Not all schools have followed the same protocol.
- It would be good to survey families three questions: What do you love about the website? What is challenging? Any feedback?

Action Item: Please let Justin know if a link on a webpage is not working by emailing him a screenshot of the webpage address.

The meeting ended at 4:50 pm.

2024-2025 PEAC Meeting Schedule:

All meetings are Tuesday's at 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm.

January 7, 2025 (in-person – SBO Board Room 1)

March 4, 2025 (via Zoom)

May 27, 2025 (in-person – SBO Board Room 1)