



**Central Okanagan
Public Schools**
Together We Learn

BOARD OF EDUCATION

PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 6:00 pm

School Board Office

1040 Hollywood Road S

Kelowna, BC

Board of Education: Trustee J. Fraser
Trustee W. Broughton
Trustee C. Desrosiers
Trustee A. Geistlinger
Trustee L. Guderyan
Trustee V. Johnson
Trustee L. Tiede

Staff: Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Alan Lalonde, Assistant Superintendent
Mona Essler, Executive Assistant
Lise Bradshaw, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Absent: Jon Rever, Acting Deputy Superintendent

Partner Groups COPAC: Nicola Baker, President and Jeannette Watson, Vice-President
COPVPA: Jodi Everett, COPVPA Executive
CUPE: Teri Wishlow, President, and George York, Vice-President
(joined meeting at 6:22 pm)
COTA: Susan Bauhart, President *(by Zoom, joined at 6:28 pm)*
DSC: Anna Kristen, student representative

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

AGENDA

Main 25P-039

MOVED by Trustee Tiede

SECONDED by Trustee Johnson

**THAT: The Agenda for the Public Board Meeting of May 14, 2025 be adopted as presented.
CARRIED**

MINUTES

Public Board Meeting - April 23, 2025

Main 25P-040

MOVED by Trustee Desrosiers

SECONDED by Trustee Johnson

**THAT: The Minutes of the Public Board Meeting of April 23, 2025 be adopted as presented.
CARRIED**

ABSTAINED: Trustee Guderyan

CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS – "INSIDE 23"

Art Education Enhancement Support

In attendance:

Jim Elwood, Art Teacher, Mount Boucherie Secondary School

Raquel Steen, Assistant Superintendent

Supporting teachers and students in creative Art Education:

Over the past few years, Jim Elwood, teacher at Mount Boucherie Secondary School, has had the honour of having an open visual art block in his schedule to work directly with schools, classes and even individual students. This has provided Mr. Elwood the opportunity to go into classes (Kindergarten to Grade 12) to guide teachers through everything from his Indigenous Art Lessons to co-designed art lessons, including technical help with kilns to the basics of working with students in pottery. This work has been very well received from students and teachers and Mr. Elwood has been honoured to share and guide this project.

6:22 pm: The CUPE President and Vice-President joined the meeting.

INTRODUCTIONS

The Board of Education congratulated the following staff members new to the District:

Joanne Boot – Payroll Manager

Colin Mayer – Vice-Principal at École George Elliot Secondary School

The Board of Education also recognized the following staff members in their new roles:

Julie Loveridge-Marks – Vice-Principal at École Kelowna Secondary School

Rita Miller – Vice-Principal at Mar Jok Elementary School

6:28 pm: The COTA President joined the meeting via Zoom.

MEETING RECESS

The meeting recessed at 6:39 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 6:43 pm.

DECLARATIONS

National Allergy Awareness Month

The Central Okanagan Board of Education declared the month of May, 2025 as "National Allergy Awareness Month " in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

Mental Health Week: May 5-11, 2025

The Central Okanagan Board of Education acknowledged that the week of May 5 to 11, 2025 was "Mental Health Week" in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

National AccessAbility Week: May 25-31, 2025

The Central Okanagan Board of Education declared the week of May 25 to 31, 2025 as "AccessAbility Week" in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

Pride Month

The Central Okanagan Board of Education declared June as "Pride Month" in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public questions/comments.

TRUSTEE QUERIES/COMMENTS

In acknowledgement of National AccessAbility Week, Trustee Tiede expressed her gratitude to District staff for their work in making all sites accessible for students, staff, parents and volunteers.

The Board Chair summarized Trustee and staff attendance at the recent BCSTA AGM, a three-day conference on governance, professional learning and a shared commitment to student success.

ACTION ITEMS

Central Okanagan Public Schools Superintendent of Schools/CEO 2025/2026 Budget Recommendations Report

Main 25P-041

MOVED by Trustee Tiede

SECONDED by Trustee Desrosiers

THAT: The Board of Education approve the Central Okanagan Public Schools Superintendent of Schools/CEO 2025/2026 Budget Recommendations, as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the May 14, 2025 Public Board Meeting.

CARRIED

Trustee Indemnity for the 2025/2026 Fiscal Year

Main 25P-042

MOVED by Trustee Tiede

SECONDED by Trustee Johnson

THAT: The Board of Education set the Trustee Indemnity, in accordance with the most recent BC Consumer Price Index of 2.5% for the period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 thereby setting the stipend at: Trustee - \$25,564, Vice-Chair - \$27,000, Chair - \$29,181.

CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEMS

Superintendent's Emergent Issues

None.

Level 4 and 5 Field Study Summary - 2024/2025

The Board reviewed the information. The Superintendent of Schools/CEO noted one late field study for the Take A Hike group of students that had been approved.

Level 4 and 5 Field Study Summary - 2025/2026

The Board reviewed the information.

General Statement – April 23, 2025

The Board reviewed the information.

Video Surveillance – Annual Report to the Board

The Board reviewed the information.

2025/2026 Estimated Ministry of Education and Child Care Grant Funding

The Board reviewed the information.

Financial Update – March 31, 2025

The Board reviewed the information.

COPAC Executive - 2025/2026

The Board reviewed the information and offered congratulations to the COPAC members present.

ADVOCACY

Update: BCSTA Motions Passed at AGM

The Board Chair provided an update on the BCSTA Motions passed at the recent BCSTA Annual General Meeting held on April 24 – 26, 2025, in Vancouver, BC. A Motion on Adequate Funding for Costs in Childcare and a Motion on Teaching Critical Thinking in K-12 were brought forth and both were passed unanimously.

The Board Chair also advised she had met with the Honorable Bowinn Ma, Minister of Infrastructure, regarding capital projects being built faster as the province aims to speed up permitting due to the new legislation.

BOARD/DISTRICT COMMITTEE QUERIES/COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Trustee Tiede attended the District Early Years Partnership Committee meeting on May 6, 2025 where they discussed the new standalone childcare facility opening on July 1, 2025 at École Hudson Road Elementary school and operated by BGC Okanagan. Trustee Tiede also acknowledged that May 9, 2025 was National Childcare Provider Appreciation Day, and shared a video highlighting outdoor learning spaces.

Trustee Johnson attended the May 12, 2025 District Student Council (DSC) meeting where they discussed self-care during a busy time in life, upcoming DSC elections, the Mental Health Week

activities at all the schools, as well as the Walk for Mental Health at Mount Boucherie Secondary School.

District Student Council rep Anna Kristin elaborated on the Walk for Mental Health at Mount Boucherie Secondary and offered heartfelt kudos to fellow DSC rep Delaney Neukomm for her incredible efforts on creating and coordinating the Walk over the past few years.

Trustee Guderyan attended the April 14, 2025 District Student Council meeting where they discussed creating a video series on cyber bullying. Trustee Guderyan also attended the Heath Promoting Schools Committee meeting where they had a presentation from the Information Technology Team on digital literacy. She also attended the District Safe Schools Community Network Meeting earlier in the day, where they discussed data from September, 2025 to present is showing a noticeable rise in youth vulnerability and ways the District is responding. The City of Kelowna also has a new position to help with the challenges of youth gangs and exploitation. Trustee Guderyan also requested information on the HRVY Colour Run event to share with Trustees.

Trustee Geistlinger mentioned that Rhonda Ovelson, Director of Instruction – Feeding Futures gave a presentation at the May 7, 2025 Education and Student Services Committee on food literacy – which encompasses knowledge, attitude and skills about food, and also highlighted all the food programs support that the District provides to students.

Trustee Desrosiers attended the COPAC meeting on May 5, 2025 ahead of their AGM and thanked the COPAC members for their dedication.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Received:

- 2025-04-16 Invitation to Parkinson Rec Centre Groundbreaking

Sent:

- 2025-04-24 letter of congratulations to C. Gordon re: election as BCTF President
- 2025-04-28 letter thanking volunteers

Main 25P-043

MOVED by Trustee Desrosiers

SECONDED by Trustee Johnson

THAT: At the May 14, 2025 Public Board Meeting, the Board receive the correspondence listed above.

CARRIED

ITEMS REQUIRING SPECIAL MENTION

The Board Chair, Trustees and the Superintendent of Schools/CEO, spoke of the following:

- Attendance at various meetings and events throughout the District, including School Community Learning Plan Conversations at Canyon Falls Middle, Helen Gorman Elementary, École Okanagan Mission Secondary and École Kelowna Secondary. Other events included retirement celebrations, assemblies, concerts and Track and Field Meets.
- Trustees, the Superintendent of Schools/CEO and senior staff participated in the new George Pringle Secondary final beam signing ceremony. This event marked a significant milestone in the installation of the final beam in the steel structure.
- Congratulations were extended to grade 12 Rutland Senior Secondary student, Jaydin Schultz, who was the winner of the Secondary School Senior Math Contest held at the University of British Columbia-Okanagan, and also to Mount Boucherie Secondary School students Grace McCulloch who won the High School Short Film Award: Sunflowers at the 2025 Student Okanagan Film Festival, and Tyler Rubis who has been nominated for his film Recipe For a Break at the 2025 BC Student Film Festival in the category of Senior Narrative Comedy.
- The École George Elliot Secondary School Senior Band students performed and inspired the younger students at Davidson Road Elementary, Oyama Traditional and École Peter Greer Elementary.
- Congratulations to the volunteers, students and staff on the organization of another very successful Mount Boucherie Secondary School Walk for Mental Health held on May 8, 2025. Over 2,200 people gathered at Mount Boucherie Secondary School to raise awareness and money for Foundry Kelowna, a mental health resource operated by the Canadian Mental Health Association for youth aged 12-24.
- On Monday, April 28, 2025 the National Day of Mourning was recognized with a ceremony at the Dease Road site under the flagpole. Mr. Pat Mullin, who lost his life while at work in Central Okanagan Public Schools on August 15, 2001, was honoured.
- On May 7, 2025 the Faisons Un Boeuf French Music Celebration was held at Evangel Church where elementary and middle school French Immersion students celebrated French music and culture. A concert was performed by LeFloFranco and students cheered on their school in a fun competition of dancing, sing-along music videos and more.
- A number of our current and past students, as well as a staff member, were honoured at the City of Kelowna Civic and Community Awards night. Congratulations to all of the nominees and winners for their commitment to excellence in the arts, athletic and community service. The Board of Education will honour the winners at a future Board Meeting.

7:36 pm: The CUPE President left the meeting.

BOARD MEETINGS WITH PARTNER AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

Meeting with Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Child Care

Thursday, May 15, 2025

4:00 - 5:00 pm (Teams)

Joint Board/City of Kelowna meeting

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

City Hall - 1435 Water Street, Kelowna

FUTURE MEETINGS

Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings

- Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 6:00 pm

- Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 6:00 pm

Main Board Room, 1040 Hollywood Road S.

Board Standing Committee Meetings

Finance and Planning Committee

- Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at 4:00 pm

Policy Committee

- Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at 4:00 pm

Education and Student Services Committee

- Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at 6:00 pm

Main Board Room, 1040 Hollywood Road S.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:48 pm.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer/CFO