



**Central Okanagan  
Public Schools**  
Together We Learn

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **PUBLIC MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

**Wednesday, June 11, 2025, 6:00 pm**

**School Board Office**

**1040 Hollywood Road S**

**Kelowna, BC**

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

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

Partner Groups: CUPE: Teri Wishlow, President, and George York, Vice-President  
COPAC: Nicola Baker, President and Jeannette Watson, Vice-President  
COPVPA: Christey Hughes, COPVPA Executive  
COTA: Susan Bauhart, President (*joined by Zoom at 6:47 pm*)  
*There were no representatives from District Student Council*

**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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### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

## **AGENDA**

Amended by:

- *Switch item 4 "Inside 23" with item 5 "Recognition"*
- *Remove item 4.2: Inside 23 – Into the Woods (presenter had to cancel)*

### **Main 25P-044**

MOVED by Trustee Johnson

SECONDED by Trustee Broughton

**THAT: The Agenda for the Public Board Meeting of June 11, 2025 be adopted as amended.  
CARRIED**

## **MINUTES**

### **Public Board Meeting - May 14, 2025**

#### **Main 25P-045**

MOVED by Trustee Desrosiers

SECONDED by Trustee Geistlinger

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

## **RECOGNITION**

### **Rutland Senior Secondary - Rugby Team Provincial Champions**

The Board of Education offered congratulations to the Rutland Senior Secondary Rugby Team and their coach Lindsey Reynoldson, on their Provincial championship win.

### **Rutland Senior Secondary - E-Sports Team – Pacific Region Champions**

The Board of Education learned about the Super Smash Bros E-Sports team and offered their congratulations to coach Tyler Tronnes, and team members in attendance Justin Aban, Lucky Osland and Nick Wood (absent: team member Finn Werry and coaches Chris Werry and Rafie Relova). The team won a Pacific Regional Championship against 90 other schools in the US and Canada.

### **Tyson Cook: Honour in the Arts Award winner - Kelowna Civic and Community Awards**

The Board of Education offered congratulations to Bankhead Elementary School CEA Tyson Cook, recipient of the "Honour in the Arts Award" from the Kelowna Civic and Community Awards.

*6:47 pm: The COTA President joined the meeting by Zoom.*

## **CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS – "INSIDE 23"**

### **Becoming Us: A Year of Agency, Connection and Collective Growth**

In attendance:

Jordan Kleckner, Director of Instruction: Learning & Innovation

Paige Labanowicz, Grade 6 teacher, Constable Neil Bruce Middle School

Torsten Raupach, Grade 6 teacher, Constable Neil Bruce Middle School

Paige and Torsten presented on how centering student agency has transformed a classroom into a vibrant, collaborative learning environment. Together a space was created where community and curiosity led to student ownership and meaningful learning. This journey revealed that when learners feel empowered, and teachers feel efficacy, everyone thrives together.

### **MEETING RECESS**

The meeting recessed at 7:09 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 7:11 pm.

### **DECLARATION**

#### **National Indigenous History Month**

The Central Okanagan Board of Education recognized that June is National Indigenous History Month and declared June 21, 2025 as 'Indigenous Peoples Day' in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

### **PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT PERIOD**

Wilbur Turner, a Central Okanagan resident and advocate for equity and inclusion, spoke in support of the Board's Statement on Indigenous Sovereignty. He highlighted the importance of Indigenous History Month as a time for both celebration and reflection, and emphasized that confronting uncomfortable historical truths is essential for growth and reconciliation. Mr. Turner praised the Board's commitment to truth, education, and Indigenous sovereignty, and rejected recent criticisms of spreading propaganda. He stressed that education must engage with history honestly and inclusively, and thanked the Board for its leadership and courage.

Shane Styles, a parent of three children in School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan), complimented the Inside 23 Presentation and the commitment to asking students about their learning experience, and student agency. Mr. Styles asked Trustees to answer the following question: *"Does the Board of Trustees feel as though they are fostering an environment and culture where students and parents feel safe to ask questions or exercise freedom of opinion? Why or why not?"* After some discussion, it was determined that since Mr. Styles was not asking a question

regarding an Action, Information or Advocacy item on the Agenda per Board Policy 135 *School Board Operations*, no further discussion was appropriate. Trustee Geistlinger thanked Mr. Styles for the question and advised that if she had been given enough time to prepare a thoughtful response she would have, and may still do so.

## **TRUSTEE QUERIES/COMMENTS**

The Board Chair acknowledged Pride Month and the powerful impact of the District's booth at the Pride Festival on May 31, 2025, which drew over 12,000 people. The Board Chair spoke with many students who dropped by the booth and spoke of how meaningful it was to see representation from the District.

Trustee Geistlinger shared that given Mr. Styles' earlier question, she had concerns regarding the procedure of only giving the public the opportunity to ask questions or make comments on Action, Information or Advocacy items at Public Board meetings. The Board Chair advised that this process is intentional, and was agreed to by the Board, but if a Trustee brings a motion forward it can be discussed further.

Trustee Desrosiers echoed the sentiments of the Board Chair regarding the Pride Festival and commended CUPE for their booth as well.

The Board Chair also noted that she attended the recent Indigenous Education Council meeting and shared that there was sincere gratitude from the Council regarding the Board's statement on Indigenous Sovereignty.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Affirmation of Board Statement on Indigenous Sovereignty**

The Superintendent of Schools/CEO advised that this is a technical motion. On May 21, 2025 the Board debated, discussed and voted on the Statement at an Incamera meeting, and then made a motion to make the Statement public.

#### **Main 25P-046**

MOVED by Trustee Johnson

SECONDED by Trustee Broughton

**THAT: The Board of Education affirm the decision at the May 21, 2025 Incamera Meeting to make public its statement on Indigenous Sovereignty in response to public comments made by an area MLA.**

The COPAC President spoke in support of the Board statement and the ongoing commitment to Truth and Reconciliation. She advised that many parents are filling in the gaps in their understanding, as it was not taught in school during their educational years. Now, learning for

parents is happening alongside their children, and they are grateful for that opportunity. COPAC stands firmly in support of the Board, educators and district leadership, and the Indigenous partners who help guide this essential work.

**Amendment 25P-047**

MOVED by Trustee Geistlinger

SECONDED by Trustee Tiede

**THAT: The Board of Education affirm that a Board Statement on Indigenous Sovereignty was discussed at an Incamera Meeting held May 21, 2025, and was subsequently made public after putting it to a vote.**

**DEFEATED**

**OPPOSED: Trustee Broughton, Trustee Desrosiers, Trustee Fraser, Trustee Johnson**

**ABSTAINED: Trustee Guderyan**

The question was called on Main 25P-046

**CARRIED**

**ABSTAINED: Trustee Geistlinger and Trustee Tiede**

**2026/2027 Five-Year Capital Plan Submission**

**Main 25P-048**

MOVED by Trustee Tiede

SECONDED by Trustee Desrosiers

**THAT: The Board of Education approve the Capital Plan Resolutions for the 2026/2027 Capital Plan as outlined on the attached summary as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the June 11, 2025 Public Board Meeting.**

**CARRIED**

**2025/2026 Review of Meal Allowance Per Diem Rates**

**Main 25P-049**

MOVED by Trustee Tiede

SECONDED by Trustee Desrosiers

**THAT: The Board of Education approve the recommended meal allowance per diem rates, being \$17 for breakfast (*unchanged*), \$22 for lunch (*unchanged*) and \$41 for dinner (*increased from \$38*), effective July 1, 2025, as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the June 11, 2025 Public Board Meeting.**

**CARRIED**

## **2026/2027 and 2027/2028 School Calendars**

### **Main 25P-050**

MOVED by Trustee Tiede

SECONDED by Trustee Desrosiers

**THAT: The Board of Education adopt the Local School Calendars for the 2026/2027 and 2027/2028 school years as identified in the attached calendar proposal and make the calendar available to the District once approved by the Ministry of Education and Child Care;**

**AND THAT:**

**1. The Superintendent of Schools/CEO direct school Principals, in consultation with staff and parents, to establish site-based calendars for the 2026/2027 and 2027/2028 school years.**

**2. In establishing such calendars, principals must:**

**a) Conform to the School Act and Regulations, applicable Collective Agreements, and School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan Public Schools) Board Policy.**

**b) Schedule school parent/teacher conference times.**

**c) Schedule their school's calendar and bell schedule.**

**CARRIED**

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **Superintendent's Emergent Issues**

None

### **Level 4 and 5 Field Study Summary - 2024/2025**

The Board reviewed the information.

### **Level 4 and 5 Field Study Summary - 2025/2026**

The Board reviewed the information.

### **General Statement May 14, 2025**

The Board reviewed the information.

### **General Statement May 21, 2025**

The Board reviewed the information.

### **General Statement June 2, 2025**

The Board reviewed the information.

### **COTA Executive 2025/26 - 2026/27**

The Board reviewed the information. The Board Chair requested that a letter of congratulations be sent to COTA.

### **2025/2026 CommunityLINK Allocations**

Trustee Tiede, the Finance and Planning Committee Chair, gave a summary of the information to the Board. The Superintendent of Schools/CEO confirmed that staff were seeking information from the government on why the District's allocation was less than comparable-sized districts.

### **2024/2025 International Education Program Update**

Trustee Tiede, the Finance and Planning Committee Chair, gave a summary of the information to the Board.

### **2024/2025 Transportation Services Department Update**

Trustee Tiede, the Finance and Planning Committee Chair, gave a summary of the information to the Board.

## **ADVOCACY**

The Board Chair advised that she had presented to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services on behalf of the Board of Education. She shared the progress that the District has made thanks to strategic government investment in public education, but also noted the challenges the District is facing. The Board Chair asked the Province to continue funding for capital investments for urgently needed schools and additions, fully fund costs from collective agreements, and address inflationary and operational pressures equitably.

## **BOARD/DISTRICT COMMITTEE QUERIES/COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

Trustee Johnson attended the District Human Rights Committee meeting on May 22, 2025 and advised that work was being done on a list of "Board Declarations " for the Board to consider in the fall.

## BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

### Received:

- 2025-05-15 Email from COPAC President re: Rally for Public Education in BC - May 26, 2025
- 2025-05-19 cc Email from L. Manchester re: letter to MLAs regarding proposed ostrich cull
- 2025-05-20 Email from MLA K. Loewen re: Bill 15 info
- 2025-05-20 Email response from MLA K. Loewen re: Bill 15 info
- 2025-05-22 Email from K. Flannigan/Black Mountain Elementary re: A Heartfelt Thank you
- 2025-05-22 Email from B. Hauck re: Board Statement on Indigenous Sovereignty
- 2025-05-22 Email from L. Thompson re: Indigenous lands email
- 2025-05-23 Email from K. Nichols re: Board Statement on Indigenous Sovereignty
- 2025-05-23 Email from M. Anastasiadis re: Indigenous Memo
- 2025-05-25 Email from R. Armstrong re: The board is imposing personal beliefs
- 2025-05-26 Email from L. Stachniak re: Indigenous sovereignty email
- 2025-05-26 Email from N. Bergen re: Public Statements
- 2025-05-28 Email from D. Buckna re Cigarettes and Vaping curriculum

### Sent:

- 2025-05-20 Email from Board Chair Fraser to MLA K. Loewen re: Bill 15 info
- 2025-05-22 Email from Board Chair Fraser to K. Flannigan/Black Mountain Elementary re: A Heartfelt Thank you

### **Main 25P-051**

MOVED by Trustee Desrosiers

SECONDED by Trustee Guderyan

**THAT: At the June 11, 2025 Public Board Meeting, the Board receive the correspondence listed above.**

**CARRIED**

### **ITEMS REQUIRING SPECIAL MENTION**

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

- Attendance at various meetings and events throughout the District, including school assemblies, classroom visits, interviews for the new Assistant Superintendent, Graduation Ceremonies, School Community Learning Plan Conversation at Rutland Senior Secondary School, Indigenous Graduation Ceremonies, Capstone presentations, École Glenrosa

Elementary School Spring Carnival 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Central School Annual Spring Community Barbeque,

- On Thursday, June 5, 2025 École Okanagan Mission Secondary School held their Relay for Life, bringing together cancer survivors, remembering those lost to cancer, and fundraising over \$70,000.
- École Dr. Knox Middle School held their Bald Falcon Day on May 30, 2025 fundraising for BC Children's Hospital. They exceeded their goal of \$14,000 and raised \$33,320.
- The Annual District Track and Field meets were held last week at the Apple Bowl, where elementary and middle school students from across the Central Okanagan engaged in fun competition to ignite their interest in track and field sports. Thank you to the many volunteers (family, staff and community volunteers) who make this event so much fun for our learners.
- Trustees, staff and students participated in the Pride Festival held at City Park on Saturday, May 31, 2025.
- The Annual iGen Finale night was held last evening at the Innovation Centre. Eight finalists pitched their startup ideas to a panel of judges and answered questions in front of a live audience. Marcus Kuhn collected the \$1,000 Kevin Greenwood Memorial Scholarship, generously donated by Okanagan College. Many thanks to the business education teachers in Central Okanagan Public Schools who mentored the students, as well as the generous donations received from sponsors.
- The June edition of Together We Learn will be published on or about Monday, June 16, 2025 with the theme of "System Wellbeing/Togetherness".
- On Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at the Indigenous Education Council Meeting, members of the IEC, Trustees, Senior Staff, family and friends gathered to honour former Board Chair, Moyra Baxter, with a traditional blanketing. The Blanketing Ceremony was led by Westbank First Nation Councilor and IEC Chair, Jordan Coble.
- Thank you to the many staff and volunteers who organized the 10th Annual District SumoBot Competition on Thursday, May 22, 2025. Thanks also go to the community partners at UBCO for hosting once again. With almost 200 students and 74 robot teams participating this year, it was another huge success that created a unique learning opportunity and sparked new interests in hundreds of our learners.
- On May 15, 2025, over 400 middle school students from École Glenrosa Middle, Constable Neil Bruce Middle, École KLO Middle, and Canyon Falls Middle gathered at UBCO for the revamped Expo of Awesome: Youth Taking Action Towards a Sustainable Future.
- The Board of Education recently had a virtual meeting with Minister of Education, Lisa Beare to discuss the insights into our District's priorities, exciting initiatives, and challenges.

- The Heavy Equipment Operator Program Year-End Completion Ceremony was held on Friday, June 6, 2025 to recognize student achievements as they completed the rigorous, hands-on training program.

## **BOARD MEETINGS WITH PARTNER/OUTSIDE GROUPS**

### **Joint Board/City of Kelowna Meeting**

Tuesday, June 17, 2025  
City Hall - 1435 Water Street  
Kelowna, BC

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

### **Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings**

- Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 6:00 pm  
Main Board Room, 1040 Hollywood Road S.

### **Board Standing Committee Meetings**

Finance and Planning Committee  
- Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at 4:00 pm  
Main Board Room, 1040 Hollywood Road S.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:27 pm.

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer/CFO