



CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS - BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

Education and Student Services Committee Public Meeting

**Wednesday, September 23, 2020, 6:00 pm
School Board Office or Zoom (for the public)
1040 Hollywood Road S.
Kelowna, BC**

Board of Education: Trustee N. Bowman, Chairperson
Trustee C. Desrosiers, Committee Member
Trustee A. Geistlinger, Committee Member
Trustee M. Baxter

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

Partner Groups: Lori Dawson Bedard, COTA 1st Vice-President
Cherylee Morrison, COPAC President
Raquel Steen, COPVPA, Past President
Shelley Yost, CUPE Member

There were no representatives from the 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.**

AGENDA

*Move: Item Requiring Special Mention 9.1 Equity in Action Agreement – Year One Implementation
to Presentation Item 3.2*

September 23, 2020 Committee Agenda - approved as amended.

REPORTS/MATTERS ARISING

Education and Student Services Committee Report – June 17, 2020

June 17, 2020 Committee Report - received as distributed.

RECOGNITION/PRESENTATION/DELEGATIONS

Land-Based Learning – An Alternate Program for Indigenous Youth

Naim Cardinal, District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education; Nathen Elliot, Vice-Principal - Central Programs and Services; Claire Means, Indigenous Student Advocate; and Kevin Kaiser, Indigenous Resource Consultant; presented the Land-Based Learning Alternate Program for Indigenous Youth. The program was created at George Elliot Secondary School, Rutland Senior Secondary School and Central Programs and Services to provide equitable opportunities for grade 12 Indigenous learners experiencing challenges in a traditional classroom environment and struggling with online learning during the initial stages of COVID-19. For the first time, small cohorts of Indigenous students earned credits by learning on the land and participating in cultural teachings and activities designed to provide them with skills specific to their science, Social Studies or English course. This educational opportunity will continue during the 2020/2021 school year, providing Indigenous students with a sense of pride in learning, a sense of identity and belonging, a new relationship with the land they live on, and, ultimately, the opportunity to graduate.

Brody Vadeboncoeur, Indigenous Grade 12 Graduate and Valedictorian from Central Programs and Services Class of 2020, shared his experience in the Land-Based Alternate Program. Brody shared how learning on the land provided him with new cultural knowledge, an opportunity to build relationships, fun cultural hands-on activities to earn credits for Science and English, and the ability to succeed and graduate during a difficult time in the pandemic.

Recessed at 6:35 pm

Reconvened at 6:40 pm

Equity in Action Agreement – Year One Implementation

Terry-Lee Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, and Naim Cardinal, District Vice-Principal – Indigenous Education, presented the year one implementation goals and initiatives within each of the four pillars of the Equity in Action Agreement for Truth and Reconciliation 2020-2025.

The District has defined equity as the following:

"Equity empowers each learner to thrive holistically"

During year one implementation, the District is committed to the following within each of the four pillars:

1. Policy and Governance – Maintaining a District Multi-Year Equity Committee
2. Learning Environment (School Culture) – Posting a Land Acknowledgement sign and a Westbank First Nation Flag at every school site; and discussing ways to address implicit bias and racism at the District Human Rights Committee meeting
3. Learning Profiles – Implementing culturally responsive interventions and supports through collaboration with the Social-Emotional Learning Team, Student Support Services, the Early Learning Team and the Indigenous Early Learning Support Teachers
4. Pedagogical Core – Incorporating culturally relevant land-based learning for Indigenous students in grade 12 through collaboration between Indigenous Education staff and school-based staff; and continuing to embed Indigenous pedagogy and the First Peoples Principles of Learning into classroom teaching

The October 9th, 2020 Implementation Day is focused on Indigenous Education as mandated by the Ministry of Education and will provide teachers with opportunities and links to resources that

can be used to embed Indigenous world views and perspectives into their pedagogy and learning environments.

PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public questions/comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS QUERIES/COMMENTS

Trustee Geistlinger shared that some parents have communicated that they would like more detailed information included in their child(ren)'s report cards. Some report cards include only references to comments made in an online reporting tool. Parent feedback is that they would prefer comments to be included on the report card itself.

Chairperson Trustee Bowman stated that specific questions regarding a student's report card should be addressed directly to the teacher or the school principal.

The Superintendent of Schools/CEO stated that online reporting tools are not used by all educators in the District and parents can ask for a more formal report from their child's teacher. The Deputy Superintendent of Schools advised that information about whether a child is meeting grade level expectations is also available to parents and documented in EdPlan Insight.

Cherylee Morrison queried what parent teacher interviews will look like this year.

The Deputy Superintendent of Schools stated that the first set of parent-teacher interviews is scheduled for October 1st and 2nd as District-wide early dismissal days. This is an opportunity for teachers to check in with families/caregivers to discuss each learner's social-emotional well-being. Interviews will be conducted over Zoom or by telephone.

Cherylee Morrison queried what is being said to students about caring for their masks.

The Superintendent of Schools stated that caring for masks is the responsibility of families/caregivers and that disposable masks are available as well.

7:16 pm – Shelley Yost left the meeting

7:19 pm – Terry Beaudry left the meeting

7:22 pm – Shelley Yost and Terry Beaudry returned to the meeting

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

Board Motion to Further Support Anti-Racism Education

The Education and Student Services Committee members discussed the following Board Motion:

June 24, 2020 Public Board Meeting:

Main 20P-112 as amended by 20P-113

THAT: The Central Okanagan Public Schools Board of Education put in place a process to assess and support education throughout the school district regarding systemic racism; anti-racist education; and historic and contemporary content by and about Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour.

Many ideas were shared and anti-racism education will continue to be discussed with many District committees. More information will be forthcoming to future Education and Student Services Committee meetings.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- *Children and Youth in Care Report – January or February*
- *BC Government News - Improving Outcomes for First Nations Children in Care – Progress Report in Fall*
- *SFU Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Grant for Careers and Transitions – Report in Fall - Superintendent of Schools/CEO (K. Kaardal) and Assistant Superintendent (R. Oliver)*
- *Proposal for Board Authority/Authorized Course – Interprovincial Skills Certification*

October 21, 2020

- K-12 Assessment Plan
Deputy Superintendent (T. Beaudry)

November 18, 2020

- Proposals for Board Authority/Authorized Courses
- Proposal for Substantive Change – Academy of Indigenous Studies (GESS)

January 20, 2021 *(tbc)*

February 17, 2021 *(tbc)*

- Proposals for Substantive Change

April 21, 2021 *(tbc)*

- Proposals for Board Authority/Authorized Courses
- Student Support Services (Level 2 Review)

May 19, 2021 *(tbc)*

- Draft Program Review Cycle and Meeting Schedule 2021-2022
Deputy Superintendent (T. Beaudry)
- Equity in Action Progress Report
District Principal (J. De Guevara)

June 16, 2021 *(tbc)*

- Enhancing Student Learning Framework
Superintendent of Schools/CEO (K. Kaardal)

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

October 21, 2020 and November 18, 2020

MEDIA QUESTIONS

There were no questions from the media.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Questions - Please Contact:

Trustee Norah Bowman, Chairperson at Norah.Bowman@sd23.bc.ca

Terry-Lee Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools at 250-470-3225 or Terry.Beaudry@sd23.bc.ca

Norah Bowman, Chairperson