



BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

Date: **Wednesday, June 10, 2026**

Inside 23

Agency in Action through CARE (Climate Action Ripple Effect)

In attendance:

Jordan Kleckner, Director of Instruction – Learning & Innovation
Lindsey Stevens, Learning & Innovation Team
Tobias Blaskovits, Learning & Innovation Team
Robbi Martens, Learning & Innovation Team
Kristi Langlois, Learning & Innovation Team

Presenters:

Constable Neil Bruce Middle School

Anatasia Fuller, Teacher
Stephanie Rodway, Teacher
Luca Gliège, Grade 6
Luke Jensen, Grade 6
Jaxton McLure, Grade 6

École KLO Middle School

Sydney Fender, Teacher
Emma Girard, Teacher
Kali Karlake, Grade 7
Keely Karlake, Grade 7
Everly Deagnon, Grade 7
Vaiya Pollard-Bessie, Grade 7

École George Elliot Secondary School

Josee Arcand, Teacher
Ryder Wilson, Grade 9
Caleb Larson, Grade 9

The presenters shared how CARE (Climate Action Ripple Effect) looks in our District this year and delved into three stories from educators and students about how CARE fosters student agency and the growth of the competencies. The students briefly shared their projects and the way their community mentors supported them, and the teachers shared how they made this experience so meaningful for their learners.

Introduction

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

Tori McVicar – Payroll Manager

Michael McLellan – Assistant Secretary Treasurer, Operations and Corporate Services

Presentations

1. **Advancing Student Mental Health and Wellbeing: Foundry's Expansion to the Westside**

Presenters:

Mike Gawliuk, CEO, Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Kelowna

Jamie Lloyd-Smith, Director of Innovation & Project Development, Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Kelowna

Foundry Kelowna (est 2017) was established to provide integrated service for young people aged 12-24 and their caregivers, offering support in:

- Walk-in mental health counselling
- Physical and sexual health
- Substance use health
- Peer support
- Work, education and community services
- Family navigation and natural supports.

Working alongside community partners, Foundry provides no cost, accessible support through a coordinated system designed to center the voice of young people and caregivers. The Foundry originally expanded to West Kelowna and Lake Country through the Wellness on Wheels Bus and partnerships with local mental health offices. In January of 2026 Foundry Westside was identified as a new satellite site. A survey of Westside youth stated 73% believe there is a strong need for substance use support for their peers, and requested an easily accessible location, to build awareness and understanding of Foundry services and supports, and multipurpose space offering access to food and water, youth-directed programming and Indigenous cultural activities. After consultation with the Westbank First Nation, a site was announced on June 9th at #105 – 2370 Bering Road. The location was declared by 91% of the youth as easily accessible to them. The “*Not Alone: Bridging the Gap Campaign*” has been created to fund Foundry services on the Westside. The fundraising goal is \$1.8 million and to date close to \$500,000 has been raised. The fundraising goal will be used to upgrade the West Kelowna facility by spring of 2027.

Trustees and the Superintendent of Schools expressed their gratitude for the services the Foundry supplies to support the students and families of Central Okanagan Public Schools and for opening a site in West Kelowna to address the gap in mental health services on the Westside.

Declaration

1. **National Indigenous History Month – June National Indigenous Peoples Day – June 21, 2026**

The Central Okanagan Board of Education recognized that June is ‘National Indigenous History Month’ and declared June 21, 2026 as ‘Indigenous Peoples Day’ in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

Action Items

1. **Setting Regular Board and Committee Meeting Dates and Times**

The Board of Education regular Public Board Meetings in 2026/2027 will be conducted once per month, commencing at 6:00 pm (with the exception of September and June, where there will be two meetings per month). The Board of Education regular Incamera Board Meetings in 2026/2027 will be conducted once per month, commencing at 3:30 pm (with the exception of September and June, where there will be two meetings per month). The schedule of the Board Standing Committee meetings for 2026/2027 (subject to review by the Standing Committee Chairperson) was approved and will be posted on the School District website.

2. **Adoption of the 2026/2027 Governance Framework and Annual Workplan**

The Board of Education adopted and approved the 2026/2027 Governance Framework and Annual Workplan as the annual governance reference to guide the Board’s recurring governance decisions, Trustee learning, public accountability, community engagement, and advocacy for the 2026/2027 school year. The Board of

Education directed the Superintendent of Schools, in consultation with Trustees, to use the Governance Framework and Annual Workplan to support Agenda planning, committee workplans, Trustee in-service, public reporting, staff planning and annual review.

3. BCSTA Policy Review for Boards of Education – Recommended Next Steps

The Board of Education adopted the BCSTA recommended Policy Review Phases 1, 2 and 3 as the organizing framework for the next phase of the Policy Framework and Manual Review Project, as indicated in the BCSTA Policy Review for Boards of Education materials. The Board of Education directed the Superintendent of Schools, in consultation with the Secretary Treasurer/CFO, to develop and bring forward a Policy Manual modernization workplan that sequences the review, amendment, creation or rescission of Board policies and bylaws according to the following phases:

- **Phase 1:** Key Governance Policies, including the Role of the Board, Delegation of Authority and Role of the Superintendent of Schools, with priority completion prior to the October 2026 local government election;
- **Phase 2:** Other Priority Governance Policies, including Foundational Statements, Role of the Trustee, Role of the Board Chair, Role of the Vice-Chair, Trustee Code of Conduct, Policy Development and Recruitment and Selection of Personnel; and
- **Phase 3:** Remaining Governance, Financial, Operational and Local Context Policies, including a sustainable workplan for ongoing review and update through the 2026-2030 Board term.

4. Approval of School Community Student Learning Plans for the 2026/2027 School Year

The Board of Education approved the School Community Student Learning Plans for the 2026/2027 school year based on the School Community Student Learning Plan Summary Report.

Information Items

1. Survey Results Presentation: Possible 15-Minute Adjustment to Secondary Schools' Start and Dismissal Times

Presenter: Jon Rever, Superintendent of Schools

This Superintendent of Schools' presentation is in response to the Board of Education's direction on May 20, 2026 for the Superintendent of Schools to explore adjusting secondary school start and dismissal times by 15 minutes and to provide a plan for public consultation. The results of the engagement process and the operational recommendation related to optimizing secondary school transportation was presented. The survey produced strong participation from those most directly connected to secondary schools and student transportation. There were 1,243 respondents who identified their role. Two-thirds were parents or caregivers of a secondary student, and a meaningful portion of responses also came from students and staff. Fifty-five percent of respondents indicated there is a student in their family who rides the school bus. Participation was well distributed throughout the secondary school communities. Sixty-nine percent of respondents had not previously heard about the proposed 15-minute shift. The engagement process therefore served two purposes: it gathered feedback and it helped families understand the rationale before providing their final view. Originally 43% of participants agreed or strongly agreed with the idea of later secondary start and dismissal times. After participants were provided with information about the rationale, the final support increased to 64% (708 respondents). 36% of respondents indicated the adjustment would be unmanageable for them due to family and work schedules, and after school activities. Therefore, the recommendation before the Board is not simply to approve a change; it is to approve a change with a deliberate implementation plan that addresses the legitimate concerns raised by families and students. Clear communication with families, school administrators, athletic coordinators, community partners and, where appropriate, employers and BC Transit will be required. Through the ThoughtExchange survey, student wellbeing ranked first as to what mattered most to respondents. Second was transportation efficiency and cost savings, third – impact on extra-curricular activities, fourth – impact on work schedules and reducing student wait times and supervision was fifth. The survey results suggest that the community understands both dimensions: the importance of student wellbeing and the need to operate the transportation system responsibly. A common 9:15 am secondary start time and aligned dismissal time enables a consistent three-tier routing model. By creating better separation between elementary, middle and secondary schedules, the same bus can complete an elementary run, a middle run and a secondary run. In the École Okanagan

Mission Secondary and Canyon Falls Middle School area, staff previously applied a three-tier model to address significant waitlists. The adjustment allowed an additional 200 students to be transported without adding routes. Since that time, there have been no École Okanagan Mission Secondary or Canyon Falls Middle School students on a waitlist due to route capacity. BC Transit has also identified the potential to increase ridership and reduce peak-time overcrowding if secondary schools start later than middle schools. The practical benefits for students and families are more predictable access, fewer waitlist pressures, reduced wait time and better alignment between school supervision and bus timing. The route analysis identifies estimated annual net savings of approximately \$119,278 in Rutland, \$115,789 in Lake Country and \$89,859 in the Central family of schools. Together, that estimates approximately \$324,926 in estimated recurring operating savings. There is also the preliminary opportunity for two additional Westside route reductions when the three-tier system can be further implemented in September of 2027. Transportation is a vital service, although its unfunded cost draws from the same operating grant that supports classrooms. The 2026/2027 transportation operating budget is approximately \$7.1 million. Ministry support for transportation is approximately \$600,000 and the transportation revenue is estimated at approximately \$2.5 million. That leaves approximately \$3.9 million funded from the per-pupil operating grant. The District is forecasting a net \$4.2 million budget shortfall for the 2026/2027 school year. If the change is approved by the Board of Education, implementation will need to be disciplined and responsive. Once the Board's direction is confirmed, the Transportation Department will finalize routes and the District will work with secondary schools, athletics, BC Transit and families to address local impacts. Implementation of the change will be monitored closely. The recommendation is for the Board of Education to approve a 15-minute adjustment to secondary school start and dismissal times, establish a 9:15 am secondary start time to support student access, transportation reliability, and responsible stewardship of public resources.

The Board of Education reviewed the following:

2. Comprehensive Review Follow-Up: Additional Information re: Possible 15-Minute Adjustment to Secondary Schools' Start and Dismissal Times
3. Level 4 and 5 Field Study Summaries - 2025/2026 and 2026/2027
4. General Statements
May 20, 2026
May 27, 2026
5. COPAC Executive 2026/2027
The Board of Education congratulated Leslie Atwell on her election as President of the Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council.

Advocacy

On behalf of the Board of Education, and as Chair of the Finance and Planning Committee, Trustee Fraser will submit an email to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services that is due June 19, 2026. This email will cover the following items:

- Increase per-pupil funding and index it to inflation on an ongoing basis;
- Fully fund negotiated collective agreement costs, including benefit increases;
- Provide dedicated funding support for portable classrooms required to address enrolment growth; and
- Ensure that funding levels reflect:
 - o the true cost of delivering public education;
 - o increasing student complexity and support needs;
 - o rising operational and capital costs;
 - o the need to recruit and retain qualified staff; and
 - o the importance of maintaining safe, inclusive, and effective learning environments.

Items Requiring Public Mention

The Board Chair and Trustees spoke of the following:

- Attendance at events including Grad Ceremonies, band concerts, school visits, Indigenous Education Blanketing Ceremonies and the Pride Festival.
- On Wednesday, June 3rd École Okanagan Mission Secondary School held their Relay for Life, bringing together cancer survivors, remembering those lost to cancer, and fundraising over \$105,000. This year's

students organized, planned and executed event included teams from École Kelowna Secondary School and Rutland Senior Secondary School. 450 students participated, which is the largest for a relay youth event in British Columbia.

- A wall of historical photos of schools throughout the Central Okanagan Public Schools has been installed in the Learning Centre. Special appreciation is extended to our current Secretary Treasurer/CFO, Delta Carmichael, and to retired Secretary Treasurer, Eileen Sadlowski, for their leadership and dedication in bringing this project to fruition.
- Congratulations were extended to two École Kelowna Secondary School students:
 - o Shaeyllan Beardmore for receiving a \$120,000 Schulich Leader Scholarship for her outstanding academic and extra-curricular achievement
 - o Dilynn Scott for receiving a \$70,000 2026 TD Scholarship for Community Leadership

Next Public Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 24, 2026 at 6:00 pm

Board Standing Committee Meetings

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

4:00 pm Finance and Planning Committee

For comments, please contact:

Chantelle Desrosiers, Vice-Chair of the Board of Education, 250-718-6303

Jon Rever, Superintendent of Schools, 250-470-3256

Delta Carmichael, Secretary Treasurer/CFO, 250-860-8888

The Board Meeting Highlights are published after each Public Board Meeting.
Please check the School District website (www.sd23.bc.ca) for all Board and Committee Meeting dates and times.