Central Okanagan Public Schools

Together We Learn

# 2026 TRUSTEE CANDIDATE INFORMATION SESSION

AUGUST 12, 2026

# AGENDA ITEMS

Land Acknowledgement

Introductions

District Information

Board of Education

Trustee Information

Educational Information

District Business

Questions or Comments

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**Central Okanagan Public Schools acknowledges that this Trustee Candidate Information Session is being held on the unceded, Traditional Territory of the Okanagan People.**

# INTRODUCTIONS

- Trustees
- Partner Groups
- Senior Staff
- Candidates

# DISTRICT INFORMATION

Central Okanagan Public Schools

Together We Learn

# DISTRICT OVERVIEW

- Serves over 235,000 citizens in the communities of Peachland, West Kelowna, Kelowna, Lake Country and the Regional District of Central Okanagan.
- Is the 5th largest school district in British Columbia.
- Provides education services to 25,200 students and has almost 4,500 employees.
- There are 50 school sites with 32 Elementary, 8 Middle, 5 Secondary, 3 Learning Centres, an Alternate Education School, and an Online Learning School (6-12).
- Welcomes approximately 350 international students from more than 35 countries each year.
- 2026/2027 Annual Budget = $397,249,663.

# DISTRICT PARTNERS

- Central Okanagan Teacher's Association (COTA)
- Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 3523 (CUPE)
- Central Okanagan Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association (COPVPA)
- Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council (COPAC)
- District Student Council (DSC)

# DISTRICT'S GUIDING FRAMEWORK

## Together We Learn

Safe • Inclusive • Equitable • Inspirational

To educate students in a safe, inclusive, equitable, and inspirational learning environment where each learner develops the attributes and competencies to flourish in a global community.

### VISION

Learners flourish as resilient and engaged global citizens.

### PURPOSE

Students develop foundational skills and core curricular competencies.

### VALUES

Honesty, respect, responsibility, equity, and empathy guide decisions.

### GOAL

Empower learners to follow their passions and strengths, thriving holistically.

# BOARD OF EDUCATION

Central Okanagan Public Schools

Together We Learn

# STRATEGIC PLAN REFRESH

STRATEGIC PLAN

REFRESH

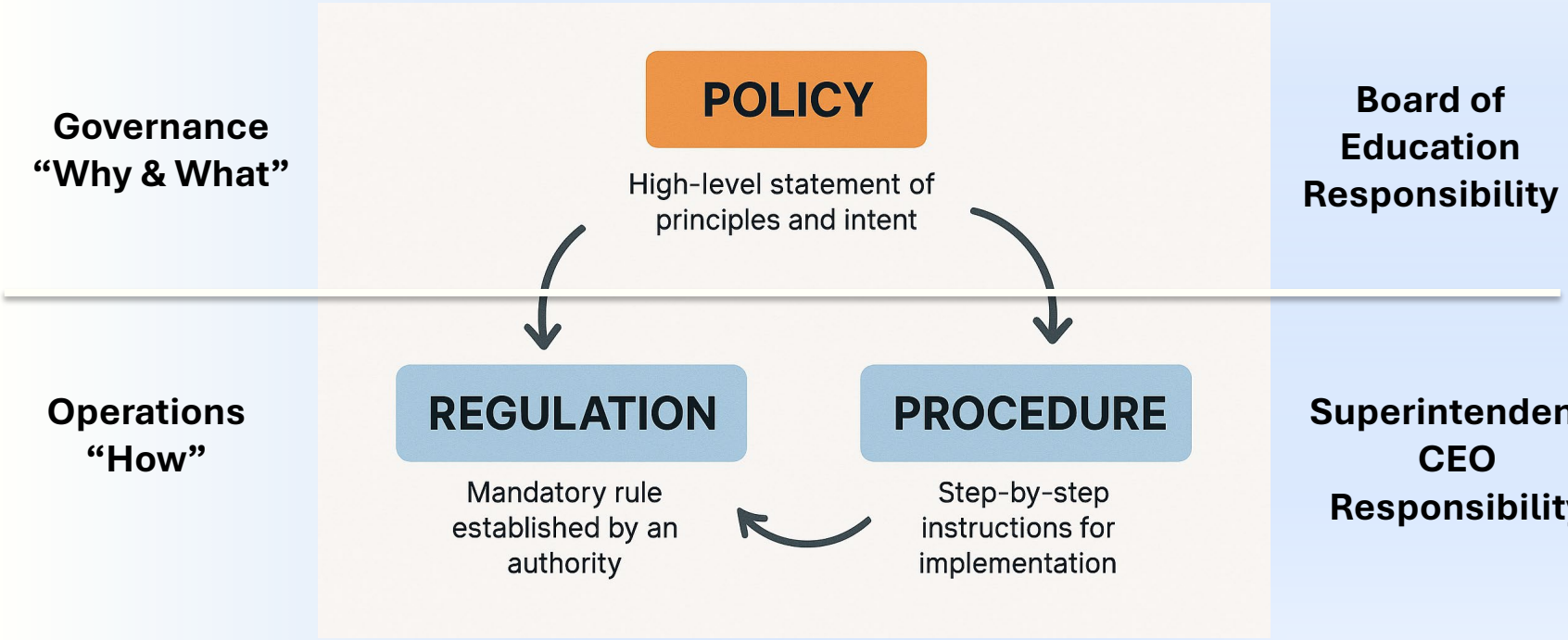
**Strategic Plan Refresh: Public and Partner Engagement Synthesis & Proposed Strategic Directions**

In 2025/2026, the Board of Education refreshed its Strategic Plan through 14 public and in-person engagements and an online survey with students, families, staff, Indigenous partners, and community.

The Superintendent will develop a revised multi-year plan focused on:

- Strong foundations and future readiness
- Meaningful and inclusive learning
- Student agency and voice
- Belonging, wellbeing, and safe communities
- Families and community as learning partners
- Responsive, sustainable stewardship

# K–12 Governance Framework Components and Responsibilities



# POLICY FRAMEWORK – 4 Policy Buckets

**1000**

**Board Governance**

**2000**

**Superintendent/School Board Relations**

**3000**

**Operational Expectations**

**4000**

**Student Achievement, Learning & Wellbeing**

# GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK & ANNUAL WORK PLAN

The Governance Framework is a Board-facing tool designed to make visible how the Board of Education governs over the course of a year.

The Board of Education, alongside the Superintendent of Schools and senior staff work to fulfill their responsibilities in the following key domains.

- **Setting the Strategic Direction** - Establishing priorities and reinforcing them through decisions that create alignment and coherence.
- **Monitoring and Systems Performance** - Reviewing and evaluating evidence for assurance and oversight.
- **Compliance and Accountability** - Meeting statutory, policy, and fiduciary obligations.
- **Stakeholder Engagement and Transparency** - Exercising engagement primarily through committees and public reporting.
- **Advocacy for Public Education** - The Board of Education exercising its voice and authority locally, regionally and provincially.

In addition to board and committee meetings, regularly scheduled trustee Inservice will be designed to support the learning of trustees during the year.

# TRUSTEE INFORMATION

Central Okanagan Public Schools

Together We Learn

# GENERAL INFORMATION

**Who Trustees Are:**

- Locally elected representatives of the public
- The community's advocates for public education in their local School District.

**Trustee Eligibility:**

- Canadian citizen
- Will be 18 years or older on general voting day
- BC resident for at least 6 months
- Not be disqualified under the *School Act* or any other enactment from being nominated for, elected to, or holding office as a school trustee

**Trustee Remuneration for 2026/2027:**

- Chair $29,794
- Vice Chair $27,567
- Trustee $26,102

# ELECTIONS INFORMATION

**1** **Lake Country**
1 Trustee
*District of Lake Country + Central Okanagan East Electoral Area*

**1** **Peachland**
1 Trustee
*District of Peachland + Central Okanagan West Electoral Area + IR 9 & 10*

**4** **City of Kelowna**
4 Trustee

**1** **City of West Kelowna**
1 Trustee
*Excluding Tsinstikeptum Indian Reserves 9 & 10*

# IMPORTANT DATES

2026 Trustee Election Timeline

**Pre-Campaign Period begins**
July 20, 2026

**Trustee Candidate Information Session**
August 12, 2026

**Nomination Period**
September 1 – 11, 2026

**Campaign Period**
September 19 - October 16, 2026

**Advance Voting Day**
Saturday, October 10, 2026

**General Voting Day**
October 17, 2026

# TIME COMMITMENT

Time commitments will vary but it is not uncommon for a trustee to spend an average of 15-20 hours per week on all the activities associated with the role including:

- Prepare for and attending Board and Board Committee meetings.
- Participate in monthly Trustee In-Service Learning Sessions
- Attend community meetings as a representative of the Board of Education.
- Attend British Columbia School Trustee Association (BCSTA) Annual General Meetings.
- Represent the voice from parents and members of the community in their electoral district.

# BOARDS ARE EMPLOYERS

The Board of Education delegates authority and provides clear direction to the Superintendent of Schools.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The Superintendent of Schools is the sole employee and reports directly to the Board of Education. | The Superintendent of Schools serves as the Board of Education's chief advisor. | The Board is responsible for the recruitment, selection and performance evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools. |

A Board of Education relies on District staff to advise and implement collective agreements and maintain communication processes necessary for good employee relations.

# TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

**The Board of Education's Strategic Plan:**

- The Board of Education is responsible for setting the overall direction for the School District.

- Trustees work together to establish the District's Strategic Plan, which sets the direction of the District for parents, the public and the staff, and identifies the priorities of the District.

- The Superintendent of Schools is responsible to implement the District's Strategic Plan and report progress to the Board of Education throughout the year.

# TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

**What Trustees Do:**

- Co-govern school districts with the provincial government.
- Work together to govern (the “why” and the “what”) the School District, not run the day-to-day operations (the “how”), and set direction on behalf of the community.
- A Board of Education must protect the interests of the School District, ensure its financial viability, and act in accordance with laws and policies governing K-12 education in BC.
- B.C.'s Ministry of Education and Child Care sets the curriculum, funding, and legal framework for K-12 education.
- The respective responsibilities of the Ministry of Education and Child Care and Boards of Education are described in the School Act.

# TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

**Financial Stewards:**

- Boards have important responsibilities for approval of School District budgets and capital plans.
- Boards ensure alignment of District priorities, strategic planning, and economic realities, through the establishment of the School District's budget.
- The Board of Education directs the Superintendent of Schools to implement the District's Strategic Plan and the allocation of resources to support that plan.

# ONCE ELECTED

Initial Dates to Know

Election Date – Saturday, October 17, 2026

Inaugural Board Meeting (Oath of Office) – Tuesday, November 10, 2026

First Board Meeting – Wednesday, November 18, 2026

BCSTA New Trustee Academy – November 26-28, 2026 (Vancouver, BC)

# EDUCATION INFORMATION

Central Okanagan Public Schools

Together We Learn

# EDUCATIONAL OVERVIEW

## EQUITY & EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING

We believe equity empowers each learner to thrive holistically. We also believe that each learner achieves excellence in learning when they have the confidence and competencies to pursue their passions and strengths.

We will achieve this through:

1. Inclusive Learning Cultures
2. Intentional Design of Learning
3. Collaborative Professionalism

## Enhancing Student Learning Report

MECC Framework for Enhancing Student Learning.

Required by all Boards of Education. Aligned with the Board's Strategic Plan.

Formalized approach to the planning and reporting expectations for all Central Okanagan schools with a focus on enhancing student learning and success.

It combines accountability with evidence-informed decision making and system-wide continuous improvement to support equity of outcomes for all students in the Central Okanagan.

# INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

**Equity in Action Agreement** - This reflects shared responsibility and progress during the 2025-2030 school years towards equitable opportunities for our District's Indigenous, First Nation, Métis and Inuit K-12 learners. Truth & Reconciliation – LEA, Equity in Action for Truth & Reconciliation.

**Local Education Agreement** - The Central Okanagan Board of Education and Westbank First Nation has jointly signed seven Local Education Agreements with the first LEA signed in 1992. The current LEA spans the 2022-2027 school years. Each Local Education Agreement has outlined the terms and conditions regarding the purchase of education service by Westbank First Nation from the Board of Education for Westbank First Nation students.

# HEALTHY, SAFE & INCLUSIVE SCHOOL FRAMEWORK

**Healthy, Safe and Inclusive School Framework for Anti-Racism** – This framework affirms the District's commitment to equity, inclusion, cultural safety, and human rights, aligning its work with provincial anti-racism guidance, the District's Strategic Plan and related equity frameworks. The framework identifies key action areas including policy guidance, inclusive school and workplace cultures, incident response protocols, staff capacity building, classroom and library resources, family and community engagement, and personal self-reflection. Overall, it positions anti-racism as an ongoing, district-wide responsibility requiring leadership, accountability, professional learning, community partnership, and sustained action to ensure all learners, staff, families, and community members feel valued, respected, and supported.

# DISTRICT BUSINESS

Central Okanagan Public Schools

Together We Learn

# FINANICAL OVERVIEW

O

**Operating** 82%

Main operating expenditures and the fund where budget development decisions are focused.

S

**Special Purpose** 15%

Funding provided for a particular purpose; specific dollars are targeted to defined uses.

C

**Capital** 3%

Capital assets such as land, buildings, equipment, and vehicles, guided by the five-year Capital Plan approved annually by the Board of Education.

**Total 2026/2027 Annual Budget - $397,249,663**

# PEOPLE, CULTURE & WELLBEING

## Teachers & Support Staff

- BC Public School Employers' Association (BCSPEA) and BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) and BCPSEA & CUPE National negotiate provincially.
- BC uses a two-tier bargaining structure for teachers and support staff.
- Local teacher associations or CUPE union and Boards of Education negotiate local issues.

**BCTF agreement ratified**

## Principals & Vice-Principals

- Members of Central Okanagan Principals' & Vice-Principals Association (COPVPA).
- Provides Distinct and school leadership.

**School leaders**

## Business Officials

- Members of Central Okanagan School Business Officials (COSBO).
- Provides District leadership.

**Business & operations leaders**

# QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

Central Okanagan Public Schools
Together We Learn

Questions can be emailed to Secretary Treasurer/CFO (secretary.treasurer@sd23.bc.ca)

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES & LINKS