

- Outlook

Fw: Response to Kevin Ahrendt

From: Julia Fraser <Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 1:20 PM

To: School Board Office <SchoolBoard.Office@sd23.bc.ca>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Jon Rever <Jon.Rever@sd23.bc.ca>

Subject: Response to Kevin Ahrendt

Hi Kevin,

Thank you for your thoughtful message and questions, we appreciate when families are engaged and want to learn more.

An example of a barrier to equity that will always exist is that all students learn differently. The District continues to use the principles of Universal Design for Learning, which means teachers strive to meet individual needs by designing lessons that offer multiple ways for students to engage, access information and demonstrate their learning.

An example of a systemic inequity is food insecurity for children and their families. Through community partnerships, the District uses equitable practices such as lunch and backpack programs to help reduce the number of students arriving to school hungry. For example, in partnership with the Central Okanagan Food Bank, the Food for Thought program provides over 900 healthy breakfasts and over 300 backpack meals each day so students have the nutrition they need to learn.

The Board of Education will soon begin the process to refresh the Strategic Plan. We will invite community input, and we hope you will share your thoughts.

Thank you again for your email.

Warmest Regards,

Julia Fraser

Board Chair & Ex-Officio of All Committees,

Central Okanagan Board of Education

Resolutions Committee Chair,

BCSTA Thompson-Okanagan Branch

Cell: 250-681-0269

Email: Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 2:25 PM
To: School Board Office <SchoolBoard.Office@sd23.bc.ca>
Subject: New Message from: kevin.ahrendt [REDACTED]

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Good after noon. I am reaching out because I am curious. I just read your Welcome to a New School Year email and under the heading, commitments outlined in our Strategic Plan, you have a subheading of Equity. It states, "We are committed to creating equitable opportunities so that every learner can thrive. This means removing barriers, addressing systemic inequities, and providing the support each individual needs to succeed." Can you please provide an objective example of a barrier and a systemic inequity that currently exists that promotes an imbalance or injustice for some segment of the student population in Central Okanagan schools? I am seeking to understand. Thank you. Kevin Ahrendt

Name:Kevin Ahrendt

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]