



**Central Okanagan
Public Schools**

Together We Learn

CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS - BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

Finance and Planning Committee Meeting

Public Meeting

Wednesday, June 17, 2026, 4:00 pm

School Board Office

1040 Hollywood Road S

Kelowna, BC

Board of Education: Trustee J. Fraser, Committee Chair
Trustee L. Tiede, Committee Member
Trustee C. Desrosiers, Committee Member
Trustee V. Johnson
Trustee A. Geistlinger (*by phone*)
Trustee L. Guderyan (*by phone*)

Staff: Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Kate Cumming, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Michael McLellan, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Operations & Corporate Services
Jon Rever, Superintendent of Schools
Josh Currie, Assistant Director of Operations
Gabe Cacchioni, Finance Manager
Gail Prokopchuk, Transportation Manager
Harold Schock, Energy and Sustainability Manager
Lise Bradshaw, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Partner Groups Susan Bauhart, COTA President
Teri Wishlow, CUPE President and Jana Laing, CUPE Secretary-Treasurer
Nathan Hind, COPAC Secretary
Nina Ferguson, COPVPA Executive
There were no representatives from District Student Council.

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

The Committee Chair welcomed and introduced Michael McLellan, the new Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Operations and Corporate Services.

AGENDA

June 17, 2026 Committee Agenda - approved as amended.

REPORTS/MATTERS ARISING

Finance and Planning Committee Public Meeting Report - May 13, 2026

May 13, 2026 Committee Report - received as distributed.

PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT PERIOD

Danielle Lamb, a parent at École Peter Greer Elementary School in Lake Country, spoke about the school's music prep teacher position. She noted that parents and the school principal have been advocating for the position over the past four years and asked how it could be made a permanent position.

The Superintendent acknowledged the value of music programming but advised that staffing decisions at the school level are generally made by the school principal rather than the Board of Education.

The COTA President noted that schools in the Mission area have worked to keep music programming a priority and suggested connecting with COPAC representatives from that area to learn more about their advocacy efforts.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' QUERIES/COMMENTS

Trustee Desrosiers acknowledged the significant impact of the Kalamoir Park fire on Westside schools and thanked administrators, school staff, bus drivers, the Transportation Manager, students, and families for their efforts and support during the fire.

The COTA President queried the revisions in the agenda. The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO advised that 30 minutes after the Agenda was initially distributed on Friday afternoon, the Ministry of Education and Child Care provided confirmation on some of the funding amounts. As such, a revised Agenda was distributed so that Committee members could have accurate information.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

2026/2027 Annual Budget Bylaw

The 2026/2027 Annual Budget was presented by the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, encompassing all projected revenues and expenses across the Operating, Special Purpose, and Capital Funds. Detailed breakdowns were provided in the Agenda package, with Schedule 2 covering the Operating Fund, Schedule 3 the Special Purpose Funds, and Schedule 4 the Capital Fund. For comparative purposes, the 2025/2026 Amended Budget was used, as it reflects updated enrollment figures and offers a more accurate basis for analysis. It was noted that while financial statements use the original annual budget for comparison due to accounting standards, budget discussions are based on the amended figures.

The Annual Budget is based on a projected enrolment of 24,547 school age full-time equivalent (FTE) and 350 International student FTE. The District has conservatively projected student enrolment decline of 375 FTE for the 2026/2027 Annual Budget. Any additional changes in student enrolment in September 2026 will be reflected in the 2026/2027 Amended Budget Bylaw.

The Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO and Superintendent of Schools answered queries from the Committee.

Outcome: The Finance and Planning Committee recommended to the Board:

THAT: The Board of Education of School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) give first reading to the School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Annual Budget Bylaw for the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 in the amount of \$397,249,663.

THAT: The Board of Education of School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) give second reading to the School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Annual Budget Bylaw for the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 in the amount of \$397,249,663.

THAT: The Board of Education of School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) give all three readings to the School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Annual Budget Bylaw for the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 in the amount of \$397,249,663.

THAT: The Board of Education of School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) give third reading and adopt the School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Annual Budget Bylaw for the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 in the amount of \$397,249,663.

Multi-Year Financial Plan (2026/2027 to 2028/2029)

The Multi-Year Financial Plan was presented for discussion and feedback in conjunction with the 2026/2027 Annual Budget Bylaw. Guided by the District's Budget Development Principles, Strategic Plan, Mission, Vision, Cultural Values, and Overarching Goal, the plan reflects public engagement, school goals, and key assumptions related to enrolment projections, funding levels,

wage and benefit increases, inflation, transportation, staffing, student supports, technology, utilities, and the opening of École George Pringle Secondary School.

The Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO and Superintendent of Schools answered queries from the Committee members.

OUTCOME: The Finance and Planning Committee recommended to the Board:

THAT: The Board of Education approve the Multi-Year Financial Plan (2026/2027 to 2028/2029) as attached to the Agenda and as presented at the June 17, 2026 Finance and Planning Committee Meeting.

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

Comprehensive Review Follow Up – Additional Information re: Possible 15 - Minute Adjustment to Secondary School Start and Dismissal Times

The Committee continued the discussion of a possible 15-minute adjustment to secondary school start and dismissal times, including updated Westside calculations, projected transportation efficiencies, and the potential for approximately \$480,000 in cost savings. Staff advised that the proposed adjustment would help stagger school bus service, increase available space for students, reduce waitlists, and support the more efficient use of driver hours, while maintaining transportation service.

Committee members and partner group representatives discussed the consultation process, including the survey sent to families of students in Grades 8 to 11 and to secondary staff. Concerns were raised about the number of staff responses, the clarity of the survey subject line, possible impacts on staff schedules and employment, and whether further communication or consultation should be undertaken. Other members noted the significant consultation already completed and emphasized the Board's responsibility to make fiscally responsible decisions based on the information available.

The COTA President queried how potential savings could be directed to schools. The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO advised that the funds could easily be spent, but one of the main priorities would be classroom support. The Committee members also raised questions regarding field studies, hardship applications, and whether implementation would apply only to secondary schools. Staff advised that the Board's direction would be supported with the most effective implementation and communication plan possible within the available timelines.

Staff Presentation: Energy and Sustainability Report 2025

Harold Schock, Manager of Energy and Sustainability provided the Committee with a presentation on the District's Energy and Sustainability in 2025.

The District achieved its 16th consecutive year of carbon neutrality and remains on track to meet provincial emissions reduction targets. Ongoing energy efficiency upgrades, solar expansion, and fleet electrification were highlighted, along with capital projects. Future priorities focus on expanding solar capacity, improving building automation, and advancing low-carbon transportation and sustainability initiatives.

Committee members asked about carbon credits, student engagement, the electric vehicle fleet, and expansion of the solar program.

Sustainability Initiatives for the 2025/2026 School Year

Received.

2025/2026 Estimated Accumulated Operating Surplus

The Assistant Secretary-Treasurer provided information outlining the estimated ending balances for both internally restricted and unrestricted operating surpluses, as well as the local capital fund. A final report will be brought to the Board for approval alongside the financial statements, which are due to the Ministry of Education and Child Care by September 30, 2026.

COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE

Trustee Fraser advised that, on behalf of the Board and in consultation with the Secretary-Treasurer/CFO and Trustees, a submission was made to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services regarding the 2027 Budget consultation. The submission requested increased and inflation-indexed per-pupil funding, full funding for negotiated costs and enrolment growth, and support that reflects the rising costs and complexity of public education.

ITEMS REQUIRING SPECIAL MENTION

The COTA President asked about the status of École George Pringle Secondary School and the new middle school on the Burtch Road site. The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO confirmed that the GPSS project was on budget and that there were no delays to the start of construction of the new school at the Burtch Road site.

RECOMMENDATIONS/REFERRALS TO THE BOARD

June 24, 2026 Public Board Meeting:

- 2026/2027 Annual Budget Bylaw (*Action Item*)
- Multi-Year Financial Plan (2026/2027 to 2028/2029) (*Action Item*)
- Sustainability Initiatives for the 2025/2026 School Year (*Information Item*)
- 2025/2026 Estimated Accumulated Operating Surplus (*Information Item*)
- Submission to Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services (*Board Correspondence - Sent*)

ITEMS FOR FUTURE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER

Finance:

- Presentation: Audited Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year
- Audited Financial Statements for the Fiscal year
- 2025/2026 Accumulated Operating Surplus
- Financial Statement Discussion and Analysis for the Year Ending June 30, 2026

Planning:

- Summer Projects Update

OCTOBER

Finance:

- Financial Update at September 30th
- Student and Family Affordability Fund Update as of June 30, 2026
- Feeding Futures Budget and Program Overview

Planning:

- Annual Integrated Pest Management Report

NOVEMBER

Finance:

- School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Budget Development Principles
- School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Budget Development Timeline
- 2025/2026 Statement of Financial Information

Planning:

- Annual Integrated Pest Management Report

JANUARY

Finance:

- Annual Review of Committee's Mandate, Purpose and Function.
- 2026/2027 Amended Annual Budget
- Ministry of Education and Child Care Recalculation Allocation

- Financial Update at December 31st
- Budget Survey Development

FEBRUARY

Finance:

- 2027/2028 Budget Presentation
- School Fees Summary

Planning:

- Annual Facility Grant (AFG) Plan

APRIL (1st Meeting)

Finance:

- Superintendent of Schools 2027/2028 Budget Proposal Report
- Budget Consultation Input Received
- Trustee Indemnity for the 2027/2028 Fiscal Year

APRIL (2nd Meeting)

Finance:

- Superintendent of Schools 2027/2028 Budget Recommendations Report
- Financial Report at March 31st

MAY

Finance:

- Auditor's Report to the Finance and Planning Committee – Initial Communication on Audit Planning for the Year
- Financial Update - International Education Program

Planning:

- Annual Transportation Update
- Capital Plan Submission

JUNE

Finance:

- School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year 2027/2028
- 2026/2027 Draft Accumulated Operating Surplus Review
- Proposed Multi-Year Financial Plan (2027/2028 to 2029/2030)
- Annual Review of Financial Planning and Reporting Policy

Planning:

- Energy and Sustainability Presentation

FUTURE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- September 16, 2026
- October 14, 2026
- November 25, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm.

Questions - Please Contact:

Trustee Julia Fraser, Committee Chair at Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca

Kate Cumming, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer at 250-860-8888 or Kate.Cumming@sd23.bc.ca



Julia Fraser, Chair