



## Safe Schools Community Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** Nov 5, 2025

**TIME:** 9:00 AM Microsoft Teams Video Conference Meeting

<b>Board of Education</b>	Lisa Guderyan
<b>Brain Trust</b>	Amanda McFarlane, Executive Director <b>Guests:</b> AJ Dhaliwal, Laura Trueba
<b>City of Kelowna</b>	Mohini Singh, City Councillor Ron Cannan, City Councillor Simran Sidhu, City Safety Advisor
<b>City of West Kelowna</b>	Melissa-Hunt Anderson, Community & Social Development
<b>COPAC</b>	Deannie Zahara, Secretary Jeannette Watson, Member Simon Adams, Vice President
<b>COTA</b>	Susan Bauhart, President
<b>CUPE</b>	Jessica Teasdale, CUPE Executive
<b>District Administration</b>	Sherri Roche - Chair, District Principal, Safety and Well-being Al Lalonde, Assistant Superintendent Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction Jon Rever, Superintendent Raquel Steen, Assistant Superintendent Rick Taylor, District Health & Safety Manager
<b>District of Lake Country</b>	Bib Patel, Councillor At Large
<b>Kelowna Fire Department</b>	Candace Friesen, Fire Inspector & Life Safety Educator Paul Johnson, Fire Prevention Officer
<b>Lake Country Fire Department</b>	Eric DeGelder, Fire Inspector
<b>RCMP/School Resource Officers</b>	Jocelyn Noseworthy, Cpl. Branwyn Rigby, Cst. SRO – Lake Country Federico Angulo, Cst. SRO - Kelowna Kirsten MacLeod, Cst. SRO - Kelowna Ramnit Lally, Cst. SRO - Kelowna Ryan Rode, Cst. SRO - West Kelowna
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Kirsten Donison, Administrative Assistant Amanda Rich, Safety and Well-Being Clerk
<b>School Administration</b>	Ashley Ragoonaden, Principal KLO Middle School Jared Birkeland, Vice-Principal Casorso Elementary
<b>Traffic Safety Officer</b>	Dan Glasscock

**Regrets:** Mohini Singh, Simon Adams, Deannie Zahara, Jon Rever, Raquel Steen, Al Lalonde, Rick Taylor, Ashley Ragoonaden, Dan Glasscock, Candace Friesen, Paul Johnson, Eric DeGelder, Jocelyn Noseworthy, Federico Angulo, Kirsten Macleod, Ramnit Lally, Ryan Rode, Branwyn Rigby, Melissa-Hunt Anderson, Bib Patel

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### 1. Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

- Sherri Roche opened the meeting at 9:02 am with a land acknowledgement recognizing the unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan peoples.

### 2. Introductions

- Attendees introduced themselves, including representatives from:
  - Board of Education, CUPE, COPAC, COTA, Brain Trust Canada, City of Kelowna, District Administration, School Administration, Clerical.
  - New members and transitions were acknowledged.

### 3. District Update: Leadership Transitions & Safe Schools

- New Superintendent: John Rever.
- New Assistant Superintendent: Lynda Reeve joined the team from Surrey school district
- All Assistant Superintendent portfolios have been restructured with a focus on equity and inclusion for all children across the district.
- Safe Schools now falls under Raquel Steen's portfolio, aligned with Indigenous and International Education departments.
- Senior leaders' working collaboratively for greater alignment and commonality; cohesive work.
- Increased focus on the Ministry's Anti-Racism Action Plan

### 4. ERASE Website Update

- ERASE website revamped with resources for students, adults, and school staff.
- Highlighted free webinars for parents on digital safety, mental health, and substance use.
- Encouragement to promote these resources to guardians and community members.

### 5. Presentation: Community Youth Safety Committee

**Presenter:** Simran Sidhu, Community Safety Advisor, City of Kelowna

- **New Initiative:** Kelowna Youth Safety Committee (pilot project).
- **Purpose:** Youth-led group (ages 13–17) to address safety concerns and influence community safety strategies; capacity for 20 youth on committee. First meeting was Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>.
- **Partners:** RCMP, Fire, EHS, Bylaws, and School District.
- **Structure:** Monthly meetings, guided discussions, presentations, and collaborative projects.

- **Outcomes:** Youth will earn 40 community service hours, receive reference letters, and present to City Council in June.
- **Topics Raised by Youth:**
  - Youth violence and substance use.
  - Centralized mental health resource website.
  - Peer ambassador model for early intervention.
  - Vaping concerns and enforcement ideas.
- **Next Meeting:** November 19 at RCMP Detachment.

## 6. Partner Group Updates

### *RCMP*

- Kelowna now has 4.5 FTE School Resource Officers (SROs).
- SROs are now permanent positions, not term limited.

### *Board of Education*

- New Chair: Valene Johnson; Vice Chair: Chantelle Desrosiers
- Approved Safe, Caring and Inclusive Schools Framework and Anti-Racism Strategy.
- Planning collaborative implementation with partner groups.

### *COTA*

- Leadership transition: April Smith is new First VP.
- Growing concern over student-on-teacher violence.
- Issue being addressed at labor management meetings.

### *CUPE*

- No updates
- Continuing to support for youth through school-based staff.

### *COPAC*

- President recently attended meeting in Surrey on e-scooter/e-bike safety, laws and policies.
- Great deal of interest in e-scooter and e-bike use.
- COPAC is planning an information event in spring with community partners.

### *City of Kelowna*

- The new Superintendent in charge of Kelowna RCMP Detachment is Chris Goebel; very forward thinking and community minded; appointed July 2025.
- Ongoing Rutland safety and homelessness concerns.
- Curious as to status of youth gang prevention and reduction strategy?

- Sherri – We are in 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the youth gang prevention (HRVY Project) that is housed at the Strong Roots Centre; a team supporting youth with indicators of gang association; we are at full capacity with a focus on 6-12 year olds; positive connections are being seen; unfortunately federal funding ending in March and continuing the program is a concern; a new grant application has been submitted focusing on family support.

#### ***Brain Trust Canada***

- Seeing an increase in youth violence.
- Interest in increasing youth engagement.
- Exploring concussion awareness initiatives and education within the community as well as within the school district.

#### ***District Administration***

- Human Rights Committee forming sub-committee working group to review and examine the proposed Safe, Caring and Inclusive Schools Framework.
- Partner groups invited to participate.

#### **7. Additional Updates**

- Simran Sidhu shared:
  - Upcoming federal initiative: CRCL (Crisis Response Community Led) Program for ages 13+.
  - Planning community-led e-scooter/e-bike safety presentation in spring.
  - Successful meet and greet parent education session with interpreters for newcomer families; over 100 families in attendance.
  - Digital safety sessions held end of October in ELL classrooms.

#### **8. Correspondence & New Business**

- No formal correspondence noted.
- Members encouraged to submit agenda items for future meetings.

#### **9. Summary & Wrap-Up**

- Next meetings scheduled for:
  - **February 11, 2026**
  - **May 13, 2026**
- Emphasis on continued collaboration and community engagement to support youth safety and well-being.

