



Safe Schools Community Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, Nov 3, 2021

9:00 a.m. Zoom Video Conference Meeting

Welcome/Introductions

Confirmation of Agenda

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Board of Education	Trustee Baxter
City of Kelowna	Not-present
COTA	Lori Dawson-Bedard
COPAC	Deannie Dacosta Zahara
District Administration	Al Lalonde, Sherri McKinnon, Rick Taylor, Jared Birkeland, Troy White, David Johnson,
Kelowna Fire Department	Paul Johnson
RCMP	Genny MacNeil
West Kelowna Fire Department	Kelly Wilson
District of Lake Country	Penny Gambell
	Federico Angulo

WELCOME

Sherri welcomed everyone to the Safe Schools Community Meeting and acknowledged that this meeting was being held on the unceded, Traditional Territory of the Okanagan People. Introductions Proceeded.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

Al Lalonde and Sherri McKinnon:

Meeting Intentions

- Goals and Objectives of the Kelowna Community Safety Plan
- CPS Themes
- Action Steps and Central Okanagan Public School's Proposed Role
- Group Discussion
- Partner network updates

City of Kelowna Community Safety Plan and Central Public Schools

- Had over 750 responses to survey back in September
- Tried to reach as many stakeholders including youth
- Multi-pronged system-based approach to improve community safety and well-being
- Wanting to engage community partners that play a role in the safety of our community
- Identify risk factors. Come from a more preventative approach rather than reactive.
- The main objectives are to come from us – collaborative, leadership,

CPS Themes

- Crime prevention and intervention and sense of safety
- Domestic violence
- House and homeless
- Mental health and problematic substance use
- Racism and discrimination

Action steps and Central Okanagan Public School's Proposed Role

Enhance existing referral systems; conduct systems mapping of existing services to highlight unmet needs and barriers to service access; establish and support accessible and adorable mental health services, particularly for youth, increase anti-oppression; equity and diversity training across social, education, health and enforcement sectors; review current; employ; encourage.

Al Lalonde – Assistant Superintendent

A lot of recommendations from this committee – although this is City of Kelowna, it affects all our school districts. Curriculum – no longer new, talks about core-competencies, we added social emotional teachers to 14 elementary schools, central health educators, a ton of support. We have mental health clinicians at every school, BITs. Trend we found – acute crisis response – what support do they have? Hospital doesn't seem to be the answer. Family support navigation – will be working with a student and need outside support (IHA, MCFD). How do we help people that are struggling navigate the system?

Trustee Baxter – Board of Education

Queried why isn't the City of Kelowna here and presenting to us?

Sherri McKinnon – District Principal

In response to Trustee Baxter's concern, CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOL is part of the role. This group is all about ensuring we are advocating and supporting what we feel needs to be considered for youth in our community. We want to make sure the youth's voice is being considered in the City of Kelowna's plan.

Lori Dawson-Bedard - COTA

To really appreciate the context, would be helpful to have someone from the City be here. Agrees with Trustee Baxter that City of Kelowna should be present on these meetings.

Troy White – District Administrator

Looking forward to providing feedback in regards to students lagging time in support – how do we strategize that with what Kelowna offers?

Trustee Baxter Baxter – Trustee

Feels confused on the fact no one representing the City is participating. Sherri and Al will take feedback from team to City of Kelowna. Right now we are kind of in "Draft" mode, waiting for more "Finalized plan" before connecting officially with City of Kelowna.

Al Lalonde – Assistant Superintendent

We are constantly gathering information from counsellors and teachers and asking their thoughts on these matters.

Sherri McKinnon – District Principal

We want to make sure we do a good job of giving them (City of Kelowna) good feedback for prevention measures for the youth in our community.

The committee divided into 3 breakout groups to discuss their thoughts on City of Kelowna Community Safety Plan and Central Public Schools

After the breakout sessions, each group reported out:

Group 1

Jared Birkeland – District Administrator

We do a great job helping children at school. Wanting to ensure they're safe while out of school (winter break)

Troy White – District Administrator

Impact of social media – who do children go to in off times summer winter etc. great opportunity for City of Kelowna to step in and help more during those time

Al Lalonde – Assistant Superintendent

What activities can kids do after school?

Group 2

Lori Dawson-Bedard – COTA

What support is available to help families? Not just children. The children come from families struggling – this doesn't fall under SD's authority – what is the City doing for this?

Deannie Dacosta Zahara – COPAC

We have money able to bring in outside organizations – leaning on SD staff that are able to provide parent education as well – there is a gap especially in summer months. ARC – counsellor worked with students all summer. Can COK support that kind of stuff as well as Indigenous advocate?

Al Lalonde – Assistant Superintendent

Appreciate bringing the family into this issue awareness. A school can bring a concern to the community panel – number one request is family support and navigation. It's a community issue.

RCMP Representative

Surrey "FIRST" students brought to them by student counsellors. Would meet at a neutral place (home, park, restaurant) assess a plan to support the whole family. Found more success in this by developing relationship with student and family. Family would put more trust in the police from this. This opened more doors to work with families.

Sherri McKinnon – District Principal

Needing that outreach on neutral grounds – sometimes doesn't feel safe for families if at school etc.

Group 3

- Being proactive in catching youth – even children at elementary level – often rooted in family and peer context. Having that proactive measure early is important. We have programs in place to help with that but need more information on how the City can provide those resources. Family dynamics don't change from elementary school – what programs can the City help with support. Is it possible for outreach programs to come to the actual schools (rec center, etc.,) where there is more of a need.
- The anxiety tools and training is so beneficial – one of the most prevalent cursors to mental health issues if not dealt with early. Trustee Baxter's comments are important – what happens once these students are out in the community after school? The mobile unit from The Foundry is very positive (in Lake Country). The police liaison officers are missing in Lake Country – they are so important – they come in contact with kids that are in trouble.
- Afterschool programming – Parkinson rec – trying to get from school to community – outreach programs.
- Foundry is overwhelmed. COK needs to support Foundry for more resources. Sometimes takes weeks for kids to get support, recommend more money towards Foundry resources.

Al Lalonde – Assistant Superintendent

Added that last year was the highest use ever of Foundry of youth.

Partner Group Updates:

RCMP – CYOS

Seeing positive affect with more involvement within the schools.

Jared Birkeland – District Administrator

Reached out to colleagues to see what issues – mental health concerns in the community and students. People are really struggling.

Troy White – District Administrator

Seeing more and more behaviors of students cause of stress.

David Johnson – District Administrator

Big hot spots- mental health and social emotional health of students and families. Everyone is on edge.

Trustee Baxter – Board of Education

Covid /vaccines – do not think with the amount of turmoil in community is helping. Trustees receiving phone calls – think it's a hard time and can't help but be reflected in children and families. Working on it as a board and will share with public when ready and necessary.

Lori Dawson-Bedard – COTA

Covid – masks, not wearing masks, lack of communication from IHA, potential vaccination policy – all overwhelming.

Deannie Dacosta Zahara – COPAC

Working on parent education (BCTF), talking about racism, wants to connect with AI about social emotional team.

Penny Gambell – District of Lake Country

Work that the school district is doing is positive – wonderful to see the efforts being made – happy to see where we're going. Nice to have an opportunity for input and gets us closer to a healthier and safer system for everyone. Issues regarding vandalism (Skateboard Park) bathrooms sinks were torn apart – need to work on to make community safer.

New business

- Nothing to report.

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Next meeting: Feb 2. Meetings are now on Wednesday's, not Thursday's.