



**Central Okanagan
Public Schools**

Together We Learn

CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS - BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

Finance and Planning Committee Meeting

Public Meeting

Wednesday, April 15, 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 W. Broughton
Trustee C. Desrosiers, Committee Member (*by phone*)
Trustee A. Geistlinger (*by phone*)
Trustee L. Guderyan, Acting Committee Member
Trustee V. Johnson

Staff: Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Kate Cumming, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Jon Rever, Superintendent of Schools
Raquel Steen, Assistant Superintendent
David Widdis, Planning Manager
Gabe Cacchioni, Finance Manager
Lise Bradshaw, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Partner Groups: Nicola Baker, COPAC President
Teri Wishlow, CUPE President and Jana Laing, CUPE Secretary-Treasurer
(*In gallery: George York, CUPE Vice-President and Shelley Yost, CUPE
Recording Secretary*)
Susan Bauhart, COTA President
District Student Council Reps: Khadija Mateen, Mattea Sulko, Elena
Matanog (*In gallery: William Butler, Sena Guzol, May Samra*)
There were no representatives from COPVPA

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

At the request of Trustee Desrosiers, Trustee Guderyan was appointed as Acting Committee member.

AGENDA

April 15, 2026 Committee Agenda - approved as presented.

REPORTS/MATTERS ARISING

Finance and Planning Committee Public Meeting Report - February 11, 2026

February 11, 2026 Committee Report - received as distributed.

STAFF PRESENTATION

Central Okanagan Public Schools Superintendent of Schools' Operating Budget Proposal Report for 2026/2027

The Superintendent's Operating Budget Proposal addressed a projected \$4.2 million budget pressure driven by a second consecutive year of enrolment decline (-375 FTE), a flat per-pupil grant of \$9,015, and rising operational costs, all within a structure where 88% of spending is tied to salaries and benefits. The proposal protects direct student supports, including additional CEAs, strategically placed inclusion teachers, mental health and counselling services, and continued investment in students, while balancing the budget through enrolment-based staffing adjustments, timetable efficiencies, vacancy management, and selective administrative reductions.

Key issues flagged for ongoing review include dual-track French Immersion sustainability, secondary scheduling efficiency, transportation costs, and pending Ministry confirmation of wage and benefit settlement funding.

The Superintendent of Schools and Secretary-Treasurer/CFO answered queries from Committee members regarding:

- advocacy to increase per pupil funding from the Ministry of Education and Child Care;
- appreciation of budget transparency with each partner group;
- support staff vacancies, including CEAs in the Learning Disability Intervention program;
- class size and secondary timetable changes;
- school discretionary budget use and limits;
- contracted services and management-to-support staff ratios;
- exempt staff wage increases, trustee remuneration, and technology costs;
- grant allocation practices and added staffing pressures from government mandates in comparison to other districts;
- costs tied to private daycares on school property;
- white vehicle fleet additions funded through local capital and cost-neutral trade-ins.

PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT PERIOD

None

COMMITTEE MEMBERS QUERIES/COMMENTS

The Committee Chair acknowledged that April 15, 2026 is National School Bus Driver Appreciation Day and recognizes all school bus drivers in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

The Committee Chair advised that the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services is holding its annual budget consultations. The Committee Chair queried if senior staff had registered to present on behalf of the District. The Superintendent of Schools and Secretary-Treasurer/CFO had not received a notification about the consultation but advised they will seek further information.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Trustee Indemnity for the 2026/2027 Fiscal Year

The Assistant Secretary-Treasurer advised that each school district is responsible for setting its own trustee indemnity rate, with many districts using the BC Consumer Price Index to set trustee remuneration. Staff are recommending a 2.1% increase for the 2026/2027 school year.

Committee members discussed the recommended increase and agreed that it should be recommended to a Public Board meeting Board for a full discussion.

OUTCOME: The Finance and Planning Committee recommended:

THAT: The Board of Education set the Trustee Indemnity, in accordance with the most recent BC Consumer Price Index of 2.1% for the period July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, thereby setting the stipend at: Trustee - \$26,102, Vice-Chair - \$27,567, Chair - \$29,794.

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

Superintendent of Schools' Operating Budget Proposal Report for 2026/2027

Received. Further to the Superintendent of Schools' presentation, there was no additional discussion regarding the Superintendent of Schools' Operating Budget Proposal Report for 2026/2027.

Estimated Operating Grants Overview - 2026/2027 School Year

Received.

2026/2027 Public Budget Survey Results

Received.

Catchment Boundary Changes – Opening of École George Pringle Secondary School

The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO explained that staff created the memo for the Committee in order to update Committee members on the Board's previous motions about catchment boundaries, as these decisions were made several years ago, before a number of Trustees took office. Since then, changes in population and enrollment in West Kelowna have occurred.

This item will be referred to the Public Board meeting for further discussion.

ITEMS REQUIRING SPECIAL MENTION

Trustee Fraser reported that she, the Board Chair and Trustee Desrosiers, along with staff, gave Premier David Eby a tour of the new Ecole George Pringle Secondary School site.

RECOMMENDATIONS/REFERRALS TO THE BOARD

April 22, 2026 Public Board Meeting

- Estimated Operating Grants Overview - 2026/2027 School Year
- 2026/2027 Public Budget Survey Results
- Opening of École George Pringle Secondary School

May 20, 2026 Public Board Meeting

- Trustee Indemnity for the 2026/2027 Fiscal Year

ITEMS FOR FUTURE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

April (2nd Meeting)

Finance:

- Central Okanagan Public Schools Superintendent of Schools 2026/2027 Budget Recommendations Report
- Financial Report at March 31st

Planning:

- Report on Secondary School Bus Routes

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 2026/2027
- 2025/2026 Draft Accumulated Operating Surplus Review
- Proposed Multi-Year Financial Plan (2026/2027 to 2028/2029)
- Annual Review of Financial Planning and Reporting Policy

Planning:

- Energy and Sustainability Presentation

FUTURE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Wednesday, April 29, 2026
- Wednesday, May 13, 2026
- Wednesday, June 17, 2026

4:00 pm, 1040 Hollywood Road S., Kelowna

MEDIA QUESTIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:34 pm.

Questions - Please Contact:

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

Kate Cumming, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer at Kate.Cumming@sd23.bc.ca

Julia Fraser, Committee Chair