



**Central Okanagan  
Public Schools**  
Together We Learn

## **CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS - BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Finance and Planning Committee Meeting**

#### **Public Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 4:00 pm**

**School Board Office**

**1040 Hollywood Road S**

**Kelowna, BC**

Board of Education: Trustee J. Fraser, Committee Chair  
Trustee C. Desrosiers, Committee Member  
Trustee V. Johnson, Acting Committee Member  
Trustee A. Geistlinger

*Absent: Trustee L. Tiede, Committee Member*

Staff: Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO  
Kate Cumming, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer  
Jon Rever, Superintendent of Schools  
Josh Currie, Assistant Director of Operations  
Stuart Kamstra, Assistant Director of Capital and Planning  
David Widdis, Planning Manager  
Gail Prokopchuk, Transportation Manager  
Gabe Cacchione, Finance Manager  
Lise Bradshaw, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Partner Groups Susan Bauhart, COTA President  
Teri Wishlow, CUPE President and Jana Laing, CUPE Secretary-Treasurer  
Leslie Atwell, COPAC Vice-President  
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.**

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In the absence of Trustee Tiede, Board Chair Valene Johnson was appointed as Acting Committee Member.

## **AGENDA**

May 13, 2026 Committee Agenda - approved as presented.

## **REPORTS/MATTERS ARISING**

### **Finance and Planning Committee Public Meeting Report - April 29, 2026**

April 29, 2026 Committee Report - received as distributed.

## **PRESENTATION**

### **Report to the Finance and Planning Committee - Initial Communication on Audit Planning for the Year Ended June 30, 2026**

Tyler Neels and Jo-Elle Craig of Doane Grant Thornton LLP presented a review of the terms of the audit engagement and proposed strategy regarding the annual audit of the District's financial statements as of June 30, 2026.

Considerations for this year's audit include the challenges and uncertainties related to the current economic environment, since the economy is continuing to go through a period of high uncertainty. Other considerations for this year's audit include the District's ongoing significant capital projects, compliance with laws and regulations, and assessment of fraud risks. Additionally, deferred capital contributions, investments, tangible capital assets, purchases and payables and employee compensation are also a focus of attention.

The five key phases of the audit approach are Planning, Assessing Risk, Evaluating Internal Controls, Testing Accounts and Transactions and Concluding and Reporting.

The results of the audit will be presented at the September 16, 2026 Finance and Planning Committee Meeting. Final financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2026 are due to the Ministry of Education and Child Care by September 30, 2026.

Mr. Neels and Ms. Craig responded to Committee questions.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT PERIOD**

None.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS' QUERIES/COMMENTS**

Trustee Fraser queried the construction underway at the Central Programs site. The Assistant Director of Operations advised that the work was due to an insurance claim.

Trustee Fraser queried the status of the École Dr. Knox Middle School addition. The Assistant Director of Capital and Planning advised that some classrooms will be ready in June, with full occupancy by September 2026.

The COTA President queried whether the École George Pringle Secondary School was on budget, due to inflation and potential cost escalations since the start of construction. The Assistant Director of Capital and Planning advised that the project remains on budget.

## **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

### **Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2026/27-CPSD23-01**

The Ministry of Education and Child Care provided their written response to the 2026/2027 Capital Plan submitted last year. The response identifies the next steps for supporting major capital projects, and approval to proceed with the delivery of approved minor capital projects.

Committee members asked for details of the kitchen equipment allocated for Mount Boucherie Secondary School and the funding for new buses.

**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 Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2026/27-CPSD23-01.**

**THAT: The Board of Education of School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) give second reading to Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2026/27-CPSD23-01.**

**THAT: The Board of Education of School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) give all three readings to Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2026/27-CPSD23-01 at the May 20, 2026 Public Board Meeting.**

**THAT: The Board of Education of School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) give third reading and adopt Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2026/27-CPSD23-01.**

### **2027/2028 Five-Year Capital Plan Submission**

Boards of Education are required to submit a Five-Year Capital Plan to the Ministry of Infrastructure (the Ministry) on an annual basis. Eligible capital projects are defined within both major and minor capital funding streams to support projects such as new construction, site acquisitions, equipment, as well as upgrades and replacements to existing school facilities. District staff have discussed the plan with staff from the Ministry regarding the various funding programs for the upcoming 2027/2028 Capital Plan submission. The Ministry continues to highlight that the focus of the Provincial Government is to reduce portable classrooms through the creation of new student seats, while also focusing on student safety.

The Committee queried the listing of a new school proposed for the University area, the timeline for the new middle school at the Burtch Road site, and the likelihood of schools listed for replacement ever getting replaced (locally, and provincially).

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

**THAT: The Board of Education approve the Capital Plan Resolutions for the 2027/2028 Capital Plan as outlined on the attached summary as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the May 13, 2026, Finance and Planning Committee Meeting.**

## **DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **2026/2027 CommunityLINK Allocations**

CommunityLINK (learning includes nutrition and knowledge) will provide the District with \$1,296,051 in funding next year to support vulnerable students in academic achievement and social functioning. Consistent with the prior year, the District will focus the CommunityLINK program funding for the 2026/2027 year to support mental health initiatives including group counselling for drug and alcohol, and mental health support for all schools. The District has also been able to impact students through elementary, middle, and secondary focused mental health initiatives and the Young Parent program located at École Kelowna Secondary School.

Trustee Johnson said she had spoken with a colleague in the Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows School District about how CommunityLINK allocations are calculated. She will bring additional information to the next Board meeting to help the Board better understand the allocation process and identify possible advocacy opportunities.

### **2025/2026 Transportation Services Update**

The Committee received the Transportation Services Update from Gail Prokopchuk, Transportation Manager, for the 2025/2026 school year, which outlined current ridership, application processing timelines, and ongoing initiatives to improve efficiency, compliance, and service delivery within the Transportation Department.

### **2025/2026 International Education Program Update**

The Finance and Planning Committee received an update on the 2025/2026 International Education Program, noting that the program continues to generate significant revenue to support district operations, staffing, and student programs. The program currently serves 525 students from 30 countries and jurisdictions, maintaining a mid-sized, diverse model that balances financial contribution with cultural enrichment. The committee also noted ongoing challenges related to homestay availability, cost of living, and global economic and political conditions affecting recruitment.

Assistant Superintendent Raquel Steen noted that English-language learners may affect classroom capacity, but that they are not always international program students; some are students who have immigrated to Canada.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS/REFERRALS TO THE BOARD**

### **May 20, 2026 Public Board Meeting**

- Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2026/27-CPSD23-01 (Action item)
- 2027/2028 Five-Year Capital Plan Submission (Action item)
- 2026/2027 CommunityLINK Allocations (Information item)
- 2025/2026 Transportation Services Update (Information item)
- 2025/2026 International Education Program Update (Information item)

## **ITEMS FOR FUTURE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **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**

June 17, 2026

4:00 pm, Main Board Room

1040 Hollywood Rd. S., Kelowna

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

**Questions - Please Contact:**

Trustee Julia Fraser, Committee Chair at [Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca](mailto:Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca)

Kate Cumming, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer at 250-860-8888 or [Kate.Cumming@sd23.bc.ca](mailto:Kate.Cumming@sd23.bc.ca)

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Julia Fraser, Chair