



**Central Okanagan
Public Schools**
Together We Learn

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, September 10, 2025, 6:00 pm
School Board Office
1040 Hollywood Road S
Kelowna, BC**

Board of Education: Trustee J. Fraser, Chair
Trustee W. Broughton
Trustee C. Desrosiers
Trustee A. Geistlinger
Trustee L. Guderyan
Trustee V. Johnson
Trustee L. Tiede

Staff: Jon Rever, Superintendent of Schools
Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Mona Essler, Executive Assistant
Lise Bradshaw, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Partner Groups: CUPE: George York, Vice-President
COPAC: Nicola Baker, President
COPVPA: Jeremy Sanbrooks, Secretary
COTA: Susan Bauhart, President (*joined by Zoom at 6:07 pm*)
There were no representatives from District Student Council

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

AGENDA

Main 25P-065

MOVED by Trustee Broughton

SECONDED by Trustee Guderyan

THAT: The Agenda for the Public Board Meeting of September 10, 2025 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

MINUTES

Public Board Meeting - June 25, 2025

Main 25P-066

MOVED by Trustee Broughton

SECONDED by Trustee Guderyan

THAT: The Minutes of the Public Board Meeting of June 25, 2025 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

INTRODUCTIONS

New Staff

The Board of Education welcomed the following to Central Okanagan Public Schools:

Lynda, Reeve, Assistant Superintendent

Sylvie Forget, Vice-Principal, École Glenmore Elementary School

Staff in a New Role

The Board of Education congratulated the following on their new roles in Central Okanagan Public Schools:

Bryce Owens, Principal, Raymer Elementary School

Ty Nelson, Vice-Principal, École KLO Middle School

DECLARATIONS

Truth and Reconciliation Week: September 22-26, 2025

The Central Okanagan Board of Education declared the week of September 22-26, 2025 as 'Truth and Reconciliation Week' in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day – September 30, 2025

The Central Okanagan Board of Education declared September 30, 2025 as ‘National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day’ in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

2025 School Opening Report - Part 1

Presenter: Jon Rever, Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent of Schools and Secretary-Treasurer/CFO provided an overview of the 2025/2026 district start-up and answered questions from Trustees.

The Superintendent’s District Start-Up Report 2025/2026 presentation is available on the Central Okanagan Public Schools website at www.sd23.bc.ca under Publications.

Main 25P-067

MOVED by Trustee Johnson

SECONDED by Trustee Guderyan

THAT: The Board of Education receive the Superintendent's District Start-up Report 2025-2026.

CARRIED

PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT PERIOD

Dominique Raymond, a teacher in Central Okanagan Public Schools, asked the Board of Education about applying pressure to the government regarding the ongoing use of portables. The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO responded that there is a government mandate to reduce the reliance on portables in the province. The District is fortunate to have successfully advocated for pre-fabricated classrooms and modular installations rather than portables.

TRUSTEE QUERIES/COMMENTS

Trustee Tiede queried the discontinuation of the Student and Family Affordability Fund. The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO confirmed that the Fund had been discontinued, and advised that as of during the 2024/2025 school year, unspent funding was allocated to schools so that they can continue to support families. At June 30, 2025, there is also a small surplus that will be carried forward into the 2025/2026 school year to be allocated and spent on families in need. Once that is depleted, families can continue to rely on the District's financial hardship policy under Policy 425R Student Fees (*Regulations*).

The Board Chair queried the reasons that school buses might be cancelled unexpectedly. The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO advised that school bus routes are only cancelled when a bus driver or

replacement driver are not available, or in very rare occasions when there is an emergency in a community. Transportation Services uses a system hosted on our website called "The School Bus Stop" to notify parents of delays and cancellations to bus routes, and it has the functionality to send alerts to parents to provide important information regarding emergent situations that may arise throughout the day.

The Superintendent of Schools also advised that the "School Bus Stop" icon is prominently displayed on the school district website where the status of all school buses is available throughout the day.

ACTION ITEMS

Strategic Plan, Governance Framework and Annual Work Plan

Recommendation from the Coordinating Committee Meeting - September 2, 2025.

Main 25P-068

MOVED by Trustee Johnson

SECONDED by Trustee Geistlinger

THAT: The Board of Education direct the Superintendent of Schools to design a process to revise and update the Board's Strategic Plan and to work with the Board in the creation and publication of a Governance Framework and Annual Work Plan for the Board;

AND THAT: The Superintendent of Schools report back to the Board with a timeline for completion of both processes by October 31, 2025.

Amendment 25P-069

MOVED by Trustee Geistlinger

SECONDED by Trustee Desrosiers

THAT: The Board of Education direct the Superintendent of Schools to work with the Board to design a process to revise and update the Board's Strategic Plan and to work with the Board in the creation and publication of a Governance Framework ~~and~~ / Annual Work Plan for the Board;

AND THAT: The Superintendent of Schools report back to the Board with a timeline for completion of both processes by October 31, 2025.

CARRIED

Main 25P-068 as amended by Amendment 25P-069

THAT: The Board of Education direct the Superintendent of Schools to work with the Board to design a process to revise and update the Board's Strategic Plan and to work with the

Board in the creation and publication of a Governance Framework/Annual Work Plan for the Board;

AND THAT: The Superintendent of Schools report back to the Board with a timeline for completion of both processes by October 31, 2025.

CARRIED

Enhancing Inside 23 for Governance and Continuous Improvement

Main 25P-070

MOVED by Trustee Johnson

SECONDED by Trustee Geistlinger

THAT: The Board of Education approve the implementation of the Inside 23 Strategic Alignment Process, effective with the next Public Board Meeting on September 24, 2025, requiring that each Inside 23 presentation:

- a) identify the Strategic Plan pillar(s) and specific outcome(s) addressed;**
- b) include concise evidence of impact on the progress of the goals and outcomes described in the Strategic Plan; and**
- c) state next steps and how progress will be monitored.**

AND THAT: The Superintendent of Schools provide an annual Inside 23 Evidence Summary to the Board synthesizing progress and themes aligned to the 2021-2026 Strategic Plan.

Amendment 25P-071

MOVED by Trustee Broughton

SECONDED by Trustee Guderyan

Amend a) to read:

- a) identify the Strategic Plan ~~pillar(s)~~ direction and specific outcome(s) addressed;**
- and*
- remove "2021-2026" in the last paragraph of the motion.**

CARRIED

Main 25P-070 as amended by Amendment 25P-071

THAT: The Board of Education approve the implementation of the Inside 23 Strategic Alignment Process, effective with the next Public Board Meeting on September 24, 2025, requiring that each Inside 23 presentation:

- a) identify the Strategic Plan direction and specific outcome(s) addressed;**

- b) include concise evidence of impact on the progress of the goals and outcomes described in the Strategic Plan; and
- c) state next steps and how progress will be monitored.

AND THAT: The Superintendent of Schools provide an annual Inside 23 Evidence Summary to the Board synthesizing progress and themes aligned to the Strategic Plan.

CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEMS

Superintendent's Emergent Issues

None.

Level 4 and 5 Field Study Summary - 2025/2026

The Board reviewed the information.

General Statement – June 25, 2025

The Board reviewed the information.

Board Representation at District Student Council Meetings - 2025/2026

The Board reviewed the information.

Board Representation at Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council Meetings - 2025/2026

The Board reviewed the information.

ADVOCACY

BCSTA Motion Input: Student Voice

Trustees discussed the request from BCSTA Board of Directors asking Districts to help to build a more complete picture of how student voice is being supported across British Columbia, so they can guide the development of resources to assist boards in strengthening these practices.

BOARD/DISTRICT COMMITTEE QUERIES/COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Trustee Broughton apologized for inadvertently missing the first District Student Council meeting. The Superintendent of Schools advised that he and Assistant Superintendent Lynda Reeve attended, and will be supporting the District Student Council this year. While the initial meeting was lightly attended due to the recruitment of students, he is optimistic that under the leadership of the new Co-Presidents it will be a good year. Trustee Desrosiers attended the first COPAC meeting of the year and shared that it was invigorating to hear how excited parents were with the start-up of a new school year.

The Board Chair advised that she had participated in a Board Chair call with the Minister of Education and Child Care Lisa Beare where updates were provided on Feeding Futures funding, access zones, AEDs and naloxone kits in schools, and literacy screening.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Received:

- 2025-06-20 Email from C. Casson re: Concern over recent treatment of Board Member Amy Geistlinger
- 2025-06-20 Email from S. Walter re: Support for Amy Geistlinger
- 2025-06-21 Email from D. Clark re: Trustee Geistlinger
- 2025-06-21 Email from D. Hamm re: SD23 is inclusive, unless you are Christian
- 2025-06-21 Email from G. Warren
- 2025-06-22 Email from B. Shumborski re: Are Drag Queens in Public Schools Appropriate?
- 2025-06-22 Email from S. Kootnekoff re: Please correct disparity between OKM and KSS
- 2025-06-22 Email from S. Smith re: Where is Festivus for the rest of us at SD23
- 2025-06-23 Email from T. Belyk re: Amy Geistlinger
- 2025-06-24 Email from C. Patterson re: support for Ms. Geistlinger
- 2025-06-24 Email from JL re: Support for Amy
- 2025-06-24 Email from R. Williams - Thank You!
- 2025-06-27 Email from L. Beischer re: response to your message
- 2025-06-29 Email from D. Buckna re: Cell Phone Bans in Schools
- 2025-07-04 Email response from D. Paley to Board Year-End Message
- 2025-07-14 Email from City of West Kelowna re: Helen Gorman playground
- 2025-07-18 Email from R. Armstrong re: Governance Concerns - June 11 motion lacked transparency and due process
- 2025-07-21 Email response from R. Armstrong re: Governance concerns - June 11 motion
- 2025-08-23 Email from P. Grant re: landscape-lack of upkeep at CMS
- 2025-09-03 Email from K. Ahrendt re: Welcome Back Message

Sent:

- 2025-06-26 Letter to COPVPA re: AGM elections
- 2025-06-27 Email to All Staff re: Year-End Message from Board of Education
- 2025-07-18 Email from Board Chair to R. Armstrong re: Governance concerns - June 11 motion
- 2025-07-21 Email response from Board Chair to R. Armstrong re: Governance concerns - June 11 motion
- 2025-09-02 Letter from Board Chair to All Staff re: Welcome Back!
- 2025-09-03 Letter to MLAs - invitation to meet

- 2025-09-03 Letter to MPs - invitation to meet
- 2025-09-03 Letter to CUPE - invitation to meet
- 2025-09-03 Letter to COTA - invitation to meet
- 2025-09-03 Letter to WFN - invitation to meet
- 2025-09-03 Email response to K. Ahrendt re: Welcome back message

Main 25P-073

MOVED by Trustee Desrosiers

SECONDED by Trustee Johnson

THAT: At the September 10, 2025 Public Board Meeting, the Board receive the correspondence listed above.

CARRIED

ITEMS REQUIRING SPECIAL MENTION

The Board Chair, Trustees and the Superintendent of Schools/CEO, spoke of the following:

- Attendance at various meetings and events throughout the District, including a Welcome Back luncheon at the Board of Education Learning Centre, and a welcome to international students, hosted by the International Education Department, at Green Bay Bible Camp.
- The Superintendent of Schools expressed his appreciation to students, parents and staff for a very successful start-up to the 2025/2026 school year. A special mention was made to the Operations and Technology Departments for their work over the summer months to physically get schools ready for students on September 2nd.

BC PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION

BCPSEA Symposium 2025

November 6-7, 2025

(Virtual)

BC SCHOOL TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION

BCSTA Thompson Okanagan Branch Meeting

October 17/18, 2025

Kamloops, BC

Provincial Council

October 24, 2025

(Virtual)

Trustee Academy

November 27-29, 2025

Vancouver, BC

BOARD MEETINGS WITH PARTNER AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

Joint Board/MLA Meeting

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

FUTURE MEETINGS

Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings

- Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at 6:00 pm

- Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at 6:00 pm

Main Board Room, 1040 Hollywood Road S.

Board Standing Committee Meetings

Finance and Planning Committee

- Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 4:00 pm

Education and Student Services Committee

- Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 6:00 pm

Main Board Room, 1040 Hollywood Road S.

MEDIA QUESTIONS

No media present.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:26 pm.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer/CFO