



Central Okanagan
Public Schools
Together We Learn

PUBLIC EDUCATION AWARENESS COMMITTEE (PEAC)

MINUTES

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 4:00 pm
School Board Office – Board Room 1

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Jessica Anjos COPVPA	Julia Fraser Trustee	Cathie Mutter CORTA	Jon Rever District Staff
	Justin Schneider District Staff	Jasmeet Virk COPVPA	Shelley Yost CUPE	Deannie Zahara COPAC
ABSENT:	Terry Beaudry District Staff	Luke Campbell COPVPA	Nolan Chapman COTA	Mary Hope COTA
	Lordes Tokar DSC	October Angell-Janfield DSC		

1. Welcome

Justin welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged that the PEAC meeting is being held on the unceded Traditional Territory of the Okanagan Syilx people.

2. Agenda – February 27, 2024 (Approval/Additions)

The Committee approved the February 27, 2024 agenda as presented.

3. Minutes – December 5, 2023

The Committee approved the December 5, 2023 minutes as distributed.

4. "Together We Learn"

a. December Edition Debrief

Justin reported on the Fall/Winter 2023 *Together We Learn* edition which was themed "Together We Inspire Wonder". He queried PEAC members if they had read the issue and commented that producing the edition had gone well. The "Wonder" issue of *Together We Learn* was distributed to 70,000 email addresses and had one of the highest "click through" rates. Paper copies of the newspaper are no longer produced which saves a lot of costs and the digital version gives opportunity for audio and video articles.

b. Ideas for the Spring Edition

Justin shared that the spring edition of *Together We Learn* will continue with the annual theme of "Wonder" and queried the PEAC members for a central theme for the issue. The themes of numeracy, literacy, natural science and wonder, and sustainability have been covered already. Justin suggested that the topic of social sciences could inspire lots of interesting articles, i.e., the new Holocaust 12: Beyond the Shoah course, that it would be nice to do another creativity issue, and it would be important to highlight academic achievement.

The Committee discussed ideas for the Spring 2024 *Together We Learn* edition:

- Acknowledge special events, i.e., Pride month, Orange or Pink Shirt Day.
- Include a collective video message from the Board of Education with each Trustee contributing a couple of sentences about Pride month or other special events.
- Build off "Wonder" and find out what schools are doing to support the theme.
- Inclusivity and diversity is a theme at Helen Gorman Elementary and the school has done work supporting kindness, i.e., Caring Community Club.
- Many schools are preparing for the Apple Bowl School Track Meet.

Justin commented that we can relate just about anything back to the theme of "Wonder". Many school's Library Learning Commons are doing something around the theme and the Spring newspaper edition could highlight our libraries. Student journalists could visit the teacher librarians to find out what they are doing to support the theme and the importance of Library Learning Commons in schools.

PEAC members continued discussing ideas for the Spring 2024 *Together We Learn* edition:

- Battle of the Books is coming up.
- The library is the heart of the school.
- Gardens and things that bloom in the spring. Ideas that are sprouting.
- School Community gardens and the Clubhouse Farm – plants will be sprouting up this spring.
- Indoor tower gardens at Glenmore Elementary, MBSS, KLO and Central School.
- National Indigenous Peoples Day and Pride Week in June.
- Social Awareness as a main topic. Learn about Friendship month, Pink Shirt Day, Pride celebration at each school, gender-based violence, learning in isolation.
- Diversity clubs.
- Course selection is in spring. Focus on mandatory Indigenous-focused courses available to students for graduation.
- An overarching theme of innovation and collaboration. Highlight that we are leaders in innovation and collaboration, and leaders in quality education:
 - District teachers are leaders in our community, developing courses for use at the provincial level, i.e., Holocaust 12: Beyond the Shoah and Indigenous Visual Arts 12.
 - Anti-racism work at Watson Road Elementary with the school community.
 - The District's community partnerships i.e., the Clubhouse, Peter Greer's partnership with the City, and Peter Greer's outdoor learning space.

Jon Rever commented that the themes being discussed are amazing and a connection should be made between the newspaper's themes and the District's Strategic Plan and Goals. The Strategic Plan contains a section on Inclusive Learning Cultures which includes antiracism, etc. This would be a good theme. Jon also commented that the Strategic Plan contains a section about Family and Community Engagement and that it is well described in the Strategic Plan. For the District to have the *Together We Learn* editions connected to the Strategic Plan is important.

The PEAC members spoke about school community learning forums and how it is good for students and parents to see what other schools are learning.

Jon and Justin spoke of the four directions of the Strategic Plan (Equity and Excellence in Learning, Transformative Leadership, Family and Community Engagement, and System Wellbeing) and how each of them have subcategories which could be focused on in the newspaper. Future editions of *Together We Learn* could bring an awareness of the Strategic Plan to the public and could highlight each of the four quadrants of the Plan, depending on the months and what falls into each month. For example, Pride month in June and Social Emotional Learning in September). Bring in school connection pieces. Family and Community Engagement could be a theme during the learning conference time and Capstone.

Jon reminded the Committee that the Strategic Plan is a commitment from the Board of Education and a commitment to the public. The PEAC could represent evidence that the District is delivering on what was promised. Jon queried if a past newspaper edition has been themed around welcoming new immigrants to the District and the influx of families new to Canada.

Justin suggested the theme, Inclusive Learning Cultures, for the spring newspaper edition, and the PEAC offered ideas for stories related to the theme:

- Welcoming new immigrants to the School District and the influx of people.
- Newcomer stories.
- Highlight the Welcome Centre. Interview a SWIS worker.
- How are schools adapting and supporting inclusion? (include Indigenous learners, etc.)
- Ramadan starts in 3 weeks.
- Talk about work done around anti-racism. It's important to let the community know that this District is interested in moving the anti-racism agenda forward.
- Translating through learning technology.

Action Item: PEAC members to forward specific story ideas for articles, related to the theme of Inclusive Education, to Justin in the next week or two.

Action Item: Justin to visit the KSS Journalism class to provide the journalism students with story outlines and the name of the contact person for each story.

5. New District Website

Justin shared that the new District website platform will be launched at the end of March or after spring break. The new district website and school websites will look similar and the school sites function will be different. Managing the school websites will be more user friendly for admin and schools will be able to move pages around more easily. The next month will be busy for Jon and the Learning Technology team as they migrate current website content onto the new platform. Content freeze for school and District websites begins on March 1st and ends after training sessions are completed by mid-March. The targeted go-live date is March 27th.

Jon shared that a decision was made to remove employee email addresses and staff directories from the website for cybersecurity reasons. The website will be used to further enhance the District's cybersecurity posture. After content is migrated and the website is running, there will be a public parent portal with a landing page where parents can see all the services they need. This change will serve the public and parents better.

Justin shared that another part of the website, a public engagement hub, will enable the District to communicate more information about decisions being made (i.e., budget surveys, informing the public about capital funding) and will be a place for the information to live, whatever is current at that time.

6. Other

The COPAC representative shared that the following two live virtual events are being presented by The White Hatter and are sponsored by COPAC:

- Internet Safety and Digital Literacy for Parents and Caregivers – Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 6:30 pm
- Youth Online Aggression, Cyberbullying, Threats, and Violence – Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 6:30 pm

Event information, including links and passwords, have been shared with every staff member in the District. The virtual events are limited to 950 participants.

Please email Copac.secretary@sd23.bc.ca for the links and passwords.

Meeting ended at 4:45 pm.

Proposed 2023-2024 PEAC Meeting Schedule:

(Tuesday's at 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm)

April 23, 2024; and May 28, 2024.