Central Okanagan Public Schools
Together We Learn

BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

Date: **Wednesday, October 28, 2026**

Inside 23

Student Perspectives

In attendance:

École George Elliot Secondary School
Rob Aviani, Principal
Paul Steigenberger, Grade 12
Raphaelle Roy-Bois, Grade 12

Paul Steigenberger and Raphaelle Roy-Bois, Grade 12 students at École George Elliot Secondary School, shared their perspectives on entering their graduation year and their plans for life after high school. They will be among the first cohort to graduate from the school's French Immersion program.

Recognition

The Board of Education congratulated the following teachers as recipients of Prime Minister's Awards:

Derek Smith, Mount Boucherie Secondary School
Certificate of Excellence

Darcie Ramsey, École George Elliot Secondary School
Certificate of Achievement – Teaching Excellence in STEM

Introductions

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

Elizabeth Isabelle – Vice-Principal, École Dr. Knox Middle School
Rani Gandham – Principal, Ellison Elementary School
Michelle Johnston – Principal, École Belgo Elementary School
Graham Johnson – Principal, École Glenrosa Elementary School
Kristy Fletcher – Vice-Principal, Chute Lake Elementary School
Chris Cartwright – Vice-Principal, Mount Boucherie Secondary School
Anna Marazita – Vice-Principal, Davidson Road Elementary School
Jay Marees – Vice-Principal, Canyon Falls Middle School *(not in attendance)*

Chair's Report to the Board – 2025/2026

Trustee Valene Johnson presented the 2025/2026 Chair's Report to the Board. The Report highlighted the events and accomplishments of the Board of Education throughout the 2025/2026 school year, as well as outlined the journey of the Board of Education over the past four years. The Chair's Report to the Board is posted on the Central Okanagan Public Schools website (www.sd23.bc.ca) under Publications.

Recognition – Outgoing Trustees

Gratitude was expressed to the outgoing Trustees for their leadership, service and commitment to students in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

Trustee Julia Fraser – 15 years of dedicated service
Trustee Lee-Ann Tiede – 12 years of dedicated service
Trustee Chantelle Desrosiers – 8 years of dedicated service
Trustee Amy Geistlinger – 8 years of dedicated service
Trustee Wayne Broughton – 5 years of dedicated service

Declarations

1. **School Bus Safety Awareness Week**
   The Central Okanagan Board of Education recognized that the week of October 19 to 23, 2026 was 'School Bus Safety Awareness Week' in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

2. **Foster Family Month**
   The Central Okanagan Board of Education declared the month of October as 'Foster Family Month' in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

3. **Mental Health Day**
   The Central Okanagan Board of Education recognized that October 10, 2026 was 'Mental Health Day' in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

Information Items

The Board of Education reviewed the following:

1. Adjustment to Secondary School Start and Dismissal Times Update
2. Financial Update – September 30, 2026
3. Enrolment Update – 2026/2027
4. Feeding Futures Fund Update – June 30, 2026
5. 2026/2027 Feeding Futures Fund Budget
6. Level 4 and 5 Field Study Summaries - 2026/2027
7. General Statement – September 23, 2026
8. General Statement – October 13, 2026

Items Requiring Special Mention

- Central Okanagan Public Schools is hosting a Dual Credit Information Night on Thursday, October 29th at École Kelowna Secondary School. Doors will open at 5:30 for the public to visit with post-secondary partners, with a Dual Credit Presentation Overview commencing at 6:00 pm. The purpose of this event is to showcase the Dual Credit Program options and provide an opportunity for students and parents to communicate directly with post-secondary and industry training partners.
- On Thursday, September 24th a New Employee Welcome Event was hosted by the People, Culture, & Wellbeing Department. All employees hired within the past two years were invited to meet District leaders and fellow new employees, learn more about our District values and supports, connect with partner groups, and enjoy snacks and refreshments.
- Appreciation was expressed to Barry Gerding, Regional Editor for the Kelowna Capital News, for his ongoing commitment to attending Public Board Meetings and keeping the community informed on the important topics within Central Okanagan Public Schools.
- Okanagan College recently hosted a Try a Trade event for students and the community offering hands-on experiences in a variety of skilled trades.

Next Public Board Meetings

Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 6:00 pm
Wednesday, December 9, 2026 at 6:00 pm

Swearing-In/Inaugural Meeting

Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at 6:00 pm

Board Standing Committee Meetings

Wednesday, December 2, 2026
4:00 pm Finance and Planning Committee

For comments, please contact:
Valene Johnson, Chair of the Board of Education, 250-212-3804
Jon Rever, Superintendent of Schools, 250-470-3256
Kate Cumming, Acting Secretary-Treasurer, 250-860-8888