



CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS - BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

Education and Student Services Committee Public Meeting

**Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 6:00 pm
Via Zoom**

Board of Education: Trustee N. Bowman, Chairperson
Trustee C. Desrosiers, Committee Member
Trustee A. Geistlinger, Committee Member
Trustee M. Baxter

Staff: Terry-Lee Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools
Yvonne Hildebrandt, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Partner Groups: Lori Dawson Bedard, COTA 1st Vice-President
Brady Ibbetson, COPVPA Member
Teri Wishlow, CUPE Vice-President

*There were no representatives from COPAC.
There were no representatives from the District Student Council.*

Absent: Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO

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

AGENDA

May 19, 2021 Committee Agenda - approved as presented.

REPORTS/MATTERS ARISING

Education and Student Services Committee Report - April 21, 2021

April 21, 2021 Committee Report - received as distributed.

PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public questions/comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS QUERIES/COMMENTS

There were no committee members queries/comments.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) Course Proposals – Indigenous Leadership 10, 11 and 12

Hugh Alexander, Principal – Rutland Senior Secondary School, and Stacey Mee, Teacher – Rutland Senior Secondary School, presented the Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) Course proposals for Indigenous Leadership 10, 11 and 12. These unique leadership courses are for students who have pride in their ancestry and for those who want to understand and participate in leadership from an Indigenous worldview and perspective. The Indigenous Leadership courses emphasize understanding the practice of Indigenous culture, the history of this land, and local and personal ways of being and knowing the world while acknowledging the connection with the land, community, and ancestors. Students are taught communication, thinking, and personal and social competencies from a decolonized approach through Indigenous pedagogy and the First Peoples Principles of Learning. Students move forward from learning and participating in Indigenous ways of being and knowing to understanding, leading and initiating Indigenous practices, cultural protocols, story telling and community involvement.

The Committee discussed the content of the Indigenous Leadership courses including the curricular competency that students are expected to *"participate in Indigenous spiritual practices, which are part of Indigenous leadership"* (page 3 of Indigenous Leadership 10, 11 and 12 BAA course proposals). Participation in this competency was clarified that students voluntarily engage in learning about Indigenous ways of being and knowing the world, and may opt out of participating in an Indigenous cultural practice at any time. Spiritual practices (often referred to as cultural practices or protocols) are not associated with any religious doctrine.

Outcome:

The Committee recommended that the Board of Education approve the Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) Course Proposals – Indigenous Leadership 10, 11 and 12, as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the May 19, 2021 Education and Student Services Committee Meeting.

The recommendation of the Committee was opposed by Trustee Geistlinger.

Proposal for Substantive Change – District Land-Based Learning Academy for Indigenous Middle School Students

Ryan Ward, Acting District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education, presented the Proposal for Substantive Change – District Land-Based Learning Academy for Indigenous Middle School Students. Land based learning provides an enhanced learning opportunity for Indigenous middle school students to learn about local Indigenous culture and to understand the relationships to land through hands-on instruction from Elders, Knowledge Keepers, teachers, Advocates and Indigenous Youth Wellness Workers. The Land Based Learning Team teach students on-site at their home school, in the community at local parks and natural spaces, and, beginning in September 2021, indoors and outdoors at the Land Based Learning Centre to be located at Okanagan Mission Secondary School. Each semester Indigenous middle school students from two middle schools will attend Land Based Learning twice per week and continue with their regular school schedule three days per week. By engaging in learning about local traditional culture and teachings alongside knowledgeable and caring adults, Indigenous middle school

students have the opportunity to build greater confidence in themselves and have opportunities to truly connect with the learning in a transforming way.

Outcome:

The Committee recommended that the Board of Education approve the Proposal for Substantive Change – District Land-Based Learning Academy for Indigenous Middle School Students, as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the May 19, 2021 Education and Student Services Committee Meeting.

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

University of British Columbia Social Science Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)

Project – Letter to Educators

Terry-Lee Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, shared that an invitation to participate in the Social Science Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) multi-year project has been sent to K-12 educators. This is an excellent opportunity for interested educators to engage further in truth and reconciliation practices while decolonizing teaching and learning. Approximately 100 educators have responded with interest in this project.

Central Okanagan Public Schools Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) Suite of Courses

Terry-Lee Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, shared that an internal review of BAA courses in the District has been completed. As a result, some BAAs will be retired based on relevancy and some BAAs will be rewritten and come forward to future Education and Student Services Committee meetings for review.

Additional Program Review (Level 2) – Central Okanagan Public Schools Cultural Performances Program

Terry-Lee Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, shared that a recommendation has come forward from the Joint Educational Change Committee for a Level 2 review of the District's Cultural Performances Program. The current Policy 520 – Cultural Performances contains outdated language and references obsolete curriculum. The review of the Cultural Performances Program, to be conducted in the 2021-2022 school year, will provide recommendations for the Board of Education to consider regarding updating the policy and the processes related to the selection of cultural performances.

RECOMMENDATIONS/REFERRALS TO THE BOARD/COORDINATING COMMITTEE/OTHER COMMITTEES

Public Board Meeting Action Item

- *Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) Course Proposals – Indigenous Leadership 10, 11 and 12*
- *Proposal for Substantive Change – District Land-Based Learning Academy for Middle School Indigenous Students*

ITEMS FOR FUTURE EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

June 16, 2021

- Proposals for Board/Authority/Authorized Courses
- Enhancing Student Learning Framework
Superintendent of Schools/CEO (K. Kaardal)
- Equity in Action for Truth and Reconciliation Progress Report
District Principal – Indigenous Education (J. De Guevara)
Deputy Superintendent of Schools (T. Beaudry)
- Supporting Students (K-12)
Deputy Superintendent of Schools (T. Beaudry)

REVIEW LEGEND

Level One Review

- District-wide surveys involving all stakeholders
- Focus Groups
- Interviews with key staff and clients

Level Two Review

- Surveys to a representative sample group of stakeholders
- Optional Focus Groups and personnel interviews as appropriate

Level Three Review

Limited or no surveying and/or interviews to gather informal feedback

FUTURE EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

June 16, 2021, September 22, 2021, October 20, 2021, November 17, 2021

MEDIA QUESTIONS

There were no questions from the media.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 7:46 pm.

Questions - Please Contact:

Trustee Norah Bowman, Chairperson at Norah.Bowman@sd23.bc.ca

Terry-Lee Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools at 250-470-3225 or Terry.Beaudry@sd23.bc.ca

Norah Bowman, Chairperson