



**Central Okanagan
Public Schools**
Together We Learn

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 6:00 pm
School Board Office
1040 Hollywood Road S
Kelowna, BC**

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

Absent: Trustee A. Geistlinger

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

Partner Groups: COPAC: Nicola Baker, President and Jeannette Watson, Vice-President
COPVPA: Jennifer Adamson, Elementary Liaison
CUPE: Teri Wishlow, President & George York, Vice-President (joined at 6:09 pm)
COTA: Susan Bauhart, President (joined meeting at 6:38 pm on Zoom)

There was no representative 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 6:01 pm.

AGENDA

Add to 15. Advocacy:

15.1.4 Custodial Costs

15.1.5 Critical Thinking

Main 25P-026

MOVED by Trustee Tiede

SECONDED by Trustee Desrosiers

THAT: The Agenda for the Public Board Meeting of March 12, 2025 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

ABSENT: Trustee Geistlinger

MINUTES

Public Board Meeting - February 19, 2025

Main 25P-027

MOVED by Trustee Broughton

SECONDED by Trustee Guderyan

THAT: The Minutes of the Public Board Meeting of February 19, 2025 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

ABSENT: Trustee Geistlinger

6:09 pm: The CUPE President and CUPE Vice-President joined the meeting.

6:11 pm: Trustee Johnson left the meeting.

CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS – "INSIDE 23"

Engaging Learners Through Real-World Problem Solving with ChemCorp - OECD Schools and Network

In attendance: Jim Laird, Principal, École George Elliot Secondary School

Darcie Ramsey, Teacher, École George Elliot Secondary School

Students from École George Elliott Secondary School:

Harneal Bassan, Grade 12

Addison Esperhain, Grade 12

Seanna McArthur, Grade 12

Lotte Vandenbroeck, Grade 12

Avery Aardema, UBCO Student (École GESS graduate)

Abby Attrell, UBCO Student (École GESS graduate)

ChemCorp, ASPIRE, and BRIDGE are innovative programs designed to engage students in meaningful, real-world learning experiences while fostering essential competencies and community connections. Recognized as an inspiring practice on OECD Schools+, ChemCorp transforms Chemistry 12 students into analytical chemists, solving real and fictional client problems to bridge classroom learning with real-world applications.

This year, ChemCorp evolved into ASPIRE to provide more time and opportunities for students to build connections - with each other, with mentors, and with community experts. ASPIRE merges chemistry with post-secondary preparation and career exploration, offering students mentorship and hands-on learning experiences.

The program is expanding next year, with a long-term vision of incorporating all secondary schools in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

As part of ASPIRE, students are mentored by UBCO students through a new program called BRIDGE. In addition to receiving mentorship, students take on leadership roles by mentoring middle school students, helping them feel more connected and prepared at each stage of their learning journey. Together, these programs empower students to take ownership of their learning, establish meaningful connections, and develop the competencies needed for future success.

MEETING RECESS

The meeting recessed at 6:35 pm.

6:38 pm: The COTA President joined the meeting by zoom.

The meeting reconvened at 6:40 pm.

DECLARATION

Earth Day

The Central Okanagan Board of Education declared April 22, 2025 as 'Earth Day' in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

PRESENTATIONS

Enhancing School Learning and Play Spaces Through PAC Partnerships

Presenter: Cadre Simpson

Ms. Simpson expressed concerns to the Board of Education regarding the non-completion of Parent Advisory Council (PAC) led Enhancement Agreement projects, specifically outdoor learning spaces and playgrounds.

PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public questions/comments.

TRUSTEE QUERIES/COMMENTS

The Board Chair provided a report on her attendance at the Partner Liaison Meeting alongside the Secretary-Treasurer/CFO and Acting Deputy Superintendent, hosted by the Ministry of Education and Child Care. This gathering provided an excellent opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions, receive important updates, and collaborate with education leaders from across the province.

The BCSTA meeting featured valuable professional development sessions, updates from Working Committees, and insights from the Trustee Panel on Bargaining. Minister of Education and Child Care Lisa Beare announced \$39.4 million in federal funding for the National School Food Program, benefiting 90,000 children. Key updates from the Minister and Deputy Minister Kaye Krishna focused on Management Foundation Standards to enhance leadership, student learning, safety, and cybersecurity.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Superintendent's Emergent Issues

At the request of the RCMP, École Kelowna Secondary School was placed in a hold and secure for a one-hour period of time earlier this afternoon due to a community concern for a residence near the school.

Level 4 and 5 Field Study Summary - 2024/2025

The Board reviewed the information.

Level 4 and 5 Field Study Summary - 2025/2026

The Board reviewed the information.

General Statement – February 19, 2025

The Board reviewed the information.

General Statement - February 20, 2025

The Board reviewed the information.

General Statement - February 26, 2025

The Board reviewed the information.

General Statement - March 5, 2025

The Board reviewed the information.

Suspension Summary Report: 2018-2019 to 2023-2024

The Board reviewed the information.

ADVOCACY

Trustees discussed the following motions submitted with BCSTA to advocate for students not only in the Central Okanagan but across the province:

- Funding Clean BC Goals
- Increase Annual Facilities Grant to Address Deferred Maintenance
- Accessible and Affordable Internet Connectivity

The Board Chair and Trustee Broughton provided information and rationale on the following motions which will be submitted at the BCSTA AGM:

Custodial Costs for Childcare

THAT: The BCSTA requests the Ministry of Education and Child Care to provide dedicated funding directly to the childcare sector to fully cover costs for childcare facilities, so that these expenses are not funded by the K-12 education system.

Critical Thinking

THAT: The BCSTA calls on the Ministry of Education and Child Care to support explicit instruction in critical thinking principles at all levels of the K-12 curriculum and provide adequate resources and training for educators.

7:06 pm: Trustee Johnson returned to the meeting.

BOARD/DISTRICT COMMITTEE QUERIES/COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Trustee Desrosiers attended the Public Awareness Appreciation Committee and advised that the next issue of "Together We Learn" will be published in June. The Committee is also looking at events, programs and practices that promote "wellness".

Trustee Guderyan attended the Safe Schools Community Network meeting where there was an excellent presentation by the CYAC (Child and Youth Advocacy Centre).

Trustee Fraser represented the Board at the COPAC meeting and shared that her highlight of the meeting was Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction - Indigenous Education and Equity introducing the new IEC Parent and Family Council Representatives.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Received:

- 2025-02-18 Email from C. Pynappels re Central Okanagan Bus Fees
- 2025-02-20 Email from C. Pynappels re Strongly Oppose to Fee Increase for Bus
- 2025-02-20 Email from C. Pynappels re Central Okanagan Bus Fees

Sent:

- 2025-02-20 Email response from Trustee Geistlinger to C. Pynappels re Central Okanagan Bus Fees
- 2025-03-05 Further email response from Trustee Geistlinger to C. Pynappels re Central Okanagan Bus Fees

Main 25P-028

MOVED by Trustee Tiede

SECONDED by Trustee Desrosiers

THAT: At the March 12, 2025 Public Board Meeting, the Board receive the correspondence listed above.

CARRIED

ABSENT: Trustee Geistlinger

ITEMS REQUIRING SPECIAL MENTION

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

- Attendance at various meetings and events throughout the District, including the Mar Jok Elementary School Community Student Learning Plan Conversation, Pink Shirt Day, assemblies at École Glenrosa Middle School and Constable Neil Bruce Middle School for visiting students and staff from Haruhigaoka Junior High in Kasugai, Japan, the British Columbia Thompson-Okanagan Branch Meeting held in Penticton on February 28-March 1, 2025 and the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee production at Mount Boucherie Secondary School.
- Families, school communities and staff are invited to share their input on the proposed calendars for the next two school years (2026/2027 and 2027/2028) by Friday, April 11, 2025. The proposed calendars can be accessed through the School District website.
- The 7th annual Proud for Prom Annual Boutique Day held on March 8, 2025 was a resounding success. Full prom attire was gifted to over 130 Okanagan high school graduates. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make dreams come true for our 2025 graduates.
- On February 28, 2025, the West Kelowna RCMP Indigenous Policing took part in the third annual community basketball game where students and West Kelowna residents could see the police officers and community members in a fun, non-serious environment. Members of the RCMP, led by Cst. Rolly (Rohel) Williams, traded in police uniforms and work clothes for a different uniform: basketball uniforms. The West Kelowna team included RCMP officers and staff, Westbank First Nations community members (including a representative from the Westbank First Nation Chief and Council), West Kelowna Mayor Gord Milsom, former Constable Neil Bruce students, and BC/West Kelowna Highway Patrol. Although the Constable Neil Bruce students put up a good effort, the RCMP came away with a 56-36 win.
- The Superintendent of Schools/CEO recently attended the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) conference representing Canada as the past President of the Canadian Association of School System Administrators. He had the opportunity to meet with the President and President-Elect of the AASA and discuss the implications of President Trump's direction to dismantle the Federal Department of Education.
- A reminder that schools will be closed for spring break from Monday, March 17 to Friday, March 28, 2025.

BC SCHOOL TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION

Trustee Broughton attended the virtual BCSTA Provincial Council meeting on February 22, 2025 and provided a report to Trustees on:

- The budget proposal for the next year;
- The potential effect of tariffs on public school funding;
- Cyber-attack threats;
- The dismissal of the Board of Education of School District 61 (Victoria);
- The new Ministry of Infrastructure;
- The new BCSTA CAO Trevor Davies;
- Bylaw proposals for the AGM in April, 2025.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings

- Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 6:00 pm

Main Board Room, 1040 Hollywood Road S.

Board Standing Committee Meetings

Policy Committee

- Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 4:00 pm

Education and Student Services Committee

- Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 6:00 pm

Finance and Planning Committee

- Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 4:00 pm

Finance and Planning Committee

- Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at 4:00 pm

Main Board Room, 1040 Hollywood Road S.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:29 pm.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer/CFO