



**Central Okanagan
Public Schools**
Together We Learn

BOARD OF EDUCATION

PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, June 25, 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 (*by telephone*)
Trustee A. Geistlinger
Trustee L. Guderyan, Vice-Chair
Trustee V. Johnson
Trustee L. Tiede

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: CUPE: Teri Wishlow, President, and George York, Vice-President
COPAC: Nicola Baker, President and Jeannette Watson, Vice-President
COPVPA: Scott Sieben, President
COTA: Susan Bauhart, President (*joined by Zoom at 6:30 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 6:01 pm.

AGENDA

Main 25P-052

MOVED by Trustee Broughton

SECONDED by Trustee Tiede

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

MINUTES

Public Board Meeting - June 11, 2025

Main 25P-053

MOVED by Trustee Guderyan

SECONDED by Trustee Broughton

THAT: The Minutes of the Public Board Meeting of June 11, 2025 be adopted as presented.
CARRIED

RECOGNITION

The Board of Education congratulated the following students:

Kelowna Civic and Community Award Winners

- Bryan Couling Memorial Award – Athletic Team of the Year: École Okanagan Mission Secondary School Sr. Girls Volleyball Team
- Female Athlete of the Year Award: Kylie Taylor, École Okanagan Mission Secondary School
- Augie Ciancone Memorial Award – Young Female Athlete: Maya Andruchow, École Okanagan Mission Secondary School (*not in attendance*)
- Augie Ciancone Memorial Award – Young Male Athlete: Dominic Sodaro, École Kelowna Secondary School (*not in attendance*)

Track and Field Stars

École Okanagan Mission Secondary School

- Lily Stroda
- Amelia-Ahn Lou
- Hannia Stevens
- Caitlyn Peever

École Kelowna Secondary School

- Ryan Lofstrom
- Walker Brown

BC School Sports Athlete of the Month

- Rhiannon Maynes-Touround, École Kelowna Secondary School – Girls' Soccer

CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS – "INSIDE 23"

Togetherness: Building Community Through Celebration and Language

In attendance:

Tonia MacGregor, Vice-Principal, École H.S. Grenda Middle School

Students: Summer Hansen, Grade 8, École H.S. Grenda Middle School

Taylor Hazen, Grade 8, École H.S. Grenda Middle School

Hannia Stevens, Grade 10, École Okanagan Mission Secondary School

Rylan MacGregor, Grade 4, École Casorso Elementary School

The students in attendance spoke of their passion and celebration of French Immersion, including the Faisons Un Boeuf, Diner En Blanc and Le Flofranco events.

6:30 pm: The COTA President joined the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO on his Retirement

On behalf of the Board of Education, the Board Chair congratulated Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO on his retirement after 10 years in Central Okanagan Public Schools and 40 years in education, and presented him with a gift of an Indigenous painted gourd. Trustees each spoke of his valued leadership and wisdom, and expressed appreciation for his guidance through the pandemic and various natural emergencies. They also commended his vision in leading the District to improve graduation rates, deliver education to a diversified group of learners and securing various capital projects.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

Superintendent of Schools/CEO Year in Review

Presenter: Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO

The Superintendent of Schools/CEO shared a comprehensive reflection of the 2024/2025 school year, highlighting student accomplishments, notable events, and key matters addressed by the Board of Education. The Superintendent of Schools/CEO Year in Review is available on the Central Okanagan Public Schools website at www.sd23.bc.ca under Publications

Superintendent of Schools/CEO Report on Student Achievement 2025

Presenter: Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO

The Superintendent of Schools/CEO presented the annual Report on Student Achievement, highlighting progress aligned with the District's Strategic Plan and the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning. The presentation showcased student success across academic, social, and career development domains. Key areas included improvements in literacy and numeracy, strong six-year completion rates (96% overall and 10% above the provincial average for Indigenous students), and expanded dual credit and career programs. The report also emphasized the District's continued commitment to equity, Indigenous education, and holistic student development.

The Superintendent of Schools/CEO Report on Student Achievement 2025 is available on the Central Okanagan Public Schools website at www.sd23.bc.ca under Publications.

PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT PERIOD

None.

TRUSTEE QUERIES/COMMENTS

The Board Chair reflected on the 2024/2025 school year, expressing gratitude for the dedication of Board Committees, senior staff, and fellow Trustees. Highlights included the successful appointment of Mr. Jon Rever as incoming Superintendent of Schools following a national search, and the leadership of outgoing Superintendent of Schools/CEO Kevin Kaardal and Secretary-Treasurer/CFO Delta Carmichael in managing a difficult budget year with minimal impact on students. Thanks were extended to Executive Assistants and partner groups for their ongoing support. The Chair also acknowledged the Board's reaffirmed commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and wished everyone a safe and restful summer.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of School Community Student Learning Plans for the 2025/2026 School Year

Recommendation from the Education and Student Services Committee - June 4, 2025:

Main 25P-054

MOVED by Trustee Geistlinger

SECONDED by Trustee Johnson

THAT: The Board of Education approve the School Community Student Learning Plans for the 2025/2026 school year, as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the June 25, 2025 Public Board Meeting.

CARRIED

Equity in Action Agreement for Truth and Reconciliation 2025-2030

Recommendation from the Education and Student Services Committee - June 4, 2025:

Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction - Indigenous Education and Equity, presented a thorough report on the 2025-2030 Equity in Action Agreement for Truth and Reconciliation.

Main 25P-055

MOVED by Trustee Geistlinger

SECONDED by Trustee Johnson

THAT: The Board of Education approve the Equity in Action Agreement for Truth and Reconciliation 2025-2030 as a living document, as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the June 25, 2025 Public Board Meeting.

CARRIED

Setting Regular Board Meeting Dates and Times

Main 25P-056

MOVED by Trustee Broughton

SECONDED by Trustee Johnson

THAT: In the 2025/2026 school year, regular Public Board Meetings be conducted once per month, commencing at 6:00 pm (with the exception of September and June, where there will be two meetings per month), as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the June 25, 2025 Public Board Meeting.

AND THAT: In the 2025/2026 school year, regular Incamera Board Meetings be conducted once per month, commencing at 3:30 pm (with the exception of September and June, where there will be two meetings per month), as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the June 25, 2025 Public Board Meeting.

CARRIED

Setting Regular Board Standing Committee Meeting Dates and Times

Main 25P-057

MOVED by Trustee Johnson

SECONDED by Trustee Broughton

THAT: In the 2025/2026 school year, Board Standing Committee meetings be held according to the schedule as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the June 25, 2025 Public Board Meeting, subject to review by the Standing Committee Chairperson.

CARRIED

2025/2026 Annual Budget Bylaw

Recommendation from the Finance and Planning Committee - June 18, 2025:

Main 25P-058

MOVED by Trustee Tiede

SECONDED by Trustee Guderyan

THAT: The Board of Education of School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) give first reading to the School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Annual Budget Bylaw for the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 in the amount of \$381,087,979.

CARRIED

Main 25P-059

MOVED by Trustee Tiede

SECONDED by Trustee Broughton

THAT: The Board of Education of School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) give second reading to the School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Annual Budget Bylaw for the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 in the amount of \$381,087,979.

CARRIED

Main 25P-060

MOVED by Trustee Tiede

SECONDED by Trustee Broughton

THAT: The Board of Education of School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) give all three readings to the School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Annual Budget Bylaw for the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 in the amount of \$381,087,979.

CARRIED

Main 25P-061

MOVED by Trustee Tiede

SECONDED by Trustee Broughton

THAT: The Board of Education of School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) give third reading and adopt the School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Annual Budget Bylaw for the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 in the amount of \$381,087,979.

CARRIED

Multi-Year Financial Plan (2025/2026 to 2027/2028)

Recommendation from the Finance and Planning Committee - June 18, 2025:

Main 25P-062

MOVED by Trustee Tiede

SECONDED by Trustee Broughton

THAT: The Board of Education approve the Multi-Year Financial Plan (2025/2026 to 2027/2028) as attached to the Agenda and as presented at the June 25, 2025 Public Board Meeting.

CARRIED

Review of Policy 162 - Financial Planning and Reporting

Recommendation from the Finance and Planning Committee - June 18, 2025:

Main 25P-063

MOVED by Trustee Tiede

SECONDED by Trustee Broughton

THAT: The Board of Education affirm Policy 162 – Financial Planning and Reporting, as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the June 25, 2025 Public Board Meeting.

CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEMS

Superintendent's Emergent Issues

There were no emergent issues to report. The Superintendent of Schools/CEO wished everyone a great summer.

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 – June 11, 2025

The Board reviewed the information.

2024 Public Sector Organization (PSO) Climate Change Accountability Report

The Board reviewed the information.

Indigenous Education Budget 2025/2026

The Board reviewed the information.

2024/2025 Estimated Accumulated Operating Surplus

The Board reviewed the information.

2025/2026 COPVPA Executive

The Board reviewed the information. The Board Chair requested that a letter of congratulations be sent to COPVPA on behalf of the Board.

ADVOCACY

Update: Joint Meeting with City of Kelowna

The Board Chair gave an update on the joint meeting with the City of Kelowna. The Board met with the Mayor and Council to discuss the shared commitment to the safety, health and overall wellbeing of the students and citizens of Kelowna.

BOARD/DISTRICT COMMITTEE QUERIES/COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Trustee Guderyan attended the Health Promoting Schools Committee where they reflected on their work over the past 2 years, and honored some of the presenters and staff who supported the Committee.

Trustee Tiede attended the final District Student Council meeting of the school year, where two new co-presidents were elected.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Received:

- 2025-05-23 Email from S. Thomas re Way out of line
- 2025-06-09 Email from A. Thomsen re Castanet Article
- 2025-06-11 Email from L. Beischer re: June 11 board meeting Solidarity

- 2025-06-12 Email from T. Cook re Thank you for the Recognition, and a Concern
- 2025-06-16 Email from Dana Nica - Abortion Rights Canada - Please safeguard the quality of sexual health education in BC
- 2025-06-17 Email from CUPE to Board re: June 11 board meeting.
- 2025-06-17 Email from D. Buckna re: Could shop class solve Canada's trades shortage?
- 2025-06-18 Email from S. Nagel re: drag performer award presentation disrespected
- 2025-06-18 Email from D.H. re: Concern about Trustee conduct
- 2025-06-18 Email from K. Oram re: Outstanding
- 2025-06-18 Email from R. Leslie re: Bravo to Amy Geistlinger
- 2025-06-18 Email from T. Penner re: Amy Geistlinger
- 2025-06-19 Email from B. Brannagan re: Well Done
- 2025-06-19 Email from A. Green re: Support for Personal Beliefs and Trustee Geistlinger
- 2025-06-19 Email from H. LeBlanc re: Amy Geistlinger
- 2025-06-19 Email from P. Elder re: Trustee Amy Geistlinger
- 2025-06-19 Email from J. Poppit re: School Board meeting
- 2025-06-19 Email from A. Martin re: In Support of Amy Geistlinger
- 2025-06-19 Email from M. Thiessen re: Amy
- 2025-06-19 Email from P. Carlson re: Ms. Geistlinger and Mr Cook issue
- 2025-06-19 Email from J. Ulliach re: Respectful Dissent is not Discrimination - support for Amy

Sent:

- 2025-06-12 Email response from Board Chair to T. Cook
- 2025-06-13 Email response from Board Chair to L. Beischer
- 2025-06-17 Email response from Trustee Geistlinger to T. Cook

Main 25P-064

MOVED by Trustee Tiede

SECONDED by Trustee Geistlinger

THAT: At the June 25, 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 Indigenous Education Blanketing Ceremonies, end of the school year assemblies/celebrations, Graduation Ceremonies, Awards and Scholarship celebrations.
- The Superintendent of Schools/CEO recently attended an event to celebrate 20 years of success at UBC Okanagan.
- The Superintendent of Schools/CEO confirmed that Yvonne Hildebrandt, Executive Assistant to the Deputy Superintendent, will be leaving the District after over 35 years of service.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings

- Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, September 24, 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 4:00 pm

Main Board Room, 1040 Hollywood Road S.

MEDIA QUESTIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:23 pm.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer/CFO