



CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS - BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

Education and Student Services Committee Public Meeting

**Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 6:00 pm
School Board Office
1040 Hollywood Road S.
Kelowna, BC**

Board of Education: Trustee A. Geistlinger, Chair
Trustee J. Fraser
Trustee L. Guderyan
Trustee V. Johnson, Committee Member
Trustee L. Tiede, Committee Member

Staff: Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
Jon Rever, Acting Deputy Superintendent of Schools (*absent*)
Jamie Robinson, Assistant Superintendent
Yvonne Hildebrandt, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Partner Groups: Lori Dawson Bedard, COTA 1st Vice-President
Jeannette Watson, COPAC Vice-President
Jared Birkeland, COPVPA Vice-President
Jessica Teasdale, CUPE Executive Member
Julian Cucinschi, 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.**

AGENDA

May 7, 2025 Committee Agenda – approved as presented.

REPORTS/MATTERS ARISING

Education and Student Services Committee Report – April 9, 2025

April 9, 2025 Committee Report – received as distributed.

RECOGNITION/PRESENTATION/DELEGATIONS

Food Literacy

Rhonda Ovelson, Director of Instruction – Feeding Futures, and Health Promoting Schools Teachers Alicia Kudryk and Andrea Locke, along with Leah Perrier, Public Health Dietitian – Interior Health Authority, provided a presentation about Food Literacy. Many factors influence our connection with food, including home, school, the community, and the digital world. Food literacy is our knowledge, attitudes and skills about food, knowing how to select nutritious food for a healthy diet, and understanding the connection between food, health and wellbeing.

As school food environments impact the physical, mental, and social well-being of learners, food insecurity can limit and impact food literacy. The District has developed food programs to enable students to be well-fed, more engaged and ready to learn, including the following: Universal Programs that provide breakfast, snacks, and lunches for any hungry student; Targeted Programs, including the Daily Brown Bag Lunch Program, and weekly Backpack Groceries for families that live with severe food insecurity; and, District Programs accessed by StrongStart, the Welcome Centre, and Indigenous Education.

Teaching food literacy in Central Okanagan Public Schools is supported by the District's Health Promoting Schools Plan and is further guided by provincial and national resources including:

1. The BC School Food Toolkit – A 'Healthy Schools BC' website offering general nutrition information, meal planning and menu recommendations, tips for feeding kids, safety and inclusion, fundraising and event ideas, and contacts to Public Health Dietitians working with schools.
2. Teach Food First Educators Toolkit – A toolkit for exploring Canada's Food Guide with Kindergarten to Grade 8 students and encourages educators to use food exploration as a teaching tool. It is based on supporting a positive relationship with food; considering the division of responsibilities adults and children have in deciding what, when, where, whether, and how much to eat; avoiding pressure around food and eating; and using food neutral language.

Building positive school environments where all students gain food literacy and have access to nutritious quality food, in ways that reduce stigma, respects cultural and dietary needs, and celebrates Indigenous tradition, continues to be a priority in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT PERIOD

No questions from the public.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS QUERIES/COMMENTS

None.

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

Proposed Revision of Program Review Cycle

Jamie Robinson, Assistant Superintendent, informed the Committee that the Program Review Cycle for the 2025-2026 school year will be revised by the incoming Superintendent of Schools/CEO to align with the reporting expectations of the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning and the refresh of the District's Strategic Plan.

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

None.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

June 4, 2025

- Presentation: School Community Student Learning Plans
- Refreshed Equity in Action Agreement for Truth & Reconciliation 2025-2030
Director of Instruction - Indigenous Education and Equity (J. Bruce)

FUTURE EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All meetings start at 6:00 pm.

June 4, 2025.

MEDIA QUESTIONS

No media present.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Questions - Please Contact:

Trustee Amy Geistlinger, Chair at Amy.Geistlinger@sd23.bc.ca

Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO at 250-470-3256 or Superintendent@sd23.bc.ca

Amy Geistlinger, Chair