



**Central Okanagan
Public Schools**
Together We Learn

BOARD OF EDUCATION

PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 22, 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 A. Geistlinger
Trustee L. Guderyan
Trustee V. Johnson
Trustee L. Tiede

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

Absent: Jon Rever, Acting Deputy Superintendent *(on District business at
OECD meetings)*

Partner Groups: Nicola Baker, COPAC President
Jasmine Lemon, COPVPA Executive
Teri Wishlow, CUPE President
There was no representative from COTA or 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 6:03 pm.

6:04 pm: Trustee Tiede left the meeting.

6:06 pm: Trustee Tiede returned to the meeting.

AGENDA

Add the following Action items:

Item 14.2 Constable Neil Bruce Middle School - Outdoor Education Academy Fee Increase

Item 14.3 Central Okanagan Public Schools Hockey Skills Academy Fee Increase (Canyon Falls Middle School, École KLO Middle School, Mount Boucherie Secondary School, École OKM Secondary School, Rutland Senior Secondary School)

Item 14.4 Teaching Critical Thinking in K-12 (Trustee Broughton)

Main 25P-001

MOVED by Trustee Guderyan

SECONDED by Trustee Johnson

THAT: The Agenda for the Public Board Meeting of January 22, 2025 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

MINUTES

Public Board Meeting - December 11, 2024

Main 25P-002

MOVED by Trustee Tiede

SECONDED by Trustee Guderyan

THAT: The Minutes of the Public Board Meeting of December 11, 2024 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS – "INSIDE 23"

Quigley Summer Reading Program

In attendance:

Kim Grimwood, Principal

Sarah Murdoch-Black, Teacher-Librarian

Alana Hanet, LAT Teacher

The staff in attendance from Quigley Elementary School proudly shared the positive impacts of their summer reading program. For the past four summers, Quigley has opened its library doors one day a week. The program has been well-received by the community and has grown in many ways.

RECOGNITION

École Kelowna Secondary School: Senior Girls Volleyball B Team - First Place Invitational Tier 2 Champions

The Board of Education congratulated the members of the École Kelowna Secondary School Senior Girls Volleyball B Team players, and their coaches, Sylvain and Jaci Guignard, on achieving First Place at the Invitational Tier 2 Championships.

École Okanagan Mission Secondary School: Senior Girls Volleyball - Provincial Champions

The Board of Education acknowledged the members of the École Okanagan Mission Secondary School Senior Girls Volleyball team and their coaches, Rob Steciuk and Paul Thiessen, on accomplishing the Senior Girls AAAA Provincial Championship.

INTRODUCTION

New Staff to District

The Board of Education welcomed Graeme McCallum to Central Okanagan Public Schools as the new Health & Safety Manager - Prevention.

MEETING RECESS

The meeting recessed at 6:56 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 7:02 pm.

DECLARATIONS

Family Literacy Week - January 26 - February 2, 2025

The Central Okanagan Board of Education declared the week of January 26- February 2, 2025 as Family Literacy Week in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

Human Rights Month

The Central Okanagan Board of Education declared the month of February, 2025 as Human Rights Month in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

Inclusive Education Month

The Central Okanagan Board of Education declared the month of February, 2025 as Inclusive Education Month in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

Black Excellence Day

The Central Okanagan Board of Education acknowledged that Black Excellence Day was celebrated on January 15, 2025.

PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public questions/comments.

TRUSTEE QUERIES/COMMENTS

Trustee Geistlinger noted the many Declarations for the month of February, and shared that she thought it would be valuable to hear of the many initiatives and events in the District, especially on inclusiveness, possibly as an Inside 23 presentation. Acting Deputy Superintendent Raquel Steen advised that there is an annual Interactive calendar published each February, with links to many tools and information on a wide variety of subjects for K-12 students, as well as staff. With the ongoing work of teacher Renee Opperman from the Social Emotional Learning team, this calendar has grown each year and is even shared provincially with people in other Districts. The calendar will be shared with Trustees.

ACTION ITEMS

7:09 pm: Trustee Guderyan took over the role of Chair of the meeting so that Trustee Fraser could present her Notice of Motion and provide rationale.

Advocating for Adequate Funding for Custodial Costs in Childcare Facilities to Prevent Financial Strain on the K-12 Education Sector

Notice of Motion from Trustee Fraser at the December 11, 2025 Public Board Meeting.

Trustee Fraser provided her rationale for bringing this motion forward, in the hope that it goes to the BCSTA AGM. The K-12 education sector currently covers custodial costs for childcare facilities, including cleaning and maintenance services, in addition to its own custodial needs for schools and educational spaces. The responsibility of covering custodial costs for childcare facilities has placed an increasing financial strain on the resources of the K-12 education sector, which already faces significant funding challenges to meet the needs of students and staff;

Main 25P-003

MOVED by Trustee Fraser

SECONDED by Trustee Tiede

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

AND THAT: The Ministry of Education and Child Care ensure that childcare facilities can meet necessary custodial standards for health, safety, and cleanliness, without financial burden to the K-12 system, thus maintaining the integrity and quality of both sectors;

AND THAT: This funding support be consistent, transparent, and predictable, enabling childcare providers to focus on providing high-quality services for children and families, rather than diverting resources to cover custodial costs;

AND THAT: The Ministry of Education and Child Care work with childcare providers, school boards, and other relevant stakeholders to develop a sustainable and fair funding model for custodial services in childcare settings, ensuring that both the K-12 and childcare sectors are appropriately funded and supported.

Amendment 25P-004

MOVED by Trustee Broughton

SECONDED by Trustee Guderyan

Add the following preamble to the motion, and remove the word "custodial" from paragraphs one, three and four: **"That the Board of Education send the following motion to the BCSTA:"**

CARRIED

Main 25P-003 as Amended by Amendment 25P-004

THAT: The Board of Education send the following motion to the BCSTA:

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

AND THAT: The Ministry of Education and Child Care ensure that childcare facilities can meet necessary custodial standards for health, safety, and cleanliness, without financial burden to the K-12 system, thus maintaining the integrity and quality of both sectors;

AND THAT: This funding support be consistent, transparent, and predictable, enabling childcare providers to focus on providing high-quality services for children and families, rather than diverting resources to cover costs;

AND THAT: The Ministry of Education and Child Care work with childcare providers, school boards, and other relevant stakeholders to develop a sustainable and fair funding model for services in childcare settings, ensuring that both the K-12 and childcare sectors are appropriately funded and supported.

CARRIED

7:22 pm: Trustee Fraser resumed her role as Chair of the meeting.

Constable Neil Bruce Middle School - Outdoor Education Academy Fee Increase

Recommendation from the Education and Student Services Committee – January 15, 2025.

Main 25P-005

MOVED by Trustee Broughton

SECONDED by Trustee Johnson

THAT: The Board of Education approve the proposed fee increase of \$100 (from \$125 to \$225/student) for the Outdoor Education Academy (Constable Neil Bruce Middle School), as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the January 22, 2025 Public Board Meeting.

CARRIED

Central Okanagan Public Schools Hockey Skills Academy Fee Increase (Canyon Falls Middle School, École KLO Middle School, Mount Boucherie Secondary School, École OKM Secondary School, Rutland Senior Secondary School)

Recommendation from the Education and Student Services Committee – January 15, 2025.

Main 25P-006

MOVED by Trustee Broughton

SECONDED by Trustee Johnson

THAT: The Board of Education approve the proposed fee increase of \$100 (from \$1,300 to \$1,400/student) for the Central Okanagan Public Schools Hockey Skills Academy (Canyon Falls Middle School, École KLO Middle School, and École OKM Secondary School), as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the January 22, 2025 Public Board Meeting;

AND THAT: The Board of Education approve the proposed fee increase of \$75 (from \$1,170 to \$1,245/student) for the Central Okanagan Public Schools Hockey Skills Academy (Rutland Senior Secondary School), as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the January 22, 2025 Public Board Meeting;

AND THAT: The Board of Education approve the proposed fee increase of \$35 (from \$965 to \$1,000/student) for the Central Okanagan Public Schools Hockey Skills Academy (Mount Boucherie Secondary School), as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the January 22, 2025 Public Board Meeting.

CARRIED

Teaching Critical Thinking in K-12

Trustee Broughton provided his personal rationale for bringing this motion forward, as he would like to see it addressed on a provincial level. He acknowledged that critical and reflective thinking is already a core-competency, but guidance and resources for teachers may not be available so they can teach this skill alongside other subjects.

Main 25P-007

MOVED by Trustee Broughton

SECONDED by Trustee Johnson

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

Amendment 25P-008

MOVED by Trustee Guderyan

SECONDED by Trustee Broughton

Add the following preamble to the motion: **"THAT: The Board of Education send the following motion to the BCSTA:"**

CARRIED

Main 25P-007 as Amended by Amendment 25P-008

THAT: The Board of Education send the following motion to the BCSTA:

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

CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEMS

Superintendent's Emergent Issues

- On January 10, 2025 the Superintendent of Schools/CEO received a letter from Jay Chalke, Ombudsperson, notifying that they are initiating an investigation into the exclusion of K-12 students, and in particular students with diverse needs, from classrooms and schools in British Columbia's public education system. The purpose of the investigation is to determine whether the Ministry of Education and Child Care and school districts are fairly administering and overseeing these exclusions, and whether the rules governing these exclusions are fair. The investigation does not include private or independent schools.

Central Okanagan Public Schools currently has an Administrative Procedure – Student's Adjusted School Schedule Plan (SASSP) and other programs in place.

Field Study Summaries

The Board reviewed the information.

General Statement – December 11, 2024

The Board reviewed the information.

General Statement - December 17, 2024

The Board reviewed the information.

General Statement - January 8, 2025

The Board reviewed the information.

2025/2026 Budget Survey Questions

Trustees provided feedback regarding the 2025/2026 Budget Survey questions.

ADVOCACY

BCSTA Resolutions Committee Motions

The Board Chair advised that the BCSTA Resolutions Committee had drafted a number of motions to be submitted at the BCSTA AGM, regarding funding for exempt staff, free transit for teens, the feeding futures program, increased costs to information technology security and teaching critical thinking in K-12. The next BCSTA Resolutions Committee meeting is on January 30, 2025.

The COPAC President queried the motion on deferred maintenance, that was passed by the Board of Education in February of 2024. The Board Chair indicated that the motion had been approved by the BCSTA.

January 16, 2025 Board Chairs - Meeting Discussion

The Board Chair shared information from the Ministerial Order letter from Premier David Eby, to the Honorable Lisa Beare, the new Minister of Education and Child Care.

BOARD/DISTRICT COMMITTEE QUERIES/COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Trustees shared the highlights of the recent committee meetings they attended:

- Trustee Guderyan and Trustee Desrosiers attended the Indigenous Education Council meeting where they learned of a variety of initiatives aimed at enhancing Indigenous education.
- Trustee Johnson attended the Public Education Appreciation Committee (PEAC) meeting where the "Together We Learn" winter edition was discussed, as well as the current advertisement regarding school registration.
- Trustee Desrosiers attended the District Student Council meeting where Violeta Malfair, Director of Instruction – Settlement Services and International Education, gave a presentation and discussed with students how they could support newcomers in their schools.
- Trustee Tiede attended the Early Years Partnership Committee meeting, and noted it was encouraging to see all the different organizations that come together at the committee.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Received:

- 2024-12-12 Email from D. Buckna re Hamilton dad says homeless encampments make parks feel unsafe Doug Ford's government introducing new legislation
- 2024-12-18 Email from D. Buckna re: How smartphones created the Anxious Generation of kids
- 2024-12-11: Thank you Cards sent to each of Jim Elwood, Coralee Miller and the 27 students from the 2023/2024 Indigenous Visual Arts Class at Mount Boucherie Secondary School, for their contributions to the "Together We Learn" painting now hanging in Central Okanagan Public Schools main board room.

Sent:

- 2024-12-13: Letter to COPAC - invitation to meet.
- 2025-01-07: Letter to City of Kelowna - invitation to meet.
- 2025-01-07: Letter to District of Lake Country - invitation to meet.

Main 25P-009

MOVED by Trustee Guderyan

SECONDED by Trustee Tiede

THAT: At the January 22, 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 the École Peter Greer Elementary School Millennial Time Capsule Opening, and assemblies/events at schools and offices prior to the winter break.
- The initial enrollment application dates for the 2025/2026 school year have been set as February 3, 2025 at 7:00 am through to March 14, 2025. The closing date of enrollment applications, to apply the Board's enrollment priorities as established in Regulations 405R – Student Placement (Regulations), is set as August 28, 2025.
- On Friday, February 14, 2025, CUPE and COTA will be hosting their professional development days and therefore schools will not be in session. Members of the Central Okanagan Principals and Vice-Principals Association will also be participating in a Leadership Symposium.
- Schools will additionally not be in session on Monday, February 17th in honour of Family Day.
- The public presentation explaining how the District's budget is established will take place at the Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council (COPAC) meeting on Monday, February 3, 2025, at 7:00 pm by Zoom. Please register using the link on the School District website.
- On April 2, 2025, the Superintendent of Schools/CEO 2025/2026 Budget Proposal Report will be presented at the Finance and Planning Committee meeting. This report will further discuss the 2025/2026 budget including significant changes, key assumptions, and a draft overview of the projected 2025/2026 Annual Budget.
- On September 11, 2024 the Board of Education celebrated the unveiling of the Syilx artwork which is installed in the Board Room. The artwork is a collaboration between Jim Elwood, Coralee Miller and the students in the Indigenous Visual Arts 12 class at Mount Boucherie Secondary School. An information card has been placed on the back of the painting with all the students' names from the Indigenous Visual Arts 12 class as well as a description of the painting.

BC PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

January 30-31, 2025

Coast Coal Harbour Hotel

Vancouver, BC

BC SCHOOL TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION

Resolutions Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 30, 2025

7:00 pm (Virtual)

Provincial Council

(Virtual)

Saturday, February 22, 2025

BCSTA Thompson Okanagan Branch Meeting

February 28-March 1, 2025

Fairfield Inn & Suites

Penticton, BC

Partner Liaison Meeting

March 6-7, 2025

Radisson Hotel

Richmond, BC

AGM

April 24-26, 2025

Details TBA

BOARD MEETINGS WITH PARTNER AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

Joint Board Meeting with COPAC

- Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 4:00 pm

Main Board Room

Joint Board Meeting with District of Lake Country

- Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 4:30 pm

École H.S. Grenda Middle School

FUTURE MEETINGS

Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings

- Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 3:30 pm

- Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 3:30 pm

Main Board Room, 1040 Hollywood Road S.

Board Standing Committee Meetings

Finance and Planning Committee

- Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 4:00 pm

Education and Student Services Committee

- Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 4:00 pm

Policy Committee Meeting

- Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 6:00 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