Central Okanagan Public Schools
Together We Learn

BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 28, 2026, 6:00 pm
Learning Centre - Main Board Room
1040 Hollywood Road S, Kelowna, BC

Board of Education:	Trustee V. Johnson, Board Chair Trustee Desrosiers Trustee W. Broughton Trustee J. Fraser Trustee A. Geistlinger Trustee L. Guderyan Trustee L. Tiede
Staff:	Jon Rever, Superintendent of Schools Kate Cumming, Acting Secretary-Treasurer Mona Essler, Executive Assistant Lise Bradshaw, Executive Assistant (Recorder)
Absent:	*Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO*
Partner Groups:	Jeremy Sanbrooks, COPVPA Executive Leslie Atwell, COPAC President *(left meeting and rejoined by Zoom at 7:44 pm)* Madeleine Carroll *(left meeting at 7:48 pm)* and Karis Gardner, District Student Council Teri Wishlow, CUPE President (*joined by Zoom at 6:37 pm, left meeting at 8:09 pm)* Susan Bauhart, COTA President (*joined by Zoom at 7:12 pm*)

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING SECRETARY-TREASURER

Main 26P-098
MOVED by Trustee Broughton
SECONDED by Trustee Fraser

THAT: Due to the absence of the Secretary-Treasurer/CFO, the Board appoints Kate Cumming, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, as the Acting Secretary-Treasurer for the October 28, 2026 Public Board Meeting.
CARRIED

AGENDA

Main 26P-099
THAT: The Agenda for the Public Board Meeting of October 28, 2026, be adopted (as amended, if appropriate).
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

MINUTES

Public Board Meeting - September 23, 2026

Main 26P-100
THAT: The Minutes of the Public Board Meeting of September 23, 2026, be adopted as presented.
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS – "INSIDE 23"

Student Perspectives

In attendance from École George Elliot Secondary School:

Rob Aviani, Principal
Paul Steigenberger, Grade 12
Raphaelle Roy-Bois, Grade 12

Paul Steigenberger and Raphaelle Roy-Bois, Grade 12 students at École George Elliot Secondary School, shared their perspectives on entering their graduation year and their plans for life after high school. They will be among the first cohort to graduate from the school's French Immersion program.

RECOGNITION - Prime Minister's Award Recipients

The Board of Education congratulated the following teachers as recipients of Prime Minister's Awards:

Derek Smith, Mount Boucherie Secondary School: Certificate of Excellence
Darcie Ramsey, École George Elliot Secondary School: Certificate of Achievement – Teaching Excellence in STEM.

6:37 pm:The CUPE President joined the meeting by zoom.

INTRODUCTIONS - Staff in a New Role

The Board of Education welcomed the following Administrators in their new roles:

Elizabeth Isabelle - Vice-Principal, École Dr. Knox Middle
Rani Gandham - Principal, Ellison Elementary
Michelle Johnston - Principal, École Belgo Elementary
Graham Johnson - Principal, École Glenrosa Elementary
Kristy Fletcher - Vice-Principal, Chute Lake Elementary
Chris Cartwright - Vice-Principal, Mount Boucherie Secondary
Anna Marazita - Vice-Principal, Davidson Road Elementary

Jay Marees - Vice-Principal, Canyon Falls Middle *(not in attendance)*

MEETING RECESS

The meeting recessed at 6:46 pm.
The meeting reconvened at 6:55 pm.

CHAIR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD - 2025/2026

Trustee Valene Johnson presented the 2025/2026 Chair's Report, highlighting the Board of Education's events and accomplishments over the past school year and its progress during the four-year term. The report is available under Publications on the Central Okanagan Public Schools website.

Main 26P-101
MOVED by Trustee Guderyan
SECONDED by Trustee Fraser

THAT: The Board of Education receive, with thanks, the Chair's Report to the Board for the 2025/2026 school year.
CARRIED

RECOGNITION - OUTGOING TRUSTEES

Gratitude was expressed to the outgoing Trustees for their leadership, service and commitment to students in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

Trustee Julia Fraser – 15 years of dedicated service
Trustee Lee-Ann Tiede – 12 years of dedicated service
Trustee Chantelle Desrosiers – 8 years of dedicated service
Trustee Amy Geistlinger – 8 years of dedicated service
Trustee Wayne Broughton – 5 years of dedicated service

Each Trustee reflected on fond memories, personal growth, and the experiences they would miss. They shared heartfelt farewell remarks as they concluded their service on the Board.

7:12 pm: The COTA President joined the meeting via Zoom.
7:48 pm: DSC representative Madeleine Carroll left the meeting.

DECLARATIONS

School Bus Safety Awareness Week
The Central Okanagan Board of Education recognized that the week of October 19-23, 2026 was 'School Bus Safety Awareness Week' in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

Foster Family Month
The Central Okanagan Board of Education declared the month of October as 'Foster Family Month' in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

Mental Health Day
The Central Okanagan Board of Education recognized that October 10 was 'Mental Health Day' in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Adjustment to Secondary School Start and Dismissal Times Update

The report prepared by Gail Prokopchuk, Transportation Manager, advised that adjusted secondary school bell schedules have met the primary objectives of expanded three-tier routing, improved route utilization, increased transportation capacity and significant recurring savings.

Although the transition has required adjustments by students, families, and schools, the overall operational, financial, and service-level benefits achieved through implementation are significant and help support the long-term sustainability of student transportation services within the District.

The Transportation Manager will continue to monitor the transportation system to assess the ongoing effectiveness of the adjusted bell schedules and routing structure.

Trustee Guderyan commended Gail Prokopchuk for her work and noted positive feedback from Peachland-area parents who felt heard and validated after some initial concerns. She also reported that at the recent District Student Council meeting, students wondered how the changes would be evaluated over time. She thanked the Transportation Manager for her ongoing work.

Trustee Desrosiers asked whether BC Transit had adjusted its schedules. The Transportation Manager confirmed that service enhancements had been made, with positive results. Trustee Desrosiers expressed appreciation for the work completed.

Trustee Broughton asked whether fewer waitlisted students indicated increased bus ridership. The Transportation Manager said it was too early to compare ridership but noted that traditional waitlists, previously numbering 300 to 400 students, particularly at the secondary level, had declined, allowing students to be assigned seats sooner.

The Transportation Manager thanked the trustees for their ongoing support.

Superintendent's Emergent Issues
None.

Financial Update – September 30, 2026
Received.

Enrolment Update – 2026/2027
Received.

Feeding Futures Fund Update – June 30, 2026
Received.

2026/2027 Feeding Futures Fund Budget
Received.

Level 4 and 5 Field Study Summaries - 2026/2027
Received.

General Statement - September 23, 2026
Received.

General Statement - October 13, 2026
Received.

BOARD/DISTRICT COMMITTEE QUERIES/COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Trustee Guderyan indicated her attendance at the District Student Council Committee meeting, and Trustee Johnson noted she had attended the COPAC meeting and provided an update.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Main 26P-102
MOVED by Trustee Tiede
SECONDED by Trustee C. Desrosiers

THAT: At the October 28, 2026 Public Board Meeting, the Board receive the correspondence listed below.

Received:

- 2026-09-19 submission from S. Gaskell regarding bussing 2026-09-19 submission from M. Dawson regarding bussing 2026-09-19 submission from C. Firth regarding bussing 2026-09-20 submission from L. Bishuty regarding bussing
- 2026-09-21 submission from S. DeSchutter regarding bussing
- 2026-10-02 email from Amie Smid - Concern Regarding Rising School Bus Fees in School District 23
- 2026-10-17 submission from K. Skabar regarding Dr. Knox High School Transition

Sent:

- 2026-10-22 Board Chair response to Amie Smid regarding concern - rising school bus fees

CARRIED

ITEMS REQUIRING SPECIAL MENTION

- Central Okanagan Public Schools is hosting a Dual Credit Information Night on Thursday, October 29, 2026 at École Kelowna Secondary School.
- On Thursday, September 24, 2026 a 'New Employee Welcome Event' was hosted by the People, Culture, & Wellbeing Department. All employees hired within the past two years were invited to meet District leaders and fellow new employees, learn more about our District values and supports, connect with partner groups, and enjoy snacks and refreshments.
- Appreciation was expressed to Barry Gerding, Regional Editor for the Kelowna Capital News, for his ongoing commitment to attending Public Board Meetings and keeping the community informed on the important topics within Central Okanagan Public Schools.
- Okanagan College recently hosted a 'Try a Trade' event for students and the community offering hands-on experiences in a variety of skilled trades.

BC PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION

BCPSEA Symposium
November 30 - December 1, 2026
Vancouver, BC

BC SCHOOL TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION

Trustee Academy
November 26-28, 2026
Vancouver, BC

BCSTA Thompson-Okanagan Branch
Spring Meeting February 19-20, 2027
SD83, Salmon Arm, BC

FUTURE MEETINGS

Regularly Scheduled Public Board Meetings
November 18, 2026, 6:00 pm
December 9, 2026, 6:00 pm

Swearing-in / Inaugural Meeting
Tuesday, November 10, 2026
6:00 pm

Board Standing Committee Meetings
Finance and Planning Committee
rescheduled: December 2, 2026
4:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

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Board Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer/CFO