



BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

Date: **Wednesday, January 22, 2025**

Inside 23

1. **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:

1. **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 Guignard and Jaci Guignard, on achieving First Place at the Invitational Tier 2 Championships.

2. **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.

Introductions

1. **New Staff to Central Okanagan Public Schools**

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

Declarations

1. **Family Literacy Week – January 26 to February 2, 2025**

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

2. Human Rights Month

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

3. Inclusive Education Month

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

4. Black Excellence Day – January 15, 2025

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

Action Items

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

The Board of Education agreed to 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.

2. Constable Neil Bruce Middle School – Outdoor Education Academy Fee Increase

The Board of Education approved the proposed fee increase of \$100 (from \$125 to \$225/student) for the Outdoor Education Academy (Constable Neil Bruce Middle School).

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

The Board of Education approved 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 Okanagan Mission Secondary School).

The Board of Education approved 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).

The Board of Education further approved 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).

4. Teaching Critical Thinking in K-12

The Board of Education agreed to send the following Motion to the BCSTA:

THAT: The BCSTA call 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.

Information Items

1. Superintendent's Emergent Issues:

- On January 10th 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.

The Board of Education reviewed the following:

1. 2024/2025 Field Studies
2. 2025/2026 Field Students
3. General Statement – December 11, 2024
4. General Statement – December 17, 2024
5. General Statement – January 8, 2025
6. 2025/2026 Budget Survey Questions

Advocacy

1. BCSTA Resolutions Committee Motions

The Board of Education reviewed the Resolutions going forward to the BCSTA Thompson-Okanagan Branch Resolutions Committee.

2. January 16, 2025 Board Chairs – Meeting Discussion

At a Board Chairs' Meeting held on January 16th, reference was made to a mandate letter directed to the Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Child Care, from Premier David Eby.

Items of 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 École Peter Greer Elementary School Millennial Time Capsule Opening, and assemblies/events at schools and offices prior to the winter break.
- A reminder that 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 14th, 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.

We encourage all those interested in learning more about School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan)'s 2025/2026 budget and how to provide input to participate in this information meeting.

As well, in early April, the Central Okanagan Public Schools 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.

Next Public Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 6:00 pm

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 6:00 pm

Board Standing Committee Meetings

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

4:00 pm Finance and Planning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

4:00 pm Finance and Planning Committee Meeting

6:00 pm Policy Committee Meeting

For comments, please contact:

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