



**Central Okanagan
Public Schools**
Together We Learn

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 6:00 pm
School Board Office
1040 Hollywood Road S
Kelowna, BC**

Board of Education: Trustee L. Tiede, Chair
Trustee W. Broughton (*by zoom and telephone*)
Trustee C. Desrosiers
Trustee J. Fraser
Trustee A. Geistlinger
Trustee L. Guderyan
Trustee V. Johnson

Staff: Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Terry Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools (*by zoom*)
Jon Rever, Assistant Superintendent
Raquel Steen, Assistant Superintendent
Mona Essler, Executive Assistant
Lise Bradshaw, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Absent: Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO (attending conference)

Partner Groups: Susan Bauhart, COTA President
Nicola Baker, COPAC President
Kyla Babcock, COPVPA Representative
Em Monsale, Anna Kristin and Emmie Truong, DSC Representatives
Teri Wishlow, CUPE President (*by zoom*)

**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 24P-018

MOVED by Trustee Fraser

SECONDED by Trustee Geistlinger

THAT: The Agenda for the Public Board Meeting of February 28, 2024 be adopted, as presented.

CARRIED

MINUTES

Public Board Meeting - February 14, 2024

Main 24P-019

MOVED by Trustee Desrosiers

SECONDED by Trustee Fraser

THAT: The Minutes of the Public Board Meeting of February 14, 2024 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS – "INSIDE 23"

Celebrating Inclusive Education Month through Learning!

In attendance:

Michelle Kaupp, District Principal – Inclusive Education

Cori Christensen, Inclusive Education Consultant

Sebastien Gould, Grade 6 Student at Constable Neil Bruce Middle School

Lisa Gould, Parent

Inclusive Education staff assisted in organizing the February 16, 2024 CUPE (Canadian Union of Public Employees) Professional Development Day with keynote speaker, Myles Himmelreich. In his presentation, Myles spoke on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) - Myth Busting 101 and FASD Whole Body Research. CUPE and COTA (Central Okanagan Teachers' Association) staff gained valuable knowledge about FASD, the strengths and challenges associated with exposure to alcohol in the womb, and a better understanding of FASD-Informed teaching.

INTRODUCTION

Samantha Bauer, Human Resources Advisor

The Board of Education welcomed Samantha Bauer, Human Resources Advisor, to Central Okanagan Public Schools.

MEETING RECESS

The meeting recessed at 6:31 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 6:36 pm.

DECLARATION

The Board Chair again recognized February 28, 2024 as Pink Shirt and Bullying Awareness Day, and underscored the importance of the annual event. The day originated in 2007 with two courageous students in Nova Scotia taking action to stand up for a younger student.

PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT PERIOD

The COTA President read a statement requesting the Board of Education to consider tabling Item 13.3, the recommendation to delete Policy 505 - Learning Assistance, Regulations 505R - Learning Assistance, Appendix 505A - Learning Assistance (Appendix A) and Appendix 505A - Learning Assistance (Appendix B), regarding Learning Assistance teachers, and the timing of the restructuring of the Inclusive Education Department. The COTA President stated that COTA and Trustees were told that the Policy contained a job description and as such did not belong in board policy, but COTA disagrees with this. The COTA President provided Trustees with a package containing a copy of the letter from COTA's First Vice-President to Trustee Geistlinger, Chair of the Policy Committee, outlining concerns, highlighted excerpts of the Trustee Handbook and Roberts Rules of Order. The main concern is that COTA believes the Inclusive Education Department is set to undergo a major restructuring and the COTA President stated that the timing of the removal of Policy 505 is premature and concerning.

Emily Noonan, a Learning Assistance teacher from Rutland Secondary School asked if Trustees would table Item 13.3 and reconsider, as Learning Assistance teachers were not consulted, and she is worried that the removal of the Policy could have serious implications in the support of students who receive learning assistance.

The Board Chair advised that the removal of Policy 505 is part of a broader project by the Board of Education to review the current Board policies. Item 13.3 is not a discussion on the position of Learning Assistance teachers or their role. This recommendation is to remove the Policy, Regulations and Appendix and instead have the information in the Human Resources posting

process, where all job descriptions and qualifications reside. This Policy removal is for housekeeping purposes only.

Assistant Superintendent Jon Rever provided some history on the 20-year-old Policy 505, and stated that job descriptions, qualifications and roles and responsibilities should exist in the Human Resources Department posting process, and not in Board policy. The timing of this general policy review, and the restructuring of the Inclusive Education Department is purely coincidental. There is no intention to change the role of Learning Assistance teachers.

Nicola Hopfner, Learning Assistance teacher at École George Elliot Secondary School commented that there was still confusion, and that Learning Assistance teachers in the District had not been informed of these changes. Due to the short notice of this policy removal coming to their attention, many could not be at the Public Board Meeting. She stated that her concern is that the deletion of the policy will lend itself to shift the services for current Learning Assistance teachers to case manage more than the Ministry designated students. Ms. Hopfner would like to have this tabled as she considers there to be many unanswered questions.

The Board Chair reiterated that this was part of a broader policy review only. Assistant Superintendent Jon Rever stated that the Appendices in the Policy are redundant, and all specifications and requirements such as the caseload and service delivery of Learning Assistance teachers are guided by the Ministry of Education and Child Care Policy in the Special Education Manual.

TRUSTEE QUERIES/COMMENTS

Trustee Fraser echoed the sentiments of the Board Chair regarding Pink Shirt Day and the commitment to being kind to one another, and taking a stand against bullying in all its forms.

ACTION ITEMS

Annual Review of Committee's Mandate, Purpose and Function - Policy 155 - Planning and Facilities Committee

Main 24P-20

MOVED by Trustee Fraser

SECONDED by Trustee Desrosiers

**THAT: The Board of Education affirm Policy 155 - Planning and Facilities Committee, as attached to the Agenda and presented at the February 28, 2024 Public Board Meeting.
CARRIED**

Three Year Annual Facility Grant (AFG) Plan 2024/2025 - 2026/2027

Main 24P-21

MOVED by Trustee Fraser

SECONDED by Trustee Desrosiers

THAT: The Board of Education approve the Annual Facility Grant (AFG) Plan for 2024/2025 through 2026/2027, as attached to the Agenda and as presented at the February 28, 2024 Public Board Meeting.

CARRIED

Deletion of Policy 505 - Learning Assistance, Regulations 505R - Learning Assistance, Appendix 505A - Learning Assistance (Appendix A) and Appendix 505A - Learning Assistance (Appendix B)

Main 24P-22

MOVED by Trustee Geistlinger

SECONDED by Trustee Fraser

THAT: The Board of Education delete Policy 505 - Learning Assistance, Regulations 505R - Learning Assistance, Appendix 505A - Learning Assistance (Appendix A) and Appendix 505A - Learning Assistance (Appendix B), as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the February 28, 2024 Public Board Meeting.

Amendment 24P-023

MOVED by Trustee Fraser

SECONDED by Trustee Geistlinger

THAT: The Board of Education remove delete Policy 505 - Learning Assistance, Regulations 505R - Learning Assistance, Appendix 505A - Learning Assistance (Appendix A) and Appendix 505A - Learning Assistance (Appendix B), as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the February 28, 2024 Public Board Meeting, with the understanding that this documentation will be residing in the Human Resources posting process, which is guided by the Ministry of Education and Child Care's "Special Education Services: A Manual of Policies, Procedures and Guidelines".

CARRIED

Main 24P-024

MOVED by Trustee Geistlinger

SECONDED by Trustee Broughton

THAT: The removal of Policy 505 - Learning Assistance, Regulations 505R - Learning Assistance, Appendix 505A - Learning Assistance (Appendix A) and Appendix 505A - Learning Assistance (Appendix B) be deferred to a future Board meeting.

DEFEATED

Opposed: Trustees Tiede, Fraser, Broughton, Desrosiers, Johnson and Guderyan

The question was called on Main 24P-022 as amended by Amendment 24P-023

THAT: The Board of Education remove Policy 505 - Learning Assistance, Regulations 505R - Learning Assistance, Appendix 505A - Learning Assistance (Appendix A) and Appendix 505A - Learning Assistance (Appendix B), as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the February 28, 2024 Public Board Meeting, with the understanding that this documentation will be residing in the Human Resources posting process, which is guided by the Ministry of Education and Child Care's "Special Education Services: A Manual of Policies, Procedures and Guidelines".

CARRIED

Amendments to Policy 161 - Accumulated Operating Surplus

Main 24P-025

MOVED by Trustee Geistlinger

SECONDED by Trustee Fraser

THAT: The Board of Education approve the amendments to Policy 161 – Accumulated Operating Surplus, as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the February 28, 2024 Public Board Meeting.

CARRIED

Amendments to Policy 620 – Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Main 24P-026

MOVED by Trustee Geistlinger

SECONDED by Trustee Fraser

THAT: The Board of Education approve the amendments to Policy 620 – Integrated Pest Management (IPM), as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the February 28, 2024 Public Board Meeting.

CARRIED

Amendments to Policy 405 – Student Placement and Regulations 405R – Student Placement

Main 24P-027

MOVED by Trustee Geistlinger

SECONDED by Trustee Fraser

THAT: The Board of Education approve the amendments to Policy 405 – Student Placement and Regulations 405R – Student Placement, as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the February 28, 2024 Public Board Meeting.

CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEMS

Superintendent's Emergent Issues

No emergent issues.

Level 4 and 5 Field Study Summary - 2023/2024

The Board reviewed the information.

General Statement – February 14, 2024

The Board reviewed the information.

ADVOCACY

Trustee Fraser advised that she submitted the Annual Facility Grant motions to the BC School Trustee Association for consideration at the upcoming AGM.

BOARD/DISTRICT COMMITTEE QUERIES/COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Trustee Fraser attended the PEAC Committee meeting where there was a roundtable discussion on inclusive learning cultures and the next issue of "Together We Learn". Trustees are invited to provide an individual message for the upcoming issue. Trustee Fraser also attended the BCSTA Thompson Okanagan Branch Indigenous Education Committee by zoom earlier in the day.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Received:

- 2024-02-20 Email from D. Neukomm re: MBSS Walk for Mental Health on May 8, 2024
- 2024-02-21 Email from COTA President S. Bauhart re: District Cell Phone Policy

Sent: None

Main 24P-028

MOVED by Trustee Johnson

SECONDED by Trustee Desrosiers

THAT: At the February 28, 2024 Public Board Meeting, the Board receive the correspondence listed above.

CARRIED

ITEMS REQUIRING SPECIAL MENTION

Trustees and the Assistant Superintendents spoke of the following:

- Attendance/participation in various meetings and events throughout the District, including the annual Joint Board and Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council meeting, the Webber Road School Community Student Learning Plan Conversation and École Kelowna Secondary Night Owl Theatre presentation of Shakespeare in Love.
- The annual Boys and Girls Club Okanagan Pink Shirt Day Breakfast held on the morning of February 28, 2024 at the Laurel Packinghouse. Trustees, senior staff, and students heard from renowned international speaker Trisha Miltimore who shared insights on building positive relationships, living with less stress and more enjoyment using the tools of kindness, community and gratitude.
- On February 16, 2024 the Central Okanagan Teachers' Association and CUPE Local 3523 held their professional development days. Over 500 CUPE employees participated in 33 sessions facilitated by our District's managers and consultants. The Central Okanagan Teachers' Association (COTA), partnering with the North Okanagan-Shuswap, Oliver, Okanagan Skaha, and Vernon School Districts, hosted a ZONAL conference at Rutland Senior Secondary School with a record-breaking 949 educators in attendance! Also, Central Okanagan Principals' and Vice Principals' Association (COPVPA) and Senior Admin co-hosted a 2nd Annual Learning Symposium – a day of professional learning focused on leading our school and student learning priorities. Over 100 Principals, Vice-Principals, and senior staff came together to explore emerging research in leadership practices, and collaborative teamwork in leading learning.
- École Glenrosa Middle School and Constable Neil Bruce Middle School welcomed staff and 103 grade nine students from Haruhigaoka Junior High School. The friendship between Central Okanagan Public Schools and Haruhigaoka is the longest international school partnership in our District's history, spanning over thirty years. Trustees attended welcome

assemblies at École Glenrosa Middle School and Constable Neil Bruce Middle School, and a welcome luncheon was held on February 23, 2024 with administration from Haruhigaoka Junior High School, Trustees and Senior Staff.

- Proud for Prom is holding their annual Boutique Day for grade 12 graduates on March 2, 2024 at Quigley Elementary School. Proud for Prom is a 100% volunteer community-based organization whose mission is to empower graduating high school students to be proud of their achievements and celebrate their success through participation at graduation prom night. Proud for Prom ensures that every student has the opportunity to experience their high school prom, regardless of their financial situation.
- Former District Student Council Co-President, Mehak Parihar, who is now a first-year engineering student at UBCO, was the regional recipient of national BGC Canada Youth of the Year. Mehak was awarded this honour for her exceptional leadership, dedication to service and remarkable achievements within her community.
- The BC High School Curling Championships are being held this weekend at the Kelowna Curling Club. The École Kelowna Secondary School team will be looking for their first title on home ice.
- The second annual RCMP/Constable Neil Bruce Middle School charity basketball game will be held on February 29, 2024 at 4:00 pm at Constable Neil Bruce Middle School. West Kelowna Indigenous Police Service unit and RCMP, as well as Westbank First Nation council and community members, will be playing against Constable Neil Bruce Middle grade 8 basketball players.
- The Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council (COPAC) has arranged for two engaging live virtual events with The White Hatter, focusing on crucial topics related to our digital era.

8:15 pm: Trustee Broughton was disconnected from the meeting.

BC SCHOOL TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION

BCSTA Thompson Okanagan Branch meeting

March 1-2, 2024
Vernon, BC

Annual General Meeting

April 18-21, 2024
Westin Bayshore
Vancouver, BC

BOARD MEETINGS WITH PARTNER AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

~~Joint Board/City of West Kelowna Meeting on March 8, 2024 Postponed~~

Joint Board/District Student Council Meeting on April 15, 2024

FUTURE MEETINGS

Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings

- Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 6:00 pm

- Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 6:00 pm

Main Board Room, 1040 Hollywood Road S.

Board Standing Committee Meetings

Wednesday March 6, 2024

~~-General Affairs Committee Meeting, 4:00 pm cancelled~~

~~-Planning and Facilities Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm cancelled~~

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

- Finance and Audit Committee Meeting, 4:00 pm

- Planning and Facilities Meeting, 6:00 pm

Main Board Room, 1040 Hollywood Road S.

MEDIA QUESTIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:31 pm.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer/CFO