



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, February 14, 2024

Central Okanagan Public Schools – "Inside 23"

Belonging – The Heart of Social and Emotional Learning to Foster Inclusive School Communities

In attendance:

Alan Lalonde, Assistant Superintendent

Allison Goreas, District Vice-Principal – Learning Support Services and Safer Communities

District Social and Emotional Learning Consultants:

Shelley Dickie

Taunya Shaw

Christina Pulice-Smith

Coral Ghiglione

Unable to attend:

Sherri Roche, District Principal – Learning Support Services and Safer Communities

Renee Opperman, Social Emotional Learning Teacher K to 12

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) plays a pivotal role in fostering a sense of belonging, acceptance, and the creation of inclusive school communities. SEL encompasses the process of acquiring skills and knowledge to comprehend and manage emotions, establish, and achieve positive goals, express empathy for others, maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. It also underscores the acknowledgment and celebration of the inherent diversity in students' backgrounds, cultures, and experiences, honouring the complete individual. The concepts of SEL and inclusion are interconnected, mutually reinforcing their objectives of advancing equity, nurturing positive relationships, and promoting the holistic development and well-being of all learners.

Introduction

Terresa Kennedy, Business Process Manager

The Board of Education welcomed Terresa Kennedy, Business Process Manager, to Central Okanagan Public Schools.

Declaration

Bullying Awareness (Pink Shirt) Day – February 28, 2024

The Central Okanagan Board of Education declared Wednesday, February 28, 2024 as "Pink Shirt Day" in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

Action Items

1. Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) Course Proposal – Holocaust 12: Beyond the Shoah

The Board of Education approved the Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) Course Proposal – Holocaust 12: Beyond the Shoah (École Kelowna Secondary School and Rutland Senior Secondary School).

2. Annual Facilities Grant Motion for BCSTA AGM

The Board of Education agreed to send the following Motion to the BCSTA Legislative Committee for consideration in the upcoming 2024 BCSTA AGM:

THAT: The BCSTA advocate to the Ministry of Finance/Treasury Board to increase the Ministry of Education and Child Care's Annual Facilities Grant so that school districts can address billions in deferred maintenance to: improve accessibility; ensure student safety; enhance learning environments; extend facility lifespan and ensure long-term fiscal responsibility.

Information Items

The Board of Education reviewed the following:

1. Level 4 and 5 Field Study Summary – 2023/2024
2. General Statement – January 24, 2024
3. 2023/2024 Ministry Funding Recalculation Allocation – Updated January 2024
4. Proposed Multi-Year Financial Plan (2024/2025 to 2026/2027)
5. CUPE 3523 Executive – 2024

Advocacy

- Recently, members of the Board of Education's Planning and Facilities Committee, along with the Board Chair, Superintendent of Schools/CEO, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO and Director of Operations, toured Kevin Falcon, Official Leader of the Opposition, around Rutland Middle School. Also joining in on the tour were MLA Ben Stewart, MLA Norm Letnick and MLA Renee Merrifield.
- The BCSTA Thompson Okanagan Branch is bringing forth to the BCSTA AGM three Motions: K-8 mental health supports, wifi accessibility/affordability and equity to access provincially, and School Districts to reach Clean BC Goals and create funding for climate action.

Items of Special Mention

Trustees and the Deputy Superintendent of Schools spoke of the following.

1. A reminder that the Enrollment Application for the 2024/2025 school year for Kindergarten and new students began on January 29th and continues through to Friday, March 15th. Visit the School District website for more information (www.sd23.bc.ca).
2. The link to the 2024/2025 Public Budget Survey is now on the District website (www.sd23.bc.ca). As the District plans the 2024/2025 annual budget for the next school year, we are asking for feedback on the 2024/2025 preliminary budget process. The due date for the survey is March 4, 2024 at 11:59 pm.
3. Attendance/participation in various meetings and events throughout the District, including the rehearsal for the Rutland Middle School Winter Concert, Mount Boucherie Secondary/Constable Neil Bruce Middle Winter Concert, Gateway Graduation Ceremonies, the Indigenous Primary Winter Gatherings, the École Glenrosa Elementary School Community Student Learning Conversation, District Student Council Meeting, and the February COPAC Meeting (budget presentation).
4. The Board of Education, as part of their annual meetings, met with the 4 MLAs – MLA Dan Ashton, MLA Ben Stewart, MLA Norm Letnick and MLA Renee Merrifield, and also met with the Westbank First Nation Chief and Council.
5. Thank you to all of the students, coaches, staff, volunteers, community supporters, and the Crazy Owls for welcoming the best teams in Western Canada to the recent 49th Western Canada Basketball Tournament. Well done to the Senior Boys team who showed tremendous resilience to bounce back from a close semifinal loss, secure third place, and strengthen their tournament skill.

6. On Friday, February 16th, CUPE and COTA will be hosting their professional development days and therefore school will not be in session. Members of the Central Okanagan Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association and senior staff will also be participating in a Leadership Symposium. Accordingly, the hours of the School Board Office on Friday, February 16th will be adjusted to 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.
7. Also, a reminder that Monday, February 19th is Family Day and schools will again not be in session.

Next Public Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

6:00 pm

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

6:00 pm

All Public Board Meetings take place in the Main Board Room at 1040 Hollywood Road South unless otherwise noted.

Board Standing Committee Meetings

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

4:00 pm Finance and Audit Committee

6:00 pm Education and Student Services Committee (Cancelled)

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

4:00 pm General Affairs Committee

6:00 pm Planning and Facilities Committee

All Public Board Standing Committee Meetings take place in the Main Board Room at 1040 Hollywood Road South unless otherwise noted.

For comments, please contact:

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Terry Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, 250-470-3256

Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer, 250-860-8888