



Central Okanagan
Public Schools
Together We Learn

PUBLIC EDUCATION APPRECIATION COMMITTEE (PEAC)

MINUTES

Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at 4:00 pm
School Board Office – Board Room 1

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| COMMITTEE MEMBERS: | Jessica Anjos COPVPA | Jesse Bruce District Staff | Luke Campbell COPVPA | Mary Hope COTA |
| | Kevin Kaardal District Staff | Val Johnson Trustee | Cathie Mutter CORTA | Justin Schneider District Staff |
| | Jasmeet Virk COPVPA | Shelley Yost CUPE | Deannie Zahara COPAC | Yvonne Hildebrandt Recorder |
| ABSENT: | Terry Beaudry District Staff | Kiersten Bereska DSC | Kellie Garcia COPAC | Teri Wishlow CUPE |

1. Welcome

Justin welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged that the PEAC meeting is being held on the unceded Traditional Territory of the Okanagan Syilx people.

2. Agenda – October 1, 2024 (Approval/Additions)

The Committee approved the October 1, 2024 agenda as presented.

3. Minutes – May 28, 2024

The Committee approved the May 28, 2024 minutes as distributed.

4. Public Education Initiatives of Partnership Groups for Promotion

PEAC members shared their association's look-ahead priorities, events and initiatives for the upcoming months, including:

- The Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council (COPAC) is currently promoting parent involvement in school Parent Advisory Councils through social media and school newsletters. Parents representing 27 schools in the District attended the September COPAC meeting. COPAC is working on receiving PAC executive information from school principals.
- Trustees are anticipating the upcoming provincial election. The election results may change the advocacy lens from the Board perspective.
- Indigenous Education is continuing to communicate with the Board about Bill 40 and its impact on Indigenous Education and the Indigenous Education Council.
- Central Okanagan Retired Teachers' Association (CORTA) is excited to be part of initiating the "Old School" exhibition at Kelowna Museums which runs from October through to mid-2025. Items and archived materials were donated to the local museums in Kelowna, Lake Country and Peachland. Large scrapbooks in the collection that had been contributed by a District school were returned to that school (Springvalley Middle School).
- CORTA membership information for upcoming retiring teachers, principals, and vice-principals is a challenge for CORTA to distribute due to confidentiality and the District does not provide a link to the association on the SD23 website. Justin may need to collaborate with Human Resources to include CORTA information in the retirement package.

The PEAC members expressed appreciation to Justin for his role in publishing the *Together We Learn* online newspaper. The publication is the lens of what is happening in schools.

Action: Please forward a list of upcoming Fall events to Justin for promotion to all parents in the District.

5. "Together We Learn" Online Newspaper – Fall Edition

Justin shared that the Fall edition of *Together We Learn* will be published just before the winter break and he will watch for story ideas while visiting schools. This edition will highlight one of the directions of the Strategic Plan: Family and Community Engagement. This direction is achieved through authentic and generative family and community engagement, value added community partnerships, and assurance in Public Education.

Articles for the "Family and Community Engagement" Fall edition of *Together We Learn* may include stories about the following:

- Post secondary partnerships with Okanagan College and UBCO, Dual Credit, and Engineering Days.
- Hockey academies that help students thrive at their sport.
- Fine Art academies.
- Kelowna Art Gallery partnership that showcases student artwork created in classrooms; Art in Action exhibit.
- Academy of Indigenous Studies at GESS, KSS, MBSS and RSS and how they connect to the community.
- The Jazz Festival.
- Excellence through the Arts (ETTA) initiative and the Artists in Residence program. The Kelowna Actors Studio came to the school and taught Drama with students. Irene Wong is the organizer.
- The Cultural Performances Committee and the cultural performance opportunities.
- Upstream and the Foundry.
- YMCA alternative suspension program. Trustee Val Johnson will contact Adrian McLoughlin.
- Family Connection Center operated by ARC programs is in the schools and connects support services with families.
- Food for Thought; Food Bank; Rhonda Ovelson, Director of Instruction – Feeding Futures; and the Health Promoting Schools teachers.
- Westbank First Nation outdoor kitchen being used by Land Based Learning program.
- Kelowna Métis Association and their work with community services. KMA provided a generous grant to the District for Indigenous early learning support.
- Students taking Advanced Placement courses – Central Okanagan Public Schools gives students more choices. RSS has many AP courses.
- Local authors are invited into the Learning Commons by the Librarians in schools. This ties into the learning in the classroom. Students make their own graphic novels after the authors visit the schools.
- The annual RCMP Cop Camp at MBSS and the partnership between WFN, MBSS, and the West Kelowna RCMP Indigenous Policing Services.

Action: If there are topics of interest that have not been highlighted in past editions of *Together We Learn*, please email Justin your ideas.

6. Upcoming Public Schools Kelowna Museums Exhibition

Justin recognized the Superintendent of Schools, the Deputy Superintendent of Schools and the Admin Council for contributing details and information, at the museum's request, for the exhibit "Old School: A Look Back at School Life in Kelowna". The exhibit will be in place at the Okanagan Heritage Museum from November 2024 to March 2025 and showcases the evolution of schools from one-room schoolhouses to modern institutions.

7. November 12th PEAC Meeting – Via Zoom

The Superintendent of Schools/CEO requested that the PEAC review the new District website and provide feedback at the next PEAC meeting about what the website is used for, what is working well and what could be improved.

The Superintendent of Schools/CEO reminded the PEAC that the Together We Learn online newspaper is unique to this District. A few years ago, the newspaper was printed, and paper copies were distributed to the schools and the community. However, *Together We Learn* is now published online and the District needs a communication strategy. He queried the PEAC about what their organizations are proud of and commented that it would be good for parents to be informed about these positive stories.

Action: Please list your organization's Fall/Winter priorities that need to be promoted in the District and bring the list to share at the November 12th PEAC meeting.

Action: Please review the new District website and provide feedback about what you use the website for, what is working well, and what could be improved.

The meeting ended at 4:50 pm.

2024-2025 PEAC Meeting Schedule:

All meetings are Tuesday's at 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm.

November 12, 2024 (via Zoom)

January 7, 2025 (in-person – SBO Board Room 1)

March 4, 2025 (via Zoom)

May 27, 2025 (in-person – SBO Board Room 1)