



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 28, 2026**

Inside 23

Making Our Voices Heard on a Global Stage: COP30 in Belém, Brazil

Presenters:

Jordan Kleckner, Director of Instruction – Learning & Innovation

Marnie Birkeland, Teacher, AP Passion to Action, École George Elliot Secondary School

Carter Mochinski, Grade 12, École George Elliot Secondary School

Liberty Sanderson, Grade 11, École George Elliot Secondary School (*not in attendance*)

Carter highlighted how being a part of AP Passion to Action in collaboration with The Centre for Global Education and #Decarbonize enabled him and Liberty to go to Brazil to represent Canadian Youth at COP30 (The United Nations Climate Conference). Carter shared how they took on roles at the conference which included being the Head Global Reporter, interviewing youth, world leaders, and others at COP, being interviewed at a press junket, co-hosting a Live From COP event for elementary students across the world, presenting their ideas during live panels, and networking with people involved in Climate Action across the world, among others. Carter also shared which competencies he grew while in Brazil, how he has been forever changed by this experience, how the experience has impacted his thinking about his potential future, and why we should support future students in the Central Okanagan to take their learning to the global stage. Finally, Carter expressed what he and Liberty plan to do with their learning now that they have returned to Lake Country and how they hope to impact others around Climate Action.

Introductions

The Board of Education welcomed **Colline Johnson**, to her role of **District Principal – Inclusion**, in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

The Board of Education congratulated the following staff on their new roles:

Scott Parker, District Principal – Inclusion

Grant Hughes, Manager of Learning and Business Technology Services

Crystal Shearer, Executive Assistant – Human Resources

Declarations

1. Family Literacy Week – January 25 to February 1, 2026

The Central Okanagan Board of Education declared the week of January 25 to February 1, 2026 as Family Literacy Week in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

2. Human Rights Month – February

The Central Okanagan Board of Education declared February 2026 as Human Rights Month in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

3. **Inclusive Education Month – February**

The Central Okanagan Board of Education declared February 2026 as Inclusive Education Month in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

4. **Black Excellence Day – January 15, 2026**

The Central Okanagan Board of Education acknowledged that Black Excellence Day was celebrated on January 15, 2026.

Action Items

1. **2025/2026 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw**

The Board of Education gave first, second and third readings, and adopted School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 in the amount of \$386,023,000.

2. **Digital Platforms – School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan)**

The Board of Education directed the Superintendent to ensure that the choice of digital platforms on which the District has an official account is restricted to those whose Policies align with District and Board values, and in particular those that are committed to protecting the privacy and security of children in content that appears on their platform.

Information Items

The Board of Education reviewed the following:

1. Level 4 and 5 Field Study Summary - 2025/2026 and 2026/2027
2. General Statement – December 10, 2025
3. General Statement – December 16, 2025
4. General Statement – January 8, 2026
5. Financial Update – December 31, 2025
6. 2026/2027 Budget Survey Questions
 - i. *Considering the educational programs and services that are currently provided at your school, what is most important to you and why?*
 - ii. *What modifications to programs, services and/or activities would you like the District to consider as the 2026/2027 Annual Budget is developed?*
 - iii. *What other information would you like the District to know that will help develop next year's (2026/2027) Annual Budget?*
7. 2025/2026 Ministry of Education and Child Care Funding Recalculation
8. New Procedure – Board Correspondence

Those that wish to submit correspondence to the Board of Education that is relevant to the Board's governance role, statutory mandate and Board Policy, can now submit their message via the District website [Board Correspondence](#).
9. 2026 Long-Range Facility Plan Review

Following Ministry of Education and Child Care Guidelines, the District requires a Long-Range Facility Plan (LRFP) to guide facility decisions in line with student enrollment, educational needs, and community growth. The LRFP supports capital requests through the annual Five-Year Capital Plan and must be regularly reviewed to stay relevant and aligned with strategic priorities. The District is conducting a full review of the LRFP, which was last updated in 2021, to ensure it accurately reflects current facility needs, educational programs, demographic trends, and community growth. The LRFP informs Ministry funding decisions and will now be updated every two years to maintain accuracy for the Five-Year Capital Plan process.

Items Requiring Public Mention

The Board Chair, Trustees and the Superintendent of Schools, spoke of the following:

- Attendance at various meetings and events throughout the District, including the 2026 Gateway Graduation (a partnership between Okanagan College and Central Okanagan Public Schools), the Strategic Plan Public Engagement Sessions and school visits with the Superintendent of Schools.
- 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 2, 2026, at 6:30 pm by Zoom. Please visit the School District website for details. All those interested in learning more about School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan)'s 2025/2026 budget and how to provide input are encouraged to participate in this information meeting.
- The Primary Winter Gathering, a cultural event, has been taking place at the Learning Centre over the past 3 days, involving over 300 Indigenous students.
- A reminder that the initial enrollment application dates for the 2026/2027 school year have been set as Monday, February 2, 2026 at 7:00 am through to Friday, March 13, 2026. The closing date of enrollment applications, to apply the Board's enrollment priorities as established in Regulations 405R – *Student Placement (Regulations)*, is set as Thursday, September 3, 2026 at 3:30 pm.
- On Friday, February 13th, 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 will also be participating in a Leadership Symposium.
- Schools will additionally not be in session on Monday, February 16th in honour of Family Day.
- The Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council (COPAC) recently hosted at various schools presentations by Paul Davis who is a leading expert on digital safety and youth wellbeing.
- COPAC will be hosting their 2026 COPAC Parent Conference on Saturday, February 28th, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, at the Learning Centre - 1040 Hollywood Road South. The conference is open to parents and caregivers of students in Central Okanagan Public Schools who are interested in learning how to better support their students. Registration is required. Further information will be available on the [COPAC website](#).

Upcoming Public Information Sessions

Public Strategic Plan Engagement Sessions

Mount Boucherie Secondary School

Thursday, February 5, 2026 – 6:00 to 9:00 pm

École Kelowna Secondary School

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 – 6:00 to 9:00 pm

École Okanagan Mission Secondary School

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 – 6:00 to 9:00 pm

École George Pringle Secondary School - Westside Parent Information Evenings

Constable Neil Bruce Middle School

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 – 6:00 to 8:00 pm

École Glenrosa Middle School

Thursday, May 7, 2026 – 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Next Public Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 6:00 pm

Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 6:00 pm

Board Standing Committee Meetings

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

4:00 pm Education and Student Services Committee

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

4:00 pm Finance and Planning Committee

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

4:00 pm Policy Committee

For comments, please contact:

Valene Johnson, Chair of the Board of Education, 250-212-3804

Jon Rever, Superintendent of Schools, 250-470-3256

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