



# 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, October 25, 2023**

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## Central Okanagan Public Schools – "Inside 23":

### 1. **A.S. Matheson Elementary School – Reflecting on our Actions for Sustainability and Reconciliation**

In attendance from A.S. Matheson Elementary School

Monique West - Principal

Michelle Newman - Vice-Principal

Aaron Veenstra - Teacher

Kade Parnell - Grade 6 Student

Ronika Nejatifard - Grade 6 Student

Last year, A.S. Matheson Elementary students collaborated with a Grade 11/12 class from École KSS, with the goal of trying to make a sustainable difference in the community. Students were motivated to reflect on their actions and decided to focus on A.S. Matheson Elementary to make a transformational change. The students ended up conducting a waste audit at A.S. Matheson Elementary and sourcing funding to re-vamp the waste management system to be more sustainable. They reflected on how this was a reconciliatory action, as it would be a step forward in treating our land with kindness and reciprocity and understanding that our own well-being is connected with that of the earth.

The work has continued into this year where the students have reflected on the state of emergency in our community over the summer, their waste audit last year and the connections to their learning about our Local Indigenous communities. The students believe strongly in taking action for reconciliation and are committed to reducing the carbon footprint at A.S. Matheson Elementary and teaching younger grades to do the same.

## Introductions:

1. The Board of Education congratulated Wynter Oakes, District Vice-Principal, International Education and Settlement Services, and Elise Saraceni, Director of Instruction, International Education, Anti-Racism and Equity, on their new positions with the District.

## Action Items:

### 1. **Approval of School Community Student Learning Plans**

The Board of Education approved the School Community Student Learning Plans as provided to the Board in summary format.

### 2. **Annual Review of Committee's Mandate, Purpose and Function: Policy 168 – Policy Committee**

The Board of Education affirmed Policy 168 – Policy Committee.

### 3. **Review of Policy 105 – Policies**

The Board of Education affirmed Policy 105 – Policies.

#### 4. Amendments to Regulations 470R – Transportation Services Management (*Regulations*)

The Board of Education approved the amendments to Regulations 470R – Transportation Services Management (*Regulations*).

#### Information Items:

The Board of Education reviewed the following:

1. Level 4 and 5 Field Study Summary – 2023/2024
2. General Statement – October 11, 2023

#### Advocacy

- The Board Chairperson attended a Provincial Advocacy Day in Victoria on October 19<sup>th</sup> that brought together Board Chairs with Members of the Legislative Assembly. The Board Chair will provide a report on the Advocacy Day at the General Affairs Committee Meeting on Wednesday, November 1, 2023.

#### Items of Special Mention

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

- Attendance at various meetings and events throughout the District, including the BCSTA Branch Meeting held recently in Merritt, the very successful BC Student Leadership Conference held at RSS last week, the Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council Meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup>, and the Central Okanagan Leadership Team Management Meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The Board Chair and Deputy Superintendent will be attending the **Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education** ceremony in Victoria on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Six employees from Central Okanagan Public Schools are being recognized.
- Appreciation was expressed to **Barry Gerding**, Senior Regional Reporter with the Capital News, who consistently covers Board meetings and is also out in the field covering the exceptional learning opportunities for students, including at the recent BC Student Leadership Conference.
- Central Okanagan Public Schools/Career Life Programs is hosting a **Dual Credit Information Night** on Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Doors will open at 5:30 for the public to visit with post-secondary partners, with a Dual Credit Presentation overview commencing at 6:00 pm. The purpose of this event is to showcase the Dual Credit Program options and provide an opportunity for students and parents to communicate directly with post-secondary and industry training partners.
- Trustee Tiede expressed appreciation for the updates completed to make the accessibility to the gym available for all at École Okanagan Mission Secondary School.
- **Take our Kids to Work Day** will be held on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. This excellent career exploration day will offer parents and guardians a great chance to connect with their kids, sharing their own workplace while learning about goals, hopes, dreams and possibilities their child envisions for the future. All grade 9 students are encouraged to visit job sites with a parent, guardian or trusted adult. If students are not able to attend a workplace, they will be at school and participating in Take our Kids to Work Day through activities and reflection.
- The Deputy Superintendent referenced a recent Media Release distributed by the Ministry of Education and Child Care outlining the systemic change to improve outcomes for **K-12 Indigenous students**. The changes are intended to support better education outcomes for First Nations and other Indigenous students attending public schools and more effective relationships between Boards of Education and First Nations. The changes include:
  - Applying of a Local Education Agreement with Boards of Education should a First Nation request it. *Central Okanagan Public Schools and Westbank First Nation have entered into eight Local Education Agreements and are in year two of the current five-year Local Education Agreement.*
  - Require all Boards to establish an Indigenous Education Council (IEC). *Central Okanagan Public Schools first established an Aboriginal Education Committee in 2003 which has been renamed to Indigenous Education Council.*
  - First Nations able to decide which school First Nations students will attend who live on reserve, self-governing or Treaty Lands.

**Next Public Board Meeting**

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

6:00 pm – AGM

6:30 pm – Public Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 22, 2023

6:00 pm – Public Board Meeting

**Board Standing Committee Meetings**

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

4:00 pm                General Affairs Committee

6:00 pm                Planning and Facilities Committee

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

4:00 pm                Finance and Audit Committee

Please note that the Education and Student Services Committee has been moved from November 15, 2023 to 6:00 pm on Wednesday, November 29, 2023.

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For comments, please contact:

Lee-Ann Tiede, Chair of the Board of Education, 250-258-3556

Terry Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, 250-860-8888

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