



CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS - BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

Education and Student Services Committee Public Meeting

**Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 6:00 pm
School Board Office
1040 Hollywood Road S.
Kelowna, BC**

Board of Education: Trustee A. Geistlinger, Chair
Trustee J. Fraser, Committee Member
Trustee V. Johnson, Committee Member
Trustee W. Broughton
Trustee C. Desrosiers
Trustee L. Guderyan

Staff: Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
Terry-Lee Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools
Yvonne Hildebrandt, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Partner Groups: Lori Dawson Bedard, COTA 1st Vice-President
Nicola Baker, COPAC President
Meran Couzens, CUPE Executive Member
October Angell-Janfield, DSC, Grade 12, CPS

There was no representative from COPVPA.

**The Central Okanagan Board of Education acknowledged that this meeting was being held
on the unceded, Traditional Territory of the Okanagan People.**

AGENDA

Add New 3.1: Statement Against Anti-SOGI Protests

September 20, 2023 Committee Agenda – approved as amended.

REPORTS/MATTERS ARISING

Education and Student Services Committee Report – June 21, 2023

June 21, 2023 Committee Report - received as distributed.

RECOGNITION/PRESENTATION/DELEGATIONS

Statement Against Anti-SOGI Protests

Trustee Julia Fraser read the "Statement Against Anti-SOGI Protests" that was issued by the Central Okanagan Public Schools Board of Education on September 19, 2023. The statement is attached to the September 20, 2023 Public Education and Student Services Committee Report.

Equity in Action for Truth and Reconciliation 2020-2025 – Third Annual Report 2022/2023

Terry-Lee Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, April Strickland, District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education, and Christie Russell, District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education, presented the Third Annual Equity in Action for Truth and Reconciliation Report 2022-2023. The Equity in Action Agreement for Truth and Reconciliation 2020-2025 was signed during a ceremony on February 20, 2020 between Central Okanagan Public Schools, the Indigenous communities of the Central Okanagan, and the British Columbia Ministry of Education and Child Care. The District's Equity in Action Agreement is a commitment to the shared responsibilities of "Fostering Indigenous student success through the lens of equity."

Anne Tenning, Director of Instruction - Indigenous Education and Equity, served as a witness and shared what she had learned from the presentation and her initial experiences as a new leader in the Indigenous Education Department.

The Third Annual Report is a celebration of the progress, during the 2022-2023 school year, towards the goals and priorities of the Equity in Action Agreement for Truth and Reconciliation, through stories, data, photos, links and QR codes embedded within the report. Year Three progress within Policy and Governance, Learning Environment, Pedagogical Core, and Learning Profiles is outlined in the report. A focus on equity is evident through the School Community Learning Plans put forward by North Glenmore Elementary, École Peter Greer Elementary, Peachland Elementary, Shannon Lake Elementary, South Rutland Elementary, and Springvalley Elementary Schools. The report reflects the District's commitment towards equitable opportunities for the District's Indigenous, First Nation, Métis and Inuit K-12 learners, and towards educational services and supports that meet the needs of all Indigenous students in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

Administrative Procedure – Jordan's Principle

Terry-Lee Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, announced that the new Administrative Procedure – Jordan's Principle has been posted online and is available for viewing on the District's website under District Info – Admin Procedures.

RECOMMENDATIONS/REFERRALS TO THE BOARD/COORDINATING COMMITTEE/OTHER COMMITTEES

Public Board Meeting Information Item

- *Equity in Action Agreement for Truth and Reconciliation 2020-2025 – Third Annual Report 2022-2023*

ITEMS FOR FUTURE EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

October 18, 2023

November 15, 2023 *(tbc)*

- Proposals for Board/Authority Authorized Courses
- Proposals for Substantive Change
- Cultural Performances Program (Level 2 Review)
Assistant Superintendent (R. Steen)

January 17, 2024 *(tbc)*

- Settlement Services Report
Assistant Superintendent (R. Steen)

February 21, 2024 *(tbc)*

- Early Learning Initiatives Report
Assistant Superintendent (J. Robinson)

April 17, 2024 *(tbc)*

- Proposals for Board/Authority Authorized Courses
- Career Life Programs & Dual Credit Programs Report
Assistant Superintendent (A. Lalonde)

May 15, 2024 *(tbc)*

- Draft Program Review Cycle & Meeting Schedule 2024-2025
- Reading Intervention Outreach (RIO) Program Report
District Principal of Inclusive Education (M. Kaupp)

June 19, 2024 *(tbc)*

REVIEW LEGEND

Level One Review

- District-wide surveys involving all stakeholders
- Focus Groups
- Interviews with key staff and clients

Level Two Review

- Surveys to a representative sample group of stakeholders
- Optional Focus Groups and personnel interviews as appropriate

Level Three Review

Limited or no surveying and/or interviews to gather informal feedback

FUTURE EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All meetings start at 6:00 pm.

October 18, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Questions - Please Contact:

Trustee Amy Geistlinger, Chair at Amy.Geistlinger@sd23.bc.ca

Terry-Lee Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools at 250-470-3225 or Terry.Beaudry@sd23.bc.ca

Amy Geistlinger, Chair



STATEMENT AGAINST ANTI-SOGI PROTESTS

September 19, 2023

Kelowna, BC – In response to the planned demonstration in downtown Kelowna tomorrow, the Central Okanagan Board of Education reiterates its commitment to safe and inclusive places to learn. The demonstration called to remove educational resources and other supports for trans and gender diverse people from schools, which would compromise the inclusion of LGBTQ2SAI+ students, staff and their families.

As BC Human Rights Commissioner Kasari Govender points out, peaceful demonstration protects democracy and generates debate, but "the human rights of trans and LGBTQ2SAI+ people are not up for debate."

Central Okanagan Public Schools is committed to inclusive places to learn and work. We do not tell people who they should be, we welcome everyone as they are. We will always uphold the safety and human rights of students and staff. This is why we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that vulnerable young people can have a sense of belonging so they can focus on their learning priorities.

As Premier David Eby noted in his letter to the BC Teachers' Federation, the "BC SOGI Educator Network helps to make our schools more inclusive and welcoming so that children express themselves in their own unique way." Central Okanagan Public Schools, along with 59 other BC districts and the Federation of Independent School Associations, is a member of the Provincial K-12 SOGI Collaborative that is supported by all parties in the BC Legislature. Along with our Provincial mandate to ensure safe, inclusive schools, our own Strategic Plan affirms our commitment to inclusive learning cultures that value the unique identities and diverse contributions of each learner.

Education remains the key to understanding and including everyone in our beautifully diverse community so that Together We Learn.

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For comments, please contact:

Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO, 250-470-3256