



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, June 9, 2021
By Zoom

The Board Chair, on behalf of the Board of Education, provided the following statements:

On behalf of the Board of Education, we offer our condolences to the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation on whose land the mass grave of 215 children was confirmed, at the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School. We also extend our condolences to all First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Elders, children, parents, and community members who continue to endure the hurt, oppression, and intergenerational trauma from Canada's forced residential schooling for Indigenous children.

We also acknowledge that discrimination towards and mistreatment of Canada's Indigenous people continues to this day.

From 1870-1998, over 150,000 Indigenous children were taken from their families and forced to live at schools established by the federal government. Last week's news is a heartbreaking reminder that many of the Indigenous children who suffered in the residential school system never returned to their homes and families.

Boards of Education need to be prepared to support local Indigenous communities in this time of grief and sorrow. The District is firmly committed to Truth and Reconciliation and dedicates itself to correcting miseducation and restoring positive and respectful relationships with Indigenous Peoples through our leadership and advocacy.

The District's commitment to action is reflected in the Equity in Action for Truth and Reconciliation Agreement. We have been given the opportunity to correct the wrongs of the past and present and we will continue this effort in the days, weeks and years to come.

I also wish to speak of the hateful and shocking event which took place in London, Ontario.

Three generations of a loving family, out for a walk together, were mown down just because they were Muslim.

If we were meeting tonight in the School Board Office, just down the hall from us would be our Welcome Centre. It is there that we welcome immigrant and refugee families to our school district. A few years ago, we invited a Syrian refugee family to attend a Board meeting. We pledged our support to them and they expressed their happiness at being here. I wonder how they are feeling now.

There is no place, anywhere on this planet, for hatred or discrimination of a group of people because of their race, gender, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, age or abilities.

We send our condolences to the family and friends of those slain, and to the people of London, and we send special good wishes to the young boy who survived but has to deal with the loss of his family in one senseless act of hatred.

Central Okanagan Public Schools – "Inside 23"

1. Kelowna Art Gallery Digital Catalogue

Since April 17th the Kelowna Art Gallery has been featuring "Bright New World" which highlights artworks by young artists from across the Okanagan and marks the 35th anniversary of the annual Art in Action student exhibition. The exhibit runs through to June 13th. For this year's presentation, students were encouraged to explore a brighter future and consider the ways in which they can manifest positive change on a local or global scale. Bright New World features 139 student artworks from classes led by 23 different art teachers across 9 schools. The artwork spans various mediums including painting, drawing, photography, sculpture and digital media. A digital catalogue has been prepared and is available for viewing on the Kelowna Art Gallery website. A video introduction of the exhibition was shown (<https://kelownaartgallery.com/bright-new-world/>).

Recognitions:

1. Paul Thiessen, Teacher at Okanagan Mission Secondary Recipient of BC School Sports Merit Award for 2020-2021

Participating by Zoom from Okanagan Mission Secondary School:

Derek Lea, Principal

Paul Thiessen, Teacher

The Board of Education congratulated Paul Thiessen, Teacher at Okanagan Mission Secondary School, for recently receiving the BC School Sports Merit Award for 2020-2021. Mr. Thiessen is a long-time coach, athletic director and volunteer with School Sports at both the school and community levels. He has been the president of the local Okanagan Central Schools Athletic Association for the past six years and has coached numerous teams (often at the same time) for over 30 years.

2. École Kelowna Secondary School Okanagan 12 Language Class Winners and Grand Champions of the 2021 Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack National Indigenous Health Contest

Participating by Zoom from École Kelowna Secondary School:

Troy White, Principal

Tyler Ernst, Indigenous Language and Leadership Teacher

Rob Bennett, Indigenous Academy Teacher

Students: Taylor Dumaresq, Grade 12 (winning artist)

Talis Scott, Grade 11

Angel Ceal, Grade 11

Nicole Spletzer, Grade 12

Camille Arellano, Grade 11

The Board of Education congratulated the École Kelowna Secondary School Okanagan 12 Language Class for winning the 2021 Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack National Indigenous Health Contest with their reflections on balancing studies and stresses while remaining healthy. The class explored how to create balance among the physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional aspects of life with equal importance. The Board of Education also congratulated Grade 12 students Julia Wilson and Taylor Dumaresq for placing in the top three for their contest submissions.

3. École Kelowna Secondary School Administrative Staff

Participating by Zoom from École Kelowna Secondary School:

Troy White, Principal

Robbie Franklin, Vice-Principal

Christey Hughes, Vice-Principal

Ryan Mansley, Vice-Principal

The Board of Education commended the KSS Administrative Staff for their leadership and support of students and staff through the recent tragic loss of three Grade 12 students. Troy White, Principal, praised the members of the District's Post Critical Incident Response Team (PCIRT) led by Alan Lalonde, Assistant Superintendent and Sherri McKinnon, District Principal - Learning Support Services. The KSS Administrative Team recognized the support of everyone at the school and by the community.

Declaration:

1. National Indigenous History Month - June and National Indigenous Peoples Day - June 21, 2021

The Central Okanagan Board of Education recognized that June is National Indigenous History Month and declared June 21, 2021 as 'Indigenous Peoples Day' in the Central Okanagan Public Schools.

National Indigenous History Month is held in June to recognize the history, heritage and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada. To learn more about inspiring Indigenous peoples who have helped shape Canadian history, visit the Government of Canada's website: <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1559226684295/1559226709198>

This June 21, 2021 is the National 25th anniversary of celebrating the heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding achievements of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

Action Items:

1. Strategic Plan

The Board of Education approved the Strategic Directions for the Strategic Plan 2021-2026. The Strategic Plan, aligned with the District's Framework for Enhancing Student Learning, serves to focus the District's work on the Board of Education's priorities and supports the District's Mission, Vision and Overarching Goal.

2. Long Term Facilities Plan

The Board of Education received and approved the Long Term Facilities Plan. The Long Term Facilities Plan guides the Central Okanagan Public Schools in its future decision-making for the next decade and beyond. The Long Term Facilities Plan also is a plan to provide the critical context for discussions with the Ministry of Education regarding requests for capital funding consideration and to provide a consistent organized approach to capital priorities.

3. Secondary French Immersion Program on the Westside

The Board of Education agreed that the public consultation occur in the Fall of 2021 as to whether a Secondary French Immersion program be offered on an interim basis at Mount Boucherie Secondary School, effective the 2023-24 school year, with a permanent location for the program in West Kelowna to be determined upon the completion of a second secondary school in West Kelowna.

4. 2021/2022 CommunityLINK Allocations

The Board of Education approved the recommended CommunityLINK Allocations for 2021/2022. CommunityLINK (learning includes nutrition and knowledge) will provide over \$55 million in funding next year to all sixty school districts in the province to support vulnerable students in academic achievement and social functioning. The funding helps school districts provide services such as breakfast, lunch and snack programs, academic supports, counselling, school-based support workers and after school programs for at-risk children and youth. Historically, the Central Okanagan Public Schools receives just

over \$1.2 million from this fund each year. In early May 2021, \$1,258,789 was confirmed for the 2021/2022 school year. Over 61.6% of the funding has gone directly into the school meals program. The District has also been able to impact students through elementary and middle focused mental health initiatives, the Health Promoting Schools Program, and the Youth Parent Program.

5. Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) Course Proposals – Indigenous Leadership 10, 11 and 12

The Board of Education approved the Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) Course Proposals – Indigenous Leadership 10, Indigenous Leadership 11 and Indigenous Leadership 12 (Indigenous Education Department). These unique leadership courses are for students who have pride in their ancestry and for those who want to understand and participate in leadership from an Indigenous worldview and perspective. Schools wishing to offer the BAA Indigenous Leadership 10, 11 and 12 courses in the 2021/2022 school year must follow the 2018 Graduation Program Board/Authority Authorized Courses: Requirements and Procedures.

6. Proposal for Substantive Change – District Land-Based Learning Academy for Indigenous Middle School Students

The Board of Education approved the Proposal for Substantive Change – District Land Based Learning Academy for Indigenous Middle School students. Indigenous Middle School students from all middle schools will have the opportunity to participate during the 2021/2022 school year. Land based learning connects Indigenous students to Indigenous teachings and local culture as well as provides an opportunity for students to represent their learning (in the humanities and sciences) through First Peoples Principles of Learning.

Information Items:

1. Superintendent's COVID-19 Update

- The number of exposures continues to decline.
- With a number of Grad events taking place, there may be an increase in the community exposures.
- Interior Health has set up a community vaccination site at Rutland Senior Secondary School for families in the Rutland area. Interior Health is encouraging families to all attend together.
- Second dose vaccinations are currently underway.
- There is an expectation that there will be an announcement within the next week from the Ministry of Education outlining the Restart Plan for next year.

The Board of Education reviewed the following:

1. Level 4 and 5 Field Study Summary – 2020/2021
2. General Statement – May 26, 2021
3. Grant Thornton Report to Finance and Audit Committee – Initial Communication on Audit Planning for the Year Ended June 30, 2021
4. Financial Update – International Education Program
5. RCMP School Resource Officers

Advocacy

1. The revised postcards prepared for the advocacy of the Rutland Middle School Replacement and Glenmore Secondary School Project were displayed.

Items Requiring Special Mention:

- A Trustee spoke of a family receiving one of the planter boxes prepared by Central School students to bring a little smile and color to people's lives and the positive effect it had on them.

The Board Chairperson and Superintendent of Schools/CEO spoke of the following:

- The Board of Education will be providing a Letter of Support for the Chefs in the Classroom grant application to the Central Okanagan Foundation-Kiwanis Legacy Fund.
- The walk across the stage for the **2021 Graduates** of Kelowna Secondary, Rutland Senior Secondary, Mount Boucherie Secondary and George Elliot Secondary all took place over the past week. Okanagan Mission Secondary, Central Schools and eSchool23 will be having their ceremonies on June 17th through 19th. Also, Indigenous Graduation ceremonies will be taking place over the next two weeks.
- A reminder that the **School Trustee By-Election** advanced voting days take place on Wednesday, June 16th and Wednesday, June 23rd at Hollywood Road Education Services. General voting day is on Saturday, June 26th at Rutland Senior Secondary, Okanagan Mission Secondary, École Dr. Knox Middle and École Kelowna Secondary from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.
- Gratitude was expressed to the **Central Okanagan Bursary and Scholarship Society** (COBSS) for their support for our graduates over the years. This year 610 graduates applied for 550 awards which were available for a total donation of \$489,180.
- The students, staff and community of **Okanagan Mission Secondary** recently held their **2021 Relay for Life** organized by their Leadership Program. With approximately 100 students and staff participating on over 15 teams, they raised \$23,897.

Next Public Board Meeting

Regular Public Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 23, 2021
6:00 pm (via Zoom)

Board Standing Committee Meetings

Wednesday, June 16, 2021
4:00 pm Finance and Audit Committee (by Zoom)
6:00 pm Education and Student Services Committee Meeting (by Zoom)

For comments, please contact:

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

Ryan Stierman, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO, 250-860-8888