



CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS - BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

Education and Student Services Committee Public Meeting

**Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 6:00 pm
Via Zoom**

Board of Education: Trustee N. Bowman, Chairperson
Trustee C. Desrosiers, Committee Member
Trustee A. Geistlinger, Committee Member
Trustee M. Baxter

Staff: Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO (*arrived at 6:03 pm*)
Terry-Lee Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools
Yvonne Hildebrandt, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Partner Groups: Lori Dawson Bedard, COTA 1st Vice-President
Brady Ibbetson, COPVPA Member
Teri Wishlow, CUPE Vice-President

*There were no representatives from COPAC.
There were no representatives from the District Student Council.*

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

AGENDA

April 21, 2021 Committee Agenda - approved as presented.

REPORTS/MATTERS ARISING

Education and Student Services Committee Report - February 17, 2021

February 17, 2021 Committee Report - received as distributed.

RECOGNITION/PRESENTATION/DELEGATIONS

Digital Equity

Jordan Kleckner, District Principal of Learning Technology; John Morrone, Acting Principal at eSchool 23; and Graham Johnson, Learning Technology Consultant, shared a presentation on Digital Equity to provide understanding of what Digital Equity is and what it means for Central Okanagan Public Schools. Global technology has been constantly evolving since the pre-2000s and the last five years has brought more change to learning technology than the previous fifteen

years. In 2019, the need for a district-wide technology scan became apparent and the Learning Technology team started an inquiry process. From 2019 to 2020, the scan involved a district-wide review by IBM, ongoing learning conversations with other school districts, a district-wide student survey, and 60+ individual focus groups involving students, staff, principals, vice-principals, the Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council, the District Student Council and Teacher Interns in the UBC-O Education Program.

Key themes emerged from the district-wide scan: redesigned curriculum is shifting the role of technology for teaching and learning; schools continue to demonstrate a significant demand for access to technology; there are growing demands on the District's network and infrastructure; student access has now become essential both inside and outside of school; technology equity gaps exist between schools across the District; device proliferation continues with more students using their own learning devices; ongoing professional learning is desired from educators; and more learning is needed about Digital Wellness for students, staff and families. The COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020 became a magnifier of digital inequality in the District, resulting in the loaning of 2,800 devices to students and families in the spring of 2020. Devices continue to be loaned to students in the 2020 to 2021 school year and more than 1,000 Personal Learning Devices have been purchased by families through the District's volume purchasing plan.

The concept of digital equity for students, staff and families will continue to be a District focus moving forward. The equity gap that currently exists needs to be closed so that every student has equitable access to both devices and internet access, as well as opportunities to develop the skills to know how to use the technology. Central Okanagan Public Schools will continue to engage with stakeholders to gain more learning and to develop a co-shared understanding of digital equity.

PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public questions/comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS QUERIES/COMMENTS

Chairperson Trustee Bowman requested a District review of school dress code policies and acknowledged that there is more work to be done on the Board discussion of Black, Indigenous and People of Colour.

Trustee Baxter advised that the topic of School Dress Codes should be referred to the Coordinating Committee as a discussion item.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Student Support Services Program Review (Level 2)

Susan Thomson, Educational Consultant, provided an overview of the Student Support Services Level 2 Program Review. The District reviews programs on a cyclical basis and this Level 2 review is part of the regular cycle.

Student Support Services has the overall responsibility for overseeing and supervising special education programs and services. The Department of Student Support Services promotes both an inclusive model and an integrated service model. At the core of these models is the belief that all students are placed in schools and classrooms within their home community. Classroom teachers, in consultation with and support of, specialized staff, are responsible to adapt and

modify programming for their students as needed. Student Support Services also coordinates specialized programs for students with diverse abilities.

The Student Support Services Level 2 Program Review consisted of collecting and analyzing data from a survey based on a 10% random sampling of Student Support Service staff, parents, Certified Education Assistants, school administrators, school-based Learning Assistance Teachers and Learning Disability Intervention Teachers. Based on the trends, resulting from the data collected, further information was gathered. A focus group was conducted with Student Support Services Consultants and interviews with the chair and one representative of the Partners for Inclusive Education group (PIE) was completed. The survey focused on five key areas: success of students; quality programming and effective student supports; inclusive learning environments; parent engagement and support; and organizational structures, administrative procedures, practices, and policies that support effective operations.

The program review shows clear evidence that the Student Support Services staff are highly regarded for their advocacy and support of students with diverse abilities. It is also noted that the expanded collaborations with community resources and the newly formed Partners for Inclusive Education (PIE) provide new opportunities to collaborate on how best to support each student and family. With the significant increases in the number of designated students, Student Support Services will need to continue to adjust collaboration and communication practices as well as service delivery models to meet the growing population of students requiring specialized supports and services.

Outcome:

The Committee recommended that the Board of Education approve the Student Support Services Program Review (Level 2), as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the April 21, 2021 Education and Student Services Committee Meeting.

7:55 pm – Meeting Recessed

7:59 pm – Meeting Reconvened

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

Draft Program Review Cycle and Meeting Schedule 2021/2022

Terry-Lee Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, reviewed the Draft Program Review Cycle and Meeting Schedule for 2021/2022.

Central Okanagan Public Schools Food Donations Inventory

Al Lalonde, Assistant Superintendent, provided a summary chart of district-wide food donations as of April 1, 2021. The school district is fortunate to have many outside groups provide food for our students on a regular basis. Food insecurity is a significant concern for many families in our community and particularly throughout the pandemic.

ITEMS REQUIRING SPECIAL MENTION

The Deputy Superintendent of Schools shared that Raquel Steen, District Principal of International Education, is participating in her last Education and Student Services Committee meeting as a COPVPA Representative before taking on her new role as Assistant Superintendent

on May 1st. Brady Ibbetson, Principal – Glenmore Elementary School, will complete his term as alternate COPVPA Representative in June 2021. Derek Lea, Principal – Okanagan Mission Secondary School, will become the new representative for COPVPA at Education and Student Service Committee meetings starting in September 2021.

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

Public Board Meeting Action Item

- *Student Support Services Program Review (Level 2)*

Coordinating Committee

- *Discussion Item: School Dress Codes*

ITEMS FOR FUTURE EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

May 19, 2021

- Proposals for Board/Authority/Authorized Courses
- Proposals for Substantive Change

June 16, 2021

- Enhancing Student Learning Framework
Superintendent of Schools/CEO (K. Kaardal)
- Equity in Action Progress Report
District Principal (J. De Guevara)

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

May 19, 2021, June 16, 2021, September 22, 2021, October 20, 2021, November 17, 2021

MEDIA QUESTIONS

There were no questions from the media.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Questions - Please Contact:

Trustee Norah Bowman, Chairperson at Norah.Bowman@sd23.bc.ca

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

Norah Bowman, Chairperson