



**BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC MEETING
REVISED AGENDA**

**Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 6:00 pm
School Board Office
1040 Hollywood Road S
Kelowna, BC**

Public Board Meeting agendas can be accessed through the following electronic Board Meeting site:
<https://pub-sd23.escribemeetings.com/>

Zoom link for viewing business portion of Public Board Meetings:
<https://sd23.zoom.us/j/8341176781>
Meeting ID: 834 117 6781

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

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. AGENDA

Additions/Amendments/Deletions

THAT: The Agenda for the Public Board Meeting of January 22, 2025, be adopted (as amended, if appropriate).

3. MINUTES

3.1 Public Board Meeting - December 11, 2024

(Attachment)

THAT: The Minutes of the Public Board Meeting of December 11, 2024 be adopted as presented.

4. **CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS – "INSIDE 23"**

4.1 **Quigley Summer Reading Program**

5. **RECOGNITION**

5.1 **École Kelowna Secondary School: Senior Girls Volleyball B Team - First Place Invitational Tier 2 Champions**

5.2 **École Okanagan Mission Secondary School: Senior Girls Volleyball - Provincial Champions**

6. **INTRODUCTION**

6.1 **New Staff to District**

Graeme McCallum: Health & Safety Manager - Prevention

7. **MEETING RECESS**

The zoom broadcast will now begin.

8. **DECLARATIONS**

8.1 **Family Literacy Week - January 26 - February 2, 2025**

The Central Okanagan Board of Education declares the week of January 26-February 2, 2025 as Family Literacy Week in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

8.2 **Human Rights Month**

The Central Okanagan Board of Education declares the month of February, 2025 as Human Rights Month in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

8.3 **Inclusive Education Month**

The Central Okanagan Board of Education declares the month of February, 2025 as Inclusive Education Month in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

8.4 **Black Excellence Day**

The Central Okanagan Board of Education acknowledges that Black Excellence Day was celebrated on January 15, 2025.

9. **DELEGATIONS**

10. **PRESENTATIONS**

11. **STAFF PRESENTATIONS**

12. **PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT PERIOD**

The purpose of this public question/comment period is to provide an opportunity to members of the gallery to ask a question or comment on any action, information and advocacy items on the agenda. The total time for this period shall normally be up to 15 minutes, with each speaker being allocated up to 3 minutes. A person wishing to speak is requested by the Chair of the Board to state their name and provide, if possible, a written copy of the comments.

13. **TRUSTEE QUERIES/COMMENTS**

14. **ACTION ITEMS**

14.1 **Advocating for Adequate Funding for Custodial Costs in Childcare Facilities to Prevent Financial Strain on the K-12 Education Sector**

Notice of Motion from Trustee Fraser at December 11, 2024 Public Board Meeting:

THAT: The Board of Education formally requests that the Ministry of Education and Child Care provide dedicated funding directly to the childcare sector to fully cover custodial costs for childcare facilities, so that these expenses are not absorbed by the K-12 education system;

AND THAT: The Ministry of Education and Child Care ensure that childcare facilities can meet necessary custodial standards for health, safety, and cleanliness, without financial burden to the K-12 system, thus maintaining the integrity and quality of both sectors;

AND THAT: This funding support be consistent, transparent, and predictable, enabling childcare providers to focus on providing high-quality services for children and families, rather than diverting resources to cover custodial costs;

AND THAT: The Ministry of Education and Child Care work with childcare providers, school boards, and other relevant stakeholders to develop a sustainable and fair funding model for custodial services in childcare settings, ensuring that both the K-12 and childcare sectors are appropriately funded and supported.

*14.2	<u>Constable Neil Bruce Middle School - Outdoor Education Academy Fee Increase</u>	16
	<i>Recommendation from the Education and Student Services Committee Meeting - January 15, 2025.</i>	
	<i>(Attachment)</i>	
	THAT: The Board of Education approve the proposed fee increase of \$100 (from \$125 to \$225/student) for the Outdoor Education Academy (Constable Neil Bruce Middle School), as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the January 22, 2025 Public Board Meeting.	
15.	INFORMATION ITEMS	
15.1	<u>Superintendent’s Emergent Issues</u>	
15.2	<u>Field Study Summaries</u>	
15.2.1	<u>2024/2025 Field Studies</u>	19
	<i>(Attachment)</i>	
15.2.2	<u>2025-2026 Field Studies</u>	25
	<i>(Attachment)</i>	
15.3	<u>General Statement – December 11, 2024</u>	26
	<i>(Attachment)</i>	
15.4	<u>General Statement - December 17, 2024</u>	27
	<i>(Attachment)</i>	
15.5	<u>General Statement - January 8, 2025</u>	28
	<i>(Attachment)</i>	
15.6	<u>2025/2026 Budget Survey Questions</u>	29
	<i>(Attachment)</i>	
16.	ADVOCACY	30
16.1	<u>BCSTA Resolutions Committee Motions</u>	
	<i>(Attachment)</i>	

16.2 January 16, 2025 Board Chairs - Meeting Discussion

(Attachment)

17. BOARD/DISTRICT COMMITTEE QUERIES/COMMENTS AND REPORTS

18. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Received:

- 2024-12-12 Email from D. Buckna re Hamilton dad says homeless encampments make parks feel unsafe Doug Ford's government introducing new legislation
- 2024-12-18 Email from D. Buckna re: How smartphones created the Anxious Generation of kids

Sent:

- 2024-12-11: Thank you Cards sent to each of Jim Elwood, Coralee Miller and the 27 students from the 2023/2024 Indigenous Visual Arts Class at Mount Boucherie Secondary School, for their contributions to the "Together We Learn" painting now hanging in Central Okanagan Public Schools main board room.
- 2024-12-13: Letter to COPAC - invitation to meet.
- 2025-01-07: Letter to City of Kelowna - invitation to meet.
- 2025-01-07: Letter to District of Lake Country - invitation to meet.

THAT: At the January 22, 2025 Public Board Meeting, the Board receive the correspondence listed above.

19. ITEMS REQUIRING SPECIAL MENTION

20. BC PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION

20.1 Annual General Meeting

January 30-31, 2025
Coast Coal Harbour Hotel
Vancouver, BC

21. BC SCHOOL TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION

21.1 Provincial Council

(Virtual)

Saturday, February 22, 2025

21.2 Thompson Okanagan Branch Meeting

February 28-March 1, 2025

Penticton, BC

21.3 Partner Liaison Meeting

March 6-7, 2025

Richmond, BC

21.4 AGM

April 24-26, 2025

Vancouver, BC

22. BOARD MEETINGS WITH PARTNER AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

February 11, 2025: COPAC

February 25, 2025: District of Lake Country

23. FUTURE MEETINGS

23.1 Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings

- Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 6:00 pm

- Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 6:00 pm

Main Board Room, 1040 Hollywood Road S.

23.2 Board Standing Committee Meetings

Finance and Planning Committee

- Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 4:00 pm

Finance and Planning Committee

- Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 4:00 pm

Policy Committee

-Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 6:00 pm

Education and Student Services Committee

- Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 4:00 pm

Main Board Room, 1040 Hollywood Road S.

24. NOTICES OF MOTION

25. ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA

26. MEDIA QUESTIONS

27. ADJOURNMENT



BOARD OF EDUCATION

PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024, 6:00 pm

School Board Office

1040 Hollywood Road S

Kelowna, BC

Board of Education:

Trustee J. Fraser, Chair
Trustee W. Broughton
Trustee C. Desrosiers
Trustee A. Geistlinger
Trustee L. Guderyan
Trustee V. Johnson
Trustee L. Tiede

Staff:

Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Terry Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools
Yvonne Hildebrandt, Executive Assistant
Lise Bradshaw, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Partner Groups:

Nicola Baker, COPAC President and Jeannette Watson, COPAC Vice-President
Kevin Auclair, COPVPA Executive
Teri Wishlow, CUPE President*
Susan Bauhart, COTA President*

(*joined by Zoom, however the meeting had technical difficulties which resulted in no sound for viewers)

There was no representative from 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.**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

AGENDA

Remove: Item 4.1: Inside 23 – Peachland Elementary Playground (cancelled)

Add: Item 18: Board Correspondence – add email sent to D. Buckna, from Trustee Geistlinger

Main 24P-132

MOVED by Trustee Geistlinger

SECONDED by Trustee Guderyan

THAT: The Agenda for the Public Board Meeting of December 11, 2024 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

MINUTES

Public Board Meeting - November 13, 2024

Main 24P-133

MOVED by Trustee Desrosiers

SECONDED by Trustee Broughton

THAT: The Minutes of the Public Board Meeting of November 13, 2024 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

INTRODUCTION

New Staff to Central Okanagan Public Schools

The Board of Education welcomed Gabe Cacchioni to Central Okanagan Public Schools as the Finance Manager.

Staff in a New Role

The Board of Education congratulated Kevin Kaiser on his new role as District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education.

RECOGNITION

École KLO Middle School Grade 9 Girls Volleyball Team - Provincial Champions

In attendance from École KLO Middle School:

- Nathen Elliott, Principal
- Michole Goutier, Coach
- Grade 9 Girls' Volleyball team members

The Board of Education congratulated the École KLO Middle School Grade 9 Girls Volleyball Team on their recent win at Provincials.

Trustee Tiede - Years of Service

Trustee Tiede was recognized for her 10 years as a Trustee with the Board of Education, Central Okanagan Public Schools.

Deputy Superintendent Terry Beaudry

The Board Chair, Trustees, partner groups and staff each shared heartfelt tributes to Deputy Superintendent Terry Beaudry, celebrating her remarkable 43-year career in education, and noting the lasting legacy she will leave the District. The Deputy Superintendent was presented with a gift of earrings, handcrafted by Indigenous carver Justin Rivard.

The Deputy Superintendent of Schools reflected on her career with Central Okanagan Public Schools. She offered her thanks for the privilege of serving as a District leader to the many people she has worked with over the years, including COTA members, CUPE members, Principals, Vice-Principals, COPAC representatives and parents, the Indigenous Education department and IEC, and those she works with closely on a daily basis, such as the Executive Assistants, the Secretary-Treasurer/CFO and the Superintendent of Schools/CEO. Finally, she thanked her family and especially her mother Frances Klassen, a residential school survivor and the reason she chose to pursue a career in education.

PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public questions/comments.

TRUSTEE QUERIES/COMMENTS

None.

ACTION ITEMS

2024/2025 and 2025/2026 Budget Timeline and Budget Development Principles

Main 24P-134

MOVED by Trustee Tiede

SECONDED by Trustee Broughton

THAT: The Board of Education approve the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 Budget Timeline as presented at the December 11, 2024 Public Board meeting.

CARRIED

Enrollment Application Dates for 2025/2026 School Year

Main 24P-135

MOVED by Trustee Guderyan

SECONDED by Trustee Broughton

THAT: The initial enrollment application dates for the 2025/2026 school year be set as February 3, 2025, at 7:00 am through to March 14, 2025;

AND THAT: The closing date of enrollment applications, to apply the Board’s enrollment priorities as established in Regulation 405R – Student Placement (Regulations), be set as August 28, 2025.

CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEMS

Superintendent’s Emergent Issues

None.

Level 4 and 5 Field Study Summary - 2024/2025

The Board reviewed the information.

General Statement – November 13, 2024

The Board reviewed the information.

General Statement - November 27, 2024

The Board reviewed the information.

Financial Update – September 30, 2024

The Board reviewed the information.

Feeding Futures Fund Budget – 2024/2025

The Board reviewed the information.

Statement of Financial Information for June 30, 2024

The Board reviewed the information.

Integrated Pest Management Report – Update

The Board reviewed the information.

Indigenous Education Council Terms of Reference

The Board reviewed the information.

ADVOCACY

Update: Board Chair meeting with Minister of Education and Child Care

The Board Chair participated in a meeting with Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Child Care, while attending the recent British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA) Academy, and advocated for ten priority capital needs in Central Okanagan Public Schools to support District students and families. Chair Fraser also met with Carolyn Broady, President of BCSTA, to discuss key advocacy areas identified by Boards of Education across the province.

BOARD/DISTRICT COMMITTEE QUERIES/COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Trustee Geistlinger advised that she attended the December 2, 2024 COPAC meeting where there was presentation by WWEST, a very popular program connected to UBCO, which promotes STEM learning. She also attended the December 9, 2024 District Student Council meeting where students discussed their plan to go into middle schools to scan/interview students so they could learn what issues are important to middle-school students, and to make connections.

Trustee Guderyan attended the Health Promoting Schools Committee meeting which had an engaging discussion on micro-aggression. The Committee is very close to having a liaison in each school in the District.

Trustee Johnson attended the District Human Rights Committee meeting where she learned about a professional learning conference attended by SWIS workers in the International Education Department. She also learned about an anti-racism course which is open and available to all staff members.

The Board Chair advised that she, along with Trustee Guderyan and Trustee Desrosiers, attended the presentation of the Local Education Agreement bi-annual report to Westbank First Nation Chief and Council on December 2, 2024.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Received:

- 2024-11-06 Emails from K. Johnson re: Complaint - Watson Rd Elementary tree removal
- 2024-11-13 Email from K. Johnson re: Complaint - Watson Rd Elementary tree removal
- 2024-11-13 Email from D. Price re: Flag Protocol
- 2024-11-13 Email from K. Johnson re: Complaint - Watson Rd. Elementary tree removal
- 2024-11-15 Email from D. Buckna re: Questions - types of songs allowed/disallowed (upcoming SD23 School Winter Concerts)
- 2024-11-18 Email from K. Johnson re: Complaint - Watson Rd. Elementary tree removal

Sent:

- 2024-11-18 Letter to District Student Council with congratulations and invitation to meet
- 2024-11-18 Letter to Indigenous Education Council regarding Alternate Trustee representative
- 2024-11-18 Email to K. Johnson re: Complaint - Watson Rd. Elementary tree removal
- 2024-11-27 Email response from Trustee Geistlinger to D. Buckna regarding types of songs allowed/disallowed (upcoming SD23 School Winter Concerts)

Main 24P-136

MOVED by Trustee Tiede

SECONDED by Trustee Geistlinger

THAT: At the December 11, 2024 Public Board Meeting, the Board receive the correspondence listed above.

CARRIED

ITEMS REQUIRING SPECIAL MENTION

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

- Attendance at various meetings and events throughout the District, including the 27th Annual Lake Country Native Association PowWow, the École KSS Night Owl Theatre Production of The Laramie Project, TEDx Kelowna Youth at École OKM Secondary, concerts, carnivals, basketball games, and a tour of the WHEELS Transition to Employment program.
- The Westcoast Women in Engineering, Science and Technology (WWEST) STEM Outreach program collaborates with educators to better understand the transition to post-secondary school.
- Trustees recently delivered gift baskets to all the schools/sites in the District expressing their appreciation to staff for their contributions to the success of students in Central Okanagan Public Schools. The gift baskets were assembled by students in the WHEELS Transition to Employment program.
- Indigenous ways of knowing teaches that talking circles rotate counter clockwise when the first snow falls and shift direction to clockwise when the first buttercup is seen in spring.
- The Winter edition of Together We Learn with the theme of "Community Engagement" will be published next week.
- Schools are closed for Winter break from December 23, 2024 to January 3, 2025.

BC PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

January 30-31, 2025
Coast Coal Harbour Hotel
Vancouver, BC

BC SCHOOL TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION

The Board Chair gave an update regarding the Board's attendance at the BCSTA Trustee Academy and expressed appreciation for the opportunity for Trustees to participate in rich professional development.

Thompson Okanagan Branch Meeting

February 28-March 1, 2025
Penticton, BC

BOARD MEETINGS WITH PARTNER AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

Currently being scheduled.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings

- Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 6:00 pm

Main Board Room, 1040 Hollywood Road S.

Board Standing Committee Meetings

General Affairs Committee

- Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 4:00 pm

Education and Student Services Committee

- Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 6:00 pm

Finance and Planning Committee

- Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 4:00 pm

Main Board Room, 1040 Hollywood Road S.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Trustee Fraser:

Motion from the Board of Education to the Ministry of Education and Child Care Regarding Custodial Costs for Childcare:

Advocating for Adequate Funding for Custodial Costs in Childcare Facilities to Prevent Financial Strain on the K-12 Education Sector

THAT: The Board of Education formally requests that the Ministry of Education and Child Care provide dedicated funding directly to the childcare sector to fully cover custodial costs for childcare facilities, so that these expenses are not absorbed by the K-12 education system;

AND THAT: The Ministry of Education and Child Care ensure that childcare facilities can meet necessary custodial standards for health, safety, and cleanliness, without financial burden to the K-12 system, thus maintaining the integrity and quality of both sectors;

AND THAT: This funding support be consistent, transparent, and predictable, enabling childcare providers to focus on providing high-quality services for children and families, rather than diverting resources to cover custodial costs;

AND THAT: The Ministry of Education and Child Care work with childcare providers, school boards, and other relevant stakeholders to develop a sustainable and fair funding model for custodial services in childcare settings, ensuring that both the K-12 and childcare sectors are appropriately funded and supported.

MEDIA QUESTIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:43 pm.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer/CFO



Memorandum

Date: January 20, 2025
To: Board of Education
From: Education and Student Services Committee
Action Item: Constable Neil Bruce Middle School – Outdoor Education Academy Fee Increase

1.0 ISSUE STATEMENT

A proposal to increase fees for the Outdoor Education Academy at Constable Neil Bruce Middle School has been developed for approval by the Board of Education.

2.0 RELEVANT BOARD MOTION/DIRECTION

Policy 540 – Proposals for Substantive Change states the following:

"Any proposed changes to approved distinct schools, unique programs and specialty academies (e.g. increases in fee structure and/or program delivery) must be brought to the Board's Education and Student Services Committee in November of each calendar year to review and a recommendation to the Board for approval, prior to announcing the continuation of the distinct school, unique program or specialty academy for the upcoming year."

Policy 425R – Student Fees Regulations (Financial Hardship – Section 8.1) states the following:

"Principals shall annually notify parents through newsletters, notices to parents, and at the time of registration, that a student will not be excluded from any educational program due to financial hardship."

3.0 BACKGROUND

On February 27, 2008, the Board of Education approved the Substantive Change Proposal for Constable Neil Bruce Middle School's Outdoor Education Program. At this time, the student fee for the program was established at \$125 per academy student. A substantial amount of money that was needed to operate the academy was acquired through student fundraising and PAC donations. Starting approximately 10 years ago, an additional \$25 per year was provided by parents to support the costs of the field study opportunities, busing, and the rising inflationary costs.

4.0 POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

Due to upkeep and increased costs of equipment that is reaching end of life expectancy as well as increased expenditures for Teachers Teaching on Call (TTOC) and transportation, the expenses for the program have increased greatly since 2008. The popularity of this program has also increased since 2008 when 60 students were enrolled and now there are approximately 152 students in the Outdoor Education Academy each year.

Financial Implications: Below is a chart showing the approximate costs for the Outdoor Education Academy prior to 2024/2025 (60 students) along with the projected 2025/2026 costs (average of 152 students).

Academy Expenses (2008 – Present)	Fees (2008 – Present) (60 students)	Proposed Expenses and Rationale (2025/2026)	Proposed Fees (2025/2026) (152 students)
Teacher Release (TTOC) 4 days x \$220	\$750	Teacher Release (TTOC) 12 days x \$480 3 days for each of 4 Manning Park trips	\$5,760
Transportation (inclusive of local and out of region trips)	\$4,750	Transportation (inclusive of local and out of region trips)	\$16,000
T-shirts - \$10 x 60 students	\$600	T-shirts	N/A
Field Study Opportunities (skiing, snowshoeing, sailing, swimming, hiking, rock climbing, scuba diving, boat operator training)	\$10,780	Field Study Opportunities (archery, skiing, snowshoeing, swimming, hiking, rock climbing, disc golfing, fishing)	\$8,500
		Equipment upkeep/ replacement	\$2,500
		Miscellaneous Fees (inclusive of, but not limited to, site bookings, snacks, fuel, fishing supplies and mileage)	\$1,440
Total Expenditures:	\$16,880	Total Proposed Expenditures	\$34,200
Total Revenue: 60 academy students x \$125 = \$7,500 Fundraising/year = \$9,380	\$16,880	Total Proposed Revenue: 152 students x \$225/academy student = \$34,200	\$34,200

As a result, a proposed fee increase of \$100 (from \$125 to \$225/academy student) will make the Outdoor Education Academy financially sustainable moving forward.

The Outdoor Education Academy is an equity-based program and will provide access to students who cannot meet the costs of the program. As per Board Policy 425R – Student Fees (Regulations), "a student will not be excluded from any education program due to financial hardship". Where there are financial challenges, parents will be asked to contact the principal directly to ensure confidentiality.

5.0 PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC) CONSULTATION

The Constable Neil Bruce Middle School PAC supported the Outdoor Education Academy fee increase at their meeting on Monday, November 25, 2024.

6.0 OPTIONS FOR ACTION

- a) Approve the increase in fees for the Outdoor Education Academy at Constable Neil Bruce Middle School.
- b) Amend the increase in fees for the Outdoor Education Academy at Constable Neil Bruce Middle School.
- c) Request additional information on the increase in fees for the Outdoor Education Academy at Constable Neil Bruce Middle School.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

THAT: The Board of Education approve the proposed fee increase of \$100 (from \$125 to \$225/student) for the Outdoor Education Academy (Constable Neil Bruce Middle School), as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the January 22, 2025 Public Board Meeting.

LEVEL 4 AND 5 FIELD STUDY SUMMARY - 2024/2025

No.	SCHOOL	LEVEL	DESTINATION	COUNTRY	NATURE OF TRIP	Group Involved	Grade	# of Students	Leave Date	Return Date	# of Days
1.	KSS	4	Victoria, BC & the Gulf Islands	Canada	SALTS trip (Sail And Life Training Society)	Outdoor Ed	10-12	27	Sep 15, 2024	Sep 20, 2024	6
2.	OKM	5	Yoho National Park, AB	Canada	Hiking & camping	Parks & Recreation	12	200	Sep 15, 2024	Sep 20, 2024	6
3.	GESS	4	Oyama Zipline Adventure Park	Canada	Team building for grad class (208 students into 3 groups)	Grade 12	12	69 69 70	Sept 18 Sept 19 Sept 20	Sept 18 Sept 19 Sept 20	1 1 1
4.	ELE	4	Gardom Lake, BC	Canada	Outdoor Education	Grade 5	5	36	Sep 25, 2024	Sep 27, 2024	3
5.	CNB	4	E.C. Manning Park, BC	Canada	Wilderness Leadership Experiences/Outdoor Exploration	Outdoor Ed	8	28	Sep 25, 2024	Sep 27, 2024	3
6.	KSS	4	Spectrum Lake, Monashee Provincial Park	Canada	Hiking & camping	Outdoor Ed	11	26	Sep 26, 2024	Sep 27, 2024	2

LEVEL 4 AND 5 FIELD STUDY SUMMARY - 2024/2025

No.	SCHOOL	LEVEL	DESTINATION	COUNTRY	NATURE OF TRIP	Group Involved	Grade	# of Students	Leave Date	Return Date	# of Days
7.	CNB	4	E.C. Manning Park, BC	Canada	Wilderness Leadership Experiences/Outdoor Exploration	Outdoor Ed	8	50	Oct 1, 2024	Oct 3, 2024	3
8.	HMS	4	Gardom Lake, BC	Canada	Teambuilding, Outdoor Education	Lake Community Group	6-8	150	Oct 1, 2024	Oct 3, 2024	3
9.	SVE	5	Disneyland, California	USA	Dreams Take Flight to Disneyland	Deserving children	4-5	4	Oct 2, 2024	Oct 4, 2024	3
10.	KSS	4	Sugarloaf & Flat Iron Mountains, Merritt	Canada	Hiking & camping	Outdoor Ed	12	26	Oct 3, 2025	Oct 5, 2025	3
11.	OKM	5	Haliburton, ON	Canada	Canadian Student Leadership Conference	Leadership Excellence	10	2	Oct 4, 2024	Oct 8, 2024	5
12.	MBS	4	Fintry Provincial Park, Fintry BC	Canada	Introduction to Camping, Hiking and Nature Awareness	Outdoor Ed	10-12	30	Oct 9, 2024	Oct 11, 2024	3
13.	RSS	4	Canyon Lake Recreation Site (Little White Area) CANCELLED	Canada	Hiking & camping	Outdoor Ed	10-12	30	Oct 9, 2024	Oct 11, 2024	3

LEVEL 4 AND 5 FIELD STUDY SUMMARY - 2024/2025

No.	SCHOOL	LEVEL	DESTINATION	COUNTRY	NATURE OF TRIP	Group Involved	Grade	# of Students	Leave Date	Return Date	# of Days
14.	KSS	4	KVR Railway, Summerland	Canada	Canoeing & camping	Outdoor Ed	11	26	Oct 10, 2024	Oct 11, 2024	2
15.	KSS	5	New York & Manhattan	USA	Cultural experience	Fine Arts, Drama, Media students	11-12	31	Oct 14, 2024	Oct 18, 2024	5
16.	KSS	4	Christina Lake	Canada	Biking & camping	Outdoor Ed	12	26	Oct 17, 2024	Oct 19, 2024	3
17.	MBS	4	Okanagan Mountain Park, Kelowna BC	Canada	Overnight hiking trip	Outdoor Ed	9	30	Oct 22, 2024	Oct 24, 2024	3
18.	OKM	4	Kettle Valley Rail Trail	Canada	Biking & Camping	Outdoor Ed	10-12	30-40	Oct 25, 2024	Oct 26, 2024	2
19.	OKM	4	Bamfield Marine Science Centre	Canada	Exploration Marine Biology	Biology Students	10-12	22	Nov 3, 2024	Nov 8, 2024	6
20.	KSS	5	Jasper Place High School, Edmonton, AB	Canada	Reb Basketball Invitational Tournament	4A-Sr Boys Basketball Team	11-12	12	Dec 11, 2024	Dec 15, 2024	5

LEVEL 4 AND 5 FIELD STUDY SUMMARY - 2024/2025

No.	SCHOOL	LEVEL	DESTINATION	COUNTRY	NATURE OF TRIP	Group Involved	Grade	# of Students	Leave Date	Return Date	# of Days
21.	KSS	5	Waikiki, Hawaii CANCELLED	USA	Science studies including Marine Biology	Science students	11-12	16	Dec 15, 2024	Dec 20, 2024	6
22.	KSS	5	Tacoma, WA	USA	Sr Boys Basketball exhibition game	4A Boys Basketball team	11-12	13	Jan 4, 2025	Jan 5, 2025	2
23.	MBSS	4	Kelowna Highlands, McCullough Lake	Canada	Winter Camping/Snowshoeing/Back country skiing/Snow shelter construction	Outdoor Education	10-12	30	Jan 16, 2025	Jan 18, 2025	3
24.	CPS	4	Big White Ski Resort, Kelowna	Canada	Group activities & team building	Gateway class	10-12	17	Jan 20, 2025	Jan 22, 2025	3
25.	WAT	4	Gardom Lake Camp, Enderby, BC	Canada	Outdoor Ed & team building	Grade 6 students	6	97	Jan 22, 2025	Jan 24, 2025	3
26.	KLO	5	Québec & New Brunswick	Canada	Expériences CANADA Québec Exchange Program	French Immersion students	9	20	Feb 2, 2025	Feb 9, 2025	8
27.	MBSS	4	Bamfield Marine Science Centre, Bamfield, BC	Canada	Enhance Bio 11 & 12 Program with hands-on marine lab experiences	Biology students	11-12	24	Feb 10, 2025	Feb 14, 2025	5

LEVEL 4 AND 5 FIELD STUDY SUMMARY - 2024/2025

No.	SCHOOL	LEVEL	DESTINATION	COUNTRY	NATURE OF TRIP	Group Involved	Grade	# of Students	Leave Date	Return Date	# of Days
28.	OKM	4	Hydraulic Lake, Naramata, BC	Canada	Winter Outdoor camping	Outdoor Ed	11-12	40	Feb 14, 2025	Feb 15, 2025	2
29.	KSS	4	Silver Lake Forestry Camp, Peachland BC	Canada	Snow cave building & camping	Outdoor Ed	12	25	Feb 21, 2025	Feb 22, 2025	2
30.	KSS	4	Silver Lake Forestry Camp, Peachland BC	Canada	Snowshoeing & hiking	Outdoor Ed	11	25	Feb 28, 2025	Mar 1, 2025	2
31.	KSS, GESS, OKM	5	Rumilly, France	France	French Cultural Exchange Trip	FI & Core French students	11-12	30	Mar 17, 2025	Apr 6, 2025	21
32.	MBSS	5	Nampa, Idaho	USA	Regional Robotics Competition	Robotics Students	10-12	12	Mar 26, 2025	Mar 30, 2025	12
33.	KSS	5	Kona & Waikiki, Hawaii	USA	Science studies including Marine Biology	Science students	11-12	20	Apr 7, 2025	Apr 14, 2025	8
34.	MBSS	5	Moscow, Idaho	USA	Music Festival	Band & Choir students	10-12	67	Apr 16, 2025	Apr 19, 2025	4

LEVEL 4 AND 5 FIELD STUDY SUMMARY - 2024/2025

No.	SCHOOL	LEVEL	DESTINATION	COUNTRY	NATURE OF TRIP	Group Involved	Grade	# of Students	Leave Date	Return Date	# of Days
35.	OKM	5	Calgary & Edmonton, AB	Canada	Music Performance Tour	Music students	9-10	55	Apr 25, 2025	Apr 29, 2025	5
36.	NGE	4	Gardom Lake Camp, Enderby BC	Canada	Grade 6 outdoor trip	Grade 6	6	120	May 12, 2025	May 14, 2025	3

LEVEL 4 AND 5 FIELD STUDY SUMMARY - 2025/2026

No.	SCHOOL	LEVEL	DESTINATION	COUNTRY	NATURE OF TRIP	Group Involved	Grade	# of Students	Leave Date	Return Date	# of Days
1.	KSS	4	Victoria, BC & the Gulf Islands	Canada	sailing/crewing on a boat with SALTS (Sail And Life Training Society)	Outdoor Ed	12	27	Sep 14, 2025	Sep 19, 2025	6



BOARD OF EDUCATION INCAMERA BOARD MEETING GENERAL STATEMENT

Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024
Time: 3:31 pm to 5:59 pm
Location: School Board Office, 1040 Hollywood Road S, Kelowna BC

In attendance:

Board of Education:

Trustee J. Fraser, Chair
Trustee W. Broughton
Trustee C. Desrosiers
Trustee A. Geistlinger
Trustee L. Guderyan
Trustee V. Johnson
Trustee L. Tiede

In attendance:

Staff:

K. Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
D. Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
T. Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent
B. McEwen, Executive Director of Human Resources
K. Cormier, Director of Labour Relations
L. Bradshaw, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

The following general statement is prepared and issued in accordance with
Section 72 (3) of the School Act RSBC 1996

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 pm.

1. The Board adopted the Agenda for the Incamera Meeting of December 11, 2024, as amended.
2. The Board adopted the Minutes of the Incamera Meeting of November 13, 2024, as presented.
3. The Board adopted the Minutes of the Special Incamera Meeting of November 27, 2024, as presented.
4. There were four Human Resources Information Items.
5. There were seven Human Resources Action Items.
4:29 pm: Assistant Superintendent Jon Rever joined the meeting.
6. There was one Presentation.
4:48 pm: Assistant Superintendent Jon Rever left the meeting.
7. There was one Information/Discussion item.
8. There were two Trustee Queries/Comments.
9. There were two Action items.
5:38 pm: The meeting recessed.
5:46 pm: The meeting reconvened.
10. There were four additional Information/Discussion Items.
11. There were two items of Board Correspondence.
12. There were no items requiring Special Mention.
13. There were no meetings with Partner and Community Groups listed.
14. There were no invitations for Trustee Attendance.
15. There was one BC Public School Employers' Association item listed.
16. There was one BC School Trustee Association items listed.
17. There was one Information Board Session/Interchange listed.
18. There were no items from the Incamera Meeting for the next Public Agenda.
19. There were no Notices of Motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 pm.

Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO



Central Okanagan
Public Schools
Together We Learn

BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL INCAMERA BOARD MEETING GENERAL STATEMENT

Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2024
Time: 7:03 pm to 8:48 pm
Location: School Board Office, 1040 Hollywood Rd. S., Kelowna, BC

In attendance:

Board of Education:

Trustee J. Fraser, Chair
Trustee W. Broughton
Trustee A. Geistlinger (*joined by Zoom at 7:21 pm*)
Trustee L. Guderyan
Trustee V. Johnson
Trustee L. Tiede
Absent: Trustee C. Desrosiers

In attendance:

Staff:

K. Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO (*joined at 8:30 pm*)
D. Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO (*left at 7:05, rejoined at 8:40 pm*)
L. Bradshaw, Executive Assistant (Recorder) (*left at 7:05, rejoined at 8:40 pm*)

The following general statement is prepared and issued in accordance with
Section 72 (3) of the School Act RSBC 1996

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm with a guest presenter in attendance.

1. The Board adopted the Agenda for the Special Incamera Meeting of December 17, 2024, as presented.
7:05 pm: The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO and Executive Assistant left the meeting.
7:21 pm: Trustee Geistlinger joined the meeting by Zoom.
2. There was one Presentation.
8:30 pm: The Superintendent of Schools/CEO joined the meeting.
8:40 pm: The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO and Executive Assistant rejoined the meeting.
8:43 pm: The guest presenter left the meeting.
3. There were two Trustee Queries/Comments.
4. There was one Information/Discussion Item.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO



Central Okanagan
Public Schools
Together We Learn

BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL INCAMERA BOARD MEETING GENERAL STATEMENT

Date: Wednesday, January 8, 2025
Time: 6:52 pm to 8:47 pm
Location: School Board Office, 1040 Hollywood Rd. S., Kelowna, BC

In attendance:

Board of Education:

Trustee J. Fraser, Chair
Trustee W. Broughton
Trustee C. Desrosiers
Trustee A. Geistlinger
Trustee L. Guderyan
Trustee V. Johnson
Trustee L. Tiede

In attendance:

Staff:

D. Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
L. Bradshaw, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

The following general statement is prepared and issued in accordance with
Section 72 (3) of the School Act RSBC 1996

The meeting was called to order at 6:52 pm.

1. The Board adopted the Agenda for the Special Incamera Meeting of January 8, 2025, as amended.
2. The Board adopted the Minutes of the December 17, 2024 Special Incamera Meeting, as presented.
3. There were two Action Items.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO



Memorandum

Date: January 24, 2025
To: Board of Education
From: Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Information Item: 2025/2026 Budget Survey Questions

Please find below a list of draft budget survey questions for consideration. Per Policy 156 - Finance and Planning Committee, section 3.6.1 Budget Development, on an annual basis, the District is required to "solicit input from the partner groups, and the general public" on the development of the next year's budget.

1. Considering the educational programs and services that are currently provided at your school, what is most important and why?
2. What changes to programs, services and/or activities would you like the District to consider as the 2025/2026 Annual Budget is developed?
3. What other information would you like the District to know that will help develop next year's (2025/2026) Annual Budget?

BCSTA RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

MOTIONS

1. Funding for Exempt Staff:

The BCSTA requests that the Provincial Government satisfies its commitment to fully fund the total costs of compensation to exempt staff based on actual labour costs per the Exempt Salary Increases Report submitted to BCPSEA, including increases that have already been committed to in previous budgets, and moving forward.

Rationale:

- The Provincial Government had committed to covering salary increases that were negotiated for employees, however shortfalls have not been addressed or covered.
- Increases in benefit costs, the health employers tax, and increases to CCP and EI contributions have caused additional increases in salary costs and have been left to the districts to cover the shortages not covered through funding for management increases.

2. Free Transit for Teens:

Be it resolved that the Thompson Okanagan Branch ask the British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA) to advocate on behalf of students for the BC Government and Ministry of Education and Child Care to expand the Get on Board! program to include free transit for all students aged 13 to 18, And be it further resolved that this advocacy be based on the benefits of ensuring greater access to affordable, sustainable transit options, which will encourage students to become lifelong users of public transit and contribute to a more sustainable, equitable future for all.

Rationale:

- Access to affordable, safe, and reliable public transit is essential for students' education, wellbeing, and long-term environmental sustainability,
- The BC Ministry of Education recognizes the importance of safe and accessible transit for people of all ages through initiatives like the Get on Board! program, which provides free public transit for children 12 years and younger,
- The Get on Board! program has helped to make transit more affordable for families and encourages the next generation of British Columbians to adopt public transit as a preferred travel option,
- Public transit is a key factor in developing lifelong transit habits and reducing future reliance on single-occupancy vehicles,
- Some regions, such as the City of Victoria, have successfully implemented youth transit programs, such as the Transit Youth U-PASS, offering free transit for youth aged 18 and under,
- Youth aged 13 to 18 continue to face significant barriers to accessing affordable transit, especially in rural and smaller communities
- UBCM 100% agreement on this issue

Note: Oct 13, 2023 an advocacy letter was sent from BCSTA to Minister Rob Fleming making a similar request

2023 AGM – motion was submitted that was similar and an advocacy letter was sent to the Premier on July 12, 2023

3. Continuing Funding for Feeding Futures Program:

That BCSTA requests that the Ministry of Education and Child Care continue to provide funding to support the Feeding Futures School Food Program and treat it as an ongoing program past its current 3 year mandate. The current funding agreement expires in June 2025.

Rationale:

- The COVID context has highlighted the importance of school food programs and the inequities that exist across BC schools in delivering quality food programs. This problem is ongoing, as is the need for continued funding.
- School Districts and the BC Ministry of Education have made improving educational outcomes and life chances for vulnerable and Indigenous learners a priority and a focus area. These communities are disproportionately economically disadvantaged members of our society who have continued to benefit from food programs in our schools.
- The capacity for schools to provide food programs, including staffing and administration costs, need to be covered when providing funding to expand the program.
- Staff are frequently providing these program services on their own time and with their own money.
- These inequities have been growing over time and are not strictly related to the COVID pandemic.
- Schools in rural districts also face added food transportation and delivery costs, due to their remote locations throughout the province. Funding for these costs are coming out of operational budgets that are already stretched thin.

4. Fund Custodial Costs for Childcare: Advocating for Adequate Funding for Custodial Costs in Childcare Facilities to Prevent Financial Strain on the K-12 Education Sector

BE IT RESOLVED that Boards of Education formally requests that the Ministry of Education and Child Care provide dedicated funding to fully cover custodial costs for childcare facilities, so that these expenses are not absorbed by the K-12 education system;

And that the Ministry of Education and Child Care ensure that childcare facilities can meet necessary custodial standards for health, safety, and cleanliness, without financial burden to the K-12 system, thus maintaining the integrity and quality of both sectors;

And that the Ministry of Education and Child Care work with childcare providers, school boards, and other relevant stakeholders to develop a sustainable and fair funding model for custodial services in childcare settings, ensuring that both the K-12 and childcare sectors are appropriately funded and supported.

Rationale:

- The K-12 education sector currently covers custodial costs for childcare facilities, including cleaning and maintenance services, in addition to its own custodial needs for schools and educational spaces;
- The responsibility of covering custodial costs for childcare facilities has placed an increasing financial strain on the resources of the K-12 education sector, which already faces significant funding challenges to meet the needs of students and staff;
- The K-12 education sector should not be expected to bear the full custodial costs for childcare programs, as these costs fall outside the intended scope and funding structure for the education system;
- It is crucial for childcare facilities to be maintained to the highest custodial standards to ensure safe, clean, and functional environments for children, directly supporting the quality of care and early childhood education;
- Maintaining a clear separation of funding responsibilities between the K-12 education sector and the childcare sector is necessary to ensure that both systems are adequately supported without one diverting resources from the other.

5. Increased Costs to Information Technology Security:

That BCSTA requests the Minister of Finance to provide new funding to School Districts to cover the increasing costs associated with Information Technology Security

Rationale:

- Cyber-attacks on schools in BC are a growing issue. These attacks are disruptive to the business of education and put district data, and therefore the safety and privacy of staff and students, at risk.
- Data breaches create a significant financial burden on impacted school districts, and currently districts must manage the cost of preventing and dealing with them without specific funding from the Ministry.
- To ensure a safe digital learning environment, proactive prevention programs, secure management of systems, strong cybersecurity practices, and protection insurance are critical, however the costs associated with them can be prohibitive.
- This is a critical concern, and not one that is likely to dissipate in the future. The Ministry should consider the importance of cybersecurity related funding to ensure the safety and security of those within its purview.

6. Teaching Critical Thinking in K-12

The BCSTA calls on the Ministry of Education and Child Care to include explicit instruction in critical thinking principles at all levels of the K-12 curriculum and to provide adequate resources and training for educators.

Rationale:

- Today's students are faced with digital information overload, AI-driven propaganda and misinformation, and manipulation through social media. As a result, their need for critical thinking competency is greater than it has been for previous generations.
- Students need to understand what a rational argument is (not necessarily in those terms) and what makes an argument a good or bad one. Critical thinking skills include a) analyzing arguments, claims, or evidence; b) making inferences using inductive or deductive reasoning; c) judging or evaluating; and d) making decisions or solving problems. Critical thinking disposition is the willingness to put in the effort to use those skills when they are called for.
- Critical and Reflective Thinking is a core competency of the new curriculum. However, there is little guidance for teachers on defining critical thinking, how it can be taught effectively, and how it is assessed using performance-based language. Informal consultation with teachers suggests they vary widely in their concept of critical thinking. This is shown by fundamental differences in definition, content and assessment expectations, and basic knowledge of critical thinking terminology. Relatively recent large studies of the acquisition of critical thinking competencies have shown that: - Learning critical thinking skills indirectly through "immersion" (in other subjects) does not work. Explicit instruction in general critical thinking principles should be taught along with examples of its use in specific subjects. It does not need to be a separate "course". - Long-term exposure to critical thinking skills is far more effective, so this should be incorporated throughout the K-12 curriculum.
- The 2017 (revised 2018) paper Overview of Critical Thinking in the BC K-12 Curriculum Revisions: Implications for Teaching and Learning by Nicolas Fillion (SFU professor) and Dale Martelli (now President of the BC Social Studies Teachers' Association) has the following recommendations: - Make Philosophy 12 an eligible major for entry into teaching certification programs. - Develop an accessible online support community for teachers, providing substantive guidance on integrating critical thinking in the classroom. - Explore new classroom technologies and partnerships that enhance critical thinking skill acquisition within available resources. - Develop teaching resources suitable for teaching critical thinking at all levels and subjects within the K-12 education system.



January 16, 2025

Honourable Lisa Beare
Minister of Education and Child Care
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Beare:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Education and Child Care at a critical time for our province. Serving as a member of the executive council is a privilege and responsibility which I am confident you will fulfill with integrity and a commitment to the people of our province.

British Columbians have trusted us with a mandate to deliver for them in ways that make a tangible difference in their daily lives. They expect us to listen and learn from people of different perspectives – and work together to make things better for everyone.

Specifically, we will tackle the challenges people worry about at the kitchen table:

- **Grow the economy by creating good jobs across British Columbia.** We will collaborate with businesses, workers, and communities to attract investments in both new and traditional sectors as well as emerging sectors of the economy. This approach will bring certainty for business, security for workers, and generate the wealth needed to support the essential services British Columbians rely on.
- **Reduce costs for families** including by helping people access homes they can afford through support for first-time homebuyers, increasing the supply of rental housing stock, and stronger measures to crack down on housing speculation.

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- **Strengthen health care** by expanding access to family doctors and recruiting and training more health professionals, ensuring that every British Columbian can access the care they need, no matter where they live. We will also increase access to addictions treatment and provide help for people whose struggles require intensive supports.
- **Make our neighbourhoods and communities safer** by working with law enforcement and social agencies to address street disorder, crack down on organized crime, and do all we can to ensure repeat offenders stay behind bars.

Our commitment to take action on climate change remains foundational and will be key to a healthy and prosperous BC for future generations.

Underlying all this work is our partnership with Indigenous peoples. Advancing reconciliation, implementing the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and working in partnership with First Nations rights-holders to advance shared interests is the responsibility of every Minister.

Over this mandate I expect you to prioritize making progress on the following:

- In order to protect key services that British Columbians rely on, work with the Minister of Finance to review all existing Ministry of Education and Child Care programs and initiatives to ensure programs remain relevant, are efficient, and improve the experience of British Columbians who access child care and education services in our province. This is important in the context of current Provincial budget constraints and overall efficiency in delivering cost effective and relevant education and child care services to British Columbians.
- Work to ensure that teachers and schools have access to additional supports in the classroom and beyond, including the expansion of education assistants and counseling resources.
- Support effective learning for students across the province by working with the Minister of Infrastructure to accelerate the delivery of new and expanded schools in a cost-effective manner, and by working with the Minister of Post Secondary Education and Future Skills to expedite the certification and deployment of new and experienced international and domestic teachers.
- Continue work to increase Indigenous graduation rates.
- Continue implementing ChildCareBC to improve access to accessible, affordable child care.

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- Work with school districts to expand before- and after-school care programs across the province using cost-effective models for parents and the public that leverage existing school facilities and education workers.
- Work with key stakeholders in relation to the SOGI anti-bullying program to improve understanding, protect vulnerable children and support parents.
- Ensure that British Columbia's early interventions for children struggling with numeracy and literacy are the most effective in North America through a centre of excellence in applied research and professional development.
- Prioritize excellence in the British Columbia education system by reviewing existing inter-jurisdictional student evaluation scores post pandemic, and working with teachers, parents, and relevant stakeholders to ensure the global competitiveness of British Columbia student outcomes.

To assist you in meeting the commitments we have made to British Columbians, you are assigned a Parliamentary Secretary for Child Care whose focus will be to:

- Work with you to deliver cost-effective before- and after-school care that leverages existing school infrastructure and workers.
- Work with you to expand child care spaces in a cost-effective way so that more parents may have access to cost-effective child care for their family.
- Support you in continuing to work with Indigenous peoples and the federal government to advance jurisdiction over child care for Indigenous peoples.
- Build relationships with parents, child care service providers, early childhood educators, and advocates to ensure that government policy is responsive to the concerns and interests of these groups.

You will work closely together and ensure your Parliamentary Secretary receives appropriate support to deliver on this work.

As you are aware, we have established an accord with the BC Green Caucus that supports our shared commitment to ensuring stable governance focused on delivering progress and tangible outcomes for British Columbians. The commitments in that accord complement the direction in these mandate letters.

As a Cabinet, we will uphold the highest standards of ethics, collaboration, and good conduct in service of the public, and as a Minister of the Crown, you are expected to review, understand, and act according to the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*. You will

establish a collaborative working relationship with your Deputy Minister and the public servants under their direction, who provide the professional, non-partisan advice that is fundamental to delivering on our government's priorities. Your Minister's Office must meet the highest standards for integrity and provide a respectful, rewarding environment for all staff.

The work we have ahead takes place in a profoundly challenging geopolitical environment. Close friends and neighbours to our south are contemplating imposing draconian tariffs on our products that would hurt both Americans and Canadians. Our allies internationally face governmental instability. Hate and racism are on the rise around the world. Artificial intelligence breakthroughs with unclear implications and astonishing potential are announced daily. Global inflation, snarled supply chains, and war are threatening global economic growth and prosperity as well as the transition to a low-carbon economy.

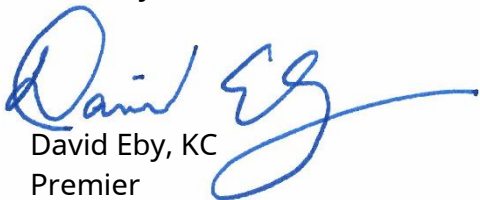
We have an obligation to protect and defend British Columbians, as well as seize opportunities, in these uncertain times.

The good news is that we have everything we need to succeed, and we will succeed. British Columbia's people – our workers, entrepreneurs, business leaders, artists, and innovators – are among the most talented in the world. We are home to world-class educational institutions and public services. Our natural beauty is unmatched, we have internationally envied resources, and we are one of the most diverse places on the planet. Your job is to help us leverage these advantages in perilous times.

Use this mandate letter to guide your work, and do not be afraid to challenge assumptions, or be innovative, bold and aggressive in achieving the goals set out for you and your Ministry by the people of this province.

Thank you for joining me in the work ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Eby", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Eby, KC
Premier

cc: Rohini Arora, MLA
Parliamentary Secretary for Child Care