

## **Central Okanagan Public Schools 2020-2021 Budget Request**

From: COTA

Amount: \$45,000.00

Description: Teacher Inquiry

Rationale for Teacher Inquiry dollars

### **Teacher Inquiry**

One of the most powerful learning opportunities for educators is teacher inquiry. Inquiry gives teachers time to collaborate with their colleagues on issues that are important to their daily work. Our inquiry model is based on the BCTF's Program for Quality Teaching and is backed by research on effective professional development. Research demonstrates that the most effective professional development is sustained and content specific, the learning goals are aligned to the curriculum, and it involves active learning and collective participation. We have many more teachers apply than the allocated dollars allow for.

The cost to run our Teacher Inquiry has gone up over the years. Below is an example of a breakdown of what the costs are to run the program now. We would like the grant to be maintained at \$45,000.00.

### Inquiry Project Costs

40 Teachers x 3 days each (\$400 per day) = \$48,000.00

Thank you for considering our request.

## **Central Okanagan Public Schools 2020-2021 Budget Request**

From: COTA

Amount: \$25,000.00

Description: Local Specialist Associations [LSA]

Rationale for LSA dollars

### **Local Specialist Associations (LSA)**

The Local Specialist Associations provide professional development activities that promote the special interests of that group of teachers. They may carry out In-service education, maintain liaison with post-secondary faculty members, carry out curricular projects and provide professional learning opportunities to members.

We would like the grant to be maintained at \$25,000.00

Thank you for considering our request.

## **Central Okanagan Public Schools 2020-2021 Budget Request**

From: COTA

Amount: \$15,000.00

Description: Social Justice

Rationale:

The COTA, as a member of the BCTF is a social justice union. We are an organization of professionals who act on our broad responsibility to be involved in the social development of our community, all in the interests of the children we teach.

In the past, we have sponsored the Living Library Event (middle school) and the Youth Mental Health Summit (high school) to the tune of \$5,000 each, and it remains our intention to continue with this support.

New this year, our Social Justice team is collaborating with Pride Kelowna to increase awareness through a T-shirt campaign and is working to coordinate access to resources/materials and events to support our SOGI reps in our schools.

Also, a small committee of COTA Social Justice teachers is working to support middle years, grades 4-7 teachers on incorporating placed based experiential teaching/learning practices into their classroom pedagogy. Their current action plan includes a collaborative effort across schools to test a model that allows for students to meet in a park or natural place to share in experiential learning opportunities. Topics being discussed are local ecology, connections to Indigenous ways of knowing and being, group collaboration, mindful practices in nature, and geological landforms/identifying features. They also want to incorporate technology as a way to capture these share experiences, and archive them for further learning.

We are requesting the District maintain this grant at \$15,000.

Thank you for considering our request.

## **Central Okanagan Public Schools 2020-2021 Budget Request**

From: COTA

Amount: \$2,000.00

Description: We would like funding for events that are co-collaboratively planned between classroom teachers, principals, other Senior officials and TTOCs.

Rationale:

TTOCs are front line workers in our schools but receive little communication and minimal training on best practices. We would like to collaboratively plan welcoming, social, and training events, and revise documents and policies that will enhance the work of these often neglected but important people in our district. We plan to foster that communication between these parties which will allow for a smooth transition between classroom teachers and TTOCs. This program has been extremely successful this school year, and we would like to see it continue.

Thank you for considering our request.