



**CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS - BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT
Policy Committee
Public Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 4:00 pm
School Board Office
1040 Hollywood Road S
Kelowna, BC**

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

Staff: Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
Terry Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent
Kate Cumming, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Mona Essler, Executive Assistant (recorder)
Absent: Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

Partner Groups: Lori Dawson Bedard, First Vice-President, COTA
Nicola Baker, President, COPAC
Em Monsdale, Rutland Senior Secondary School, DSC
Shelley Yost, Recording Secretary, CUPE
There was no representative from COPVPA.

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

AGENDA

February 7, 2024 Committee Agenda - approved as presented.

REPORTS/MATTERS ARISING

Policy Committee Public Meeting Report – October 4, 2023.
October 4, 2023 Committee Report - received as distributed.

PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public questions/comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS QUERIES/COMMENTS

There were no Committee members queries/comments.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Amendments to Policy 161 – Accumulated Operating Surplus

The amendments being brought forth for consideration at upon the recommendation of the Secretary-Treasurer/CFO provides the Board with flexibility when in tighter years and not able to maintain/replenish restricted and unrestricted accumulated operating surplus percentages.

Outcome:

THAT: The Policy Committee recommends to the Board of Education:

THAT: The Board of Education approve the amendments to Policy 161 – Accumulated Operating Surplus, as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the February 7, 2024 Policy Committee Meeting.

Amendments to Policy 620 – Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

The amendments to Policy 620 – Integrated Pest Management (IPM), brought forward to the Committee for review, are upon the recommendation of the Secretary-Treasurer/CFO and Director of Operations. The amendments include the removal of reference to pesticides and chemicals. The Committee agreed to the amendment of friendly *fashion* to friendly *way*.

Outcome:

THAT: The Policy Committee recommends to the Board of Education:

THAT: The Board of Education approve the amendments to Policy 620 – Integrated Pest Management (IPM), as attached to the Agenda, and as amended at the February 7, 2024 Policy Committee Meeting.

Amendments to Policy 405 – Student Placement and Regulations 405R – Student Placement

In accordance with new Bill 40 Legislation – First Nation Schools of Choice, amendments are required to the enrollment application and enrollment priorities effective for the 2024/2025 school year. The enrollment application, which commenced online on January 29th, was amended to reflect the new Bill 40 Legislation. The amendments to the Policy and Regulations include the addition of the following paragraph in the Policy and Regulations:

In accordance with Bill 40 Legislation - First Nation Schools of Choice, the Board of Education will ensure that a First Nation (Westbank First Nation and Okanagan Indian Band) can designate an elementary, middle, and secondary school for First Nation students who live on-reserve, self-governing First Nation lands or treaty lands. If a Westbank First Nation or Okanagan Indian Band parent/caregiver wishes to have their student enrolled at a different program or school other than the Band's designated school(s) of choice, the following Policy (Regulations) applies.

In the Regulations, the following has been added as the first priority in the Enrolment Priorities:

- 1. students who are registered members of Westbank First Nation or Okanagan Indian Band will assume first priority at the Band's designated School of Choice* (elementary, middle and secondary school);*

Outcome:

THAT: The Policy Committee recommends to the Board of Education:

THAT: The Board of Education approve the amendments to Policy 405 – Student Placement and Regulations 405R - Student Placement, as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the February 7, 2024 Policy Committee Meeting.

Policy 630 – Dedication and Naming of Schools and Facilities

At the October 4, 2023 Policy Committee Meeting, the Superintendent of Schools/CEO was requested to bring forward to the next Policy Committee Meeting amendments to Policy 630 – Dedication and Naming of Schools and Facilities, to reflect the Policy Committee's decision to include reference to schools/sites not being named after individuals.

Outcome:

THAT: The District seek consultation from partner groups on their views regarding naming of schools and/or facilities after individuals.

The suggested amendments to Policy 630 – Dedication and Naming of Schools and Facilities will be distributed to partner groups to obtain feedback from their members on their views regarding naming of schools and/or facilities after individuals. The partner group feedback will be discussed at the next Policy Committee meeting.

Amendments to Policy 703 – Relations with Parents of Students

At the June 7, 2023 Policy Committee Meeting an addition was made to Item 3:

"Parents, who are also employees of the School District, are able to be members, but are not able to be executive members of a school's Parent Advisory Council or Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council (with the exception of Student Supervisors or positions of ten hours per week or less)."

The Committee members, at the June 7, 2023 Policy Committee Meeting, deferred the amendments to Policy 703 – Relations with Parents of Students to the next Policy Committee Meeting to allow partner groups the opportunity to consult with their members on the addition. The partner group representatives from COPAC and COTA provided their feedback. The Committee discussed the composition of Parent Advisory Councils and the need to declare a conflict of interest in PAC or COPAC discussions where there may be a perceived bias. As this addition to the Policy relates to School District employees, rather than parents, the COPAC President suggested the amendment be included in Policy 390 – Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality. Further amendments to Policy 703 – Relations with Parents of Students were discussed. The amendments to Policy 703 – Relations with Parents of Students and amendments to Policy 390 – Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality will be brought forward to the next Policy Committee meeting for consideration.

Outcome:

THAT: The amendments to Policy 703 – Relations with Parents of Students and amendments to Policy 390 – Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality be deferred to the next Policy Committee Meeting

Policy 135 – School Board Operation

At the March 8, 2023 Public Board Meeting, the Board of Education suspended the second Public Question/Comment Period, on Public Board Meeting Agendas for the following reasons:

- Violation of Policy 351 – Respectful Workplace
- Creation of a workplace that is viewed as unsafe by staff and students.

The second Public Question/Comment Period was suspended as of March 8, 2023 and "all future public Board meeting agendas, until such time as Policy 135 – School Board Operations is reviewed and revised by the Policy Committee, ensuring it is in compliance with WorkSafe BC". The second Public Question/Comment Period was "an opportunity to members of the gallery to ask a question or comment on any matter pertaining to public education".

June 7, 2023 Policy Committee Outcome:

THAT: The suspension of the second Public Question/Comment Period on Public Board Meeting Agendas continues, and further discussion on expansion of the first Public Question/Comment Period be brought forward to the first Policy Committee Meeting scheduled for 2024.

The Committee discussed the amendments to Policy 135 – School Board Operation to remove reference to the second Public Question/Comment Period on Agendas. The Public Question/Comment Period scheduled near the beginning of the meeting will be to provide an opportunity to members of the gallery to ask a question or comment on any items on the Agenda.

Outcome:

THAT: The amendments to Policy 135 – School Board Operation be brought forward to the March 13, 2024 Public Board Meeting.

Deletion of Policy 505 – Learning Assistance, Regulations 505R – Learning Assistance, Appendix 505A – Learning Assistance (Appendix A) and Appendix 505A – Learning Assistance (Appendix B)

The staff recommendation is for the deletion of Policy 505 – Learning Assistance, Regulations 505R – Learning Assistance, Appendix 505A – Learning Assistance (Appendix A) and Appendix 505A – Learning Assistance (Appendix B) as job descriptions are operational and are to be retained by the Human Resources Department. In response to a query from the COTA President, the Superintendent of Schools/CEO confirmed a review of the entire Policy Manual will be taking place at which time other Policies which contain job descriptions will be considered for deletion. The information contained within the Policy is covered in the Special Education Policy Manual which guides our District's practice. This information will continue to guide our practice. Removal of this Policy will not impact the work of the Learning Assistance Teachers.

5:01 Trustee Broughton left the meeting.

5:03 Trustee Broughton returned to the meeting.

Outcome:

THAT: The Policy Committee recommends to the Board of Education:

THAT: The Board of Education delete Policy 505 – Learning Assistance, Regulations 505R – Learning Assistance, Appendix 505A – Learning Assistance (Appendix A) and Appendix 505A – Learning Assistance (Appendix B).

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

Updated Form 525.1 – Field Studies Application

The updated Form 525.1 – Field Studies Application was reviewed by the Committee. The amendments included removal of reference to portion of form to be completed by Career Life Programs and updated wording in the Transportation section.

Policy 460 - Appeals

The Committee Chairperson advised that this Policy is currently under review with regard to decisions which are appealable to the Board of Education. Policy 460 – Appeals currently states:

"If an employee's decision is disputed or a complaint is made about an employee's decision, the dispute or complaint is not resolved to the satisfaction of the student or the parent of the student affected, and the decision significantly affects the education, health or safety of the student, the Board of Education recognizes the right of a student and/or his or her parents (including guardians and persons acting in place of parents) to appeal to the Board."

The Policy further states that:

The Board also recognizes that employee decisions that the Board has decided do not significantly affect the education, health or safety of a student are within the final authority of the Superintendent as the Board's chief educational officer.

Any amendments to Policy 460 – Appeals will be brought forward to a future Policy Committee Meeting.

COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Received:

Laurie Bowen, January 21, 2024 re Request for Reinstatement of Second Public Question/Comment Period

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

February 28, 2024 Public Board Meeting – Action Items:

- Amendments to Policy 161 – Accumulated Operating Surplus
- Amendments to Policy 620 – Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Amendments to Policy 405 – Student Placement and Regulations 405R – Student Placement

- Deletion of Policy 505 – Learning Assistance, Regulations 505R – Learning Assistance, Appendix 505A – Learning Assistance (Appendix A) and Appendix 505A – Learning Assistance (Appendix B)

March 13, 2024 Public Board Meeting – Action Item:

- Amendments to Policy 135 – School Board Operation

ITEMS FOR FUTURE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Amendments to Policy 630 – Dedication and Naming of Schools and Facilities
- Amendments to Policy 703 – Relations with Parents of Students
- Amendments to Policy 390 – Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality
- Review of Policy 110 – Policy Development
- Review of Policy 702 – Indigenous Education Community Partnerships
- Review of Policy 520 – Cultural Performances
- Review of Policy 535 – Instructional Resources and Library Learning Commons Resources
- Review of Policy 510 - Counselling
- Review of Policy 367 - Employee Wellness
- Review of Policy 423 - Health Promoting Schools
- Review of Policy 486 – Student Use of Network Services and Digital Technologies
- Review of Policy 455 and Regulations 455R - Discipline

FUTURE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Wednesday, May 1, 2024 – 4:00 pm

Wednesday, September 24, 2024 – 4:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Questions - Please Contact:

Trustee Geistlinger, Chair, at 250-469-1942 or Amy.Geistlinger@sd23.bc.ca

Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO at 250-470-3256 or Kevin.Kaardal@sd23.bc.ca

Amy Geistlinger, Chair