



**CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS - BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Education and Student Services Committee  
Public Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 2, 2024, 6:00 pm  
School Board Office  
1040 Hollywood Road S.  
Kelowna, BC**

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

Staff: Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO (*absent*)  
Terry-Lee Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools (*absent*)  
Jon Rever, Acting Deputy Superintendent of Schools  
Yvonne Hildebrandt, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Partner Groups: Lori Dawson Bedard, COTA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President  
Jeannette Watson, COPAC Vice-President  
Jim Laird, COPVPA Vice-President  
Jessica Teasdale, CUPE Executive Member  
Mila Kresina, District Student Council Co-President

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

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**AGENDA**

October 2, 2024 Committee Agenda – approved as presented.

**REPORTS/MATTERS ARISING**

**Education and Student Services Committee Report – June 19, 2024**

June 19, 2024 Committee Report – received as distributed.

## **RECOGNITION/PRESENTATION/DELEGATIONS**

### **Impact of Bill 40 on Educational Initiatives and Services**

Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, provided a presentation about the impact of Bill 40 on Indigenous Educational Initiatives and Services. Bill 40 was introduced in November 2023 and is an amendment to the School Act that fulfills commitments in the Declaration Act Action Plan and the BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA). The changes are intended to support better education outcomes for First Nations and other Indigenous students attending provincial public schools, and more effective relationships between boards of education and First Nations. The changes take a distinctions-based approach and were developed collaboratively with the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) and reflect consultation with First Nations and Indigenous people throughout BC. Bill 40 includes new First Nation Schools of Choice provisions for First Nations to choose which school First Nation students, who live on reserve, self-governing First Nation lands, or Treaty lands, will attend. The new legislation ensures that First Nations have the option to enter into a Local Education Agreement with Boards of education should the First Nations request it. All school Boards are required to establish and maintain an Indigenous Education Council to support the Board of Education to provide comprehensive and equitable education and support services for all First Nations, Métis and Inuit students and improve Indigenous student outcomes.

### **Equity in Action Agreement for Truth and Reconciliation 2020-2025 – Fourth Annual Report 2023/2024**

Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education and Equity, and Christie Russell, District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education, presented the Fourth Annual Equity in Action for Truth and Reconciliation Report 2023-2024. The District continues to focus on the goals and priorities of the District's Equity in Action Agreement for Truth and Reconciliation (2020-2025) with a commitment to the shared responsibilities of "Fostering Indigenous student success through the lens of equity" and the belief that "Equity empowers each learner to thrive, holistically."

The Fourth Annual Report is a celebration of the progress during the 2023-2024 school year towards the goals and learning priorities that bring us closer to reconciliation, through the sharing of stories, data, photos, links and QR codes embedded within the report. Year four progress within Policy and Governance, Learning Environment, Pedagogical Core, and Learning Profiles is outlined in the report. A focus on equity is evident through the School Community Learning Plans put forward by A.S. Matheson Elementary, École Bellevue Creek Elementary, Chute Lake Elementary, Ellison Elementary, École Glenrosa Elementary, Oyama Traditional, Pearson Road Elementary, Raymer Elementary, Webber Road Elementary, École Dr. Knox Middle, and École Okanagan Mission Secondary Schools. The Indigenous Education Department progress is shared through the perspective of the Four Food Chiefs. The report reflects the District's commitment towards equitable opportunities for the District's Indigenous, First Nation, and Métis K-12 learners, and towards educational services and supports that meet the needs of all Indigenous students in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

### **District Digital Device Restrictions**

Jon Rever, Acting Deputy Superintendent of Schools, provided a presentation about personal digital device restrictions for students at Central Okanagan Public Schools. In accordance with the new legislation from the Ministry of Education and Child Care that was released in spring 2024, schools across the District have updated their School Codes of Conduct, effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, to include the restricted use of student personal digital devices during school hours. The Ministry defines this as a restriction, not a ban, on any personal digital device that connects to the internet, Wi-Fi, or cellular data network, and is intended to promote digital wellness, student health and well-being, and support focused learning environments.

The revisions to the School Codes of Conduct are specific to elementary, middle, and secondary schools. At elementary and middle schools, personal digital devices are powered off, secured, and stored bell to bell with no access to the devices during recess or lunch. This rule is not new for elementary schools in the District and has been in place for many years. At the secondary schools, personal digital devices are powered off, secured, and stored during class time, unless instructed by school staff to power on for educational instructional purposes, and are permitted to be used during break and lunch. Students are permitted to use personal digital devices to support accessibility, accommodations, and medical and health needs, or for instructional purposes and digital literacy skills as instructed by the Principal or school staff.

Student use of personal digital devices in schools is a collective responsibility regulated by all members of the school community, including students, parents, and staff. Preliminary observations and reports about the implementation of the restrictions in schools indicate that it has been positively received. Students are responding well to the restrictions, parents have been very supportive, and school staff continue to educate students resulting in positive outcomes.

### **PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT PERIOD**

No public present.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS QUERIES/COMMENTS**

None.

### **DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **Amended Meeting Schedule for 2024/2025**

Jon Rever, Acting Deputy Superintendent of Schools, shared the amended Education and Student Services Committee meeting schedule for the 2024-2025 school year.

## **ITEMS REQUIRING SPECIAL MENTION**

1. The District's Annual Enhancing Student Learning Report 2024 has been submitted to the Ministry of Education and Child Care and is available for viewing on the District website, and everyone is encouraged to read the report.

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

None.

## **ITEMS FOR FUTURE EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

November 6, 2024

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

December 4, 2024

January 15, 2025

- Feeding Futures Program Report  
*Director of Instruction - Feeding Futures (R. Ovelson)*

February 12, 2025

April 9, 2025

- Proposals for Board/Authority Authorized Courses

May 7, 2025

- Draft Program Review Cycle & Draft Meeting Schedule 2025-2026
- Refreshed Equity in Action Agreement 2025-2030  
*Director of Instruction - Indigenous Education and Equity (J. Bruce)*

June 4, 2025

## **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**

All meetings start at 6:00 pm.

November 6, 2024; December 4, 2024; January 15, 2025; February 12, 2025; April 9, 2025; May 7, 2025; and June 4, 2025.

## **MEDIA QUESTIONS**

No media present.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.

## **Questions - Please Contact:**

Trustee Lisa Guderyan, Chair at [Lisa.Guderyan@sd23.bc.ca](mailto:Lisa.Guderyan@sd23.bc.ca)

Jon Rever, Acting Deputy Superintendent of Schools at 250-470-3225 or [Jon.Rever@sd23.bc.ca](mailto:Jon.Rever@sd23.bc.ca)

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Lisa Guderyan, Chair