



**Central Okanagan
Public Schools**
Together We Learn

CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS - BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

Finance and Planning Committee Meeting

Public Meeting

Wednesday, April 16, 2025, 4:00 pm

School Board Office

1040 Hollywood Road S

Kelowna, BC

Board of Education: Trustee L. Tiede, Committee Chair
Trustee W. Broughton, Committee Member (*via Teams, left meeting at 6:00 pm*)
Trustee C. Desrosiers, Committee Member
Trustee J. Fraser
Trustee A. Geistlinger
Trustee L. Guderyan
Trustee V. Johnson

Staff: Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
Jon Rever, Acting Deputy Superintendent
David Widdis, Planning Manager
Gabe Cacchioni, Finance Manager
Lise Bradshaw, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Absent: Josh Currie, Assistant Director of Operations

Partner Groups COTA: Susan Bauhart, President (*via Teams*)
CUPE: George York, Vice-President and Jana Laing, Secretary-Treasurer
COPAC: Nicola Baker, President
COPVPA: Scott Sieben, President
There was no representative from District Student Council.

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

AGENDA

April 16, 2025 Committee Agenda - approved as presented.

REPORTS/MATTERS ARISING

Finance and Planning Committee Public Meeting Report - February 12, 2025

February 12, 2025 Committee Report - received as distributed.

PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT PERIOD

None

COMMITTEE MEMBERS QUERIES/COMMENTS

The COPAC President raised the issue of after-hours dirt bikes and e-bikes on school fields, Chute Lake Elementary School in particular, and the concern for financial impact due to the damage caused by these riders. The COPAC President advised that COPAC would be happy to work with the Board to communicate with families and raise awareness about the economic impact. The Superintendent of Schools/CEO advised that parents are encouraged to call the RCMP to report this issue.

The COTA President advised that she had sent an email with some of her queries for this meeting.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2025/2026-CPSD23-01

The Director of Operations advised that the newly formed Ministry of Infrastructure had provided their written response to the District's Capital Plan submission, which includes:

- Continued support for the planning and development of Birch Road Middle School;
- Roofing upgrades at École KLO Middle School and Constable Neil Bruce Middle School;
- Installation, through the carbon neutral capital program, of solar panels at École Peter Greer Elementary School, École George Elliott Secondary School and École H.S. Grenda Middle School;
- A kitchen upgrade at École KLO Middle School;
- A new accessible playground installation at École Belgo Elementary School;
- A building envelope upgrade at École Casorso Elementary School.

The Director of Operations answered queries from Committee members.

Outcome: The Finance and Planning Committee recommends to the Board:

THAT: The Board of Education of School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) give first reading to Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2025/26-CPSD23-01.

THAT: The Board of Education of School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) give second reading to Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2025/26-CPSD23-01.

THAT: The Board of Education of School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) give all three readings to Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2025/26-CPSD23-01 at the April 23, 2025 Public Board Meeting.

THAT: The Board of Education of School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) give third reading and adopt Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2025/26-CPSD23-01.

Feasibility Study Report - Portable and Bus Storage Site Locations

The Director of Operations outlined the Feasibility Study Report which laid out different options for portable and bus storage site locations within the District. The Director of Operations also spoke to the consultation that had taken place with regard to the recommended site of Quigley Elementary school, and the consideration given to future growth within the District.

The Superintendent of Schools/CEO and Director of Operations answered queries from Committee members.

Outcome: The Finance and Planning Committee recommends to the Board:

THAT: The Board of Education approves the Quigley Elementary School site for the establishment of the new portable classroom staging and bus compound.

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

Central Okanagan Public Schools Superintendent of Schools/CEO 2025/2026 Budget Proposal Report

The Superintendent of Schools/CEO presented the Budget Proposal Report for the 2025/2026 year.

The recent Ministry of Education and Child Care Operating Grant announcement saw a 1.12% increase to the per pupil operating rates (\$100 per pupil). 1% of this increase is committed to contractual negotiated increases for staff and is not available to offset the budget pressures for next year. Conservative student growth will offset some of the ongoing budget pressures the District will face next year. However, the per pupil operating rate increase will not fully cover the District's inflationary costs or increased needs for next year and the District anticipates a net \$5.2M budget shortfall for the 2025/2026 Annual Budget Bylaw.

For the upcoming fiscal year, the District anticipates increased costs due to student growth, classroom complexity, and the need for additional teaching and support staff. Benefit premiums, EI, CPP rates, and overall benefit costs are rising, with some not fully funded by the Ministry. Teacher illness costs and daily TTOC rates are expected to increase, alongside costs for additional bus routes and grounds staff. Inflation is driving up insurance and utility costs, while Operating Grant funding falls short of covering these inflationary increases. Portable costs to address enrolment and capacity limitations remain high, with the District operating at 112% capacity.

While options are considered to achieve a balanced budget in a difficult fiscal scenario, the District will continue to prioritize safe and engaging learning environments for students and provide classroom support that addresses the increasing complexity and diversity of our learners.

The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO and Superintendent of Schools/CEO answered queries from the Committee regarding:

- CUPE, COTA and senior admin staffing;
- Advocacy for funding;
- Employee wellness and post-pandemic illness patterns;
- Budget survey responses;
- Federal grants;
- Trustee stipends;
- The request to conserve/freeze non-essential spending at both District and school levels;
- Impact of possible tariffs.

2025/2026 Estimated Ministry of Education and Child Care Grant Funding

The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO provided the 2025/2026 Preliminary Operating Grant Funding tables, and advised that updated tables would be provided in December, 2025 once the September 1701 enrolment process is completed.

2025/2026 Public Budget Survey Results

The Superintendent of Schools/CEO advised that there were 2,049 responses to the 2025/2026 Budget Survey, and 25,000 "Thoughts". The Committee discussed the categorization of the feedback received, and the various responses received.

6:00 pm: Trustee Broughton left the meeting. Trustee Johnson was appointed as Voting Committee member in place of Trustee Broughton.

COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE

Received: 2025-04-04: Email from S. Bauhart re: SD23 Budget Unknowns

Sent: 2025-04-09: Email response to S. Bauhart re: SD23 Budget Unknowns

Outcome: The Committee received the correspondence listed above.

ITEMS REQUIRING SPECIAL MENTION

Trustee Tiede acknowledged that April 16 is School Bus Driver Appreciation Day and recognized District drivers for their commitment, care and professionalism.

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

April 23, 2025 Public Board Meeting:

- Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2025/2026-CPSD23-01 (Action)
- Feasibility Study Report - Portable and Bus Storage Site Locations (Action)
- 2025/2026 Public Budget Survey Results (Information)

ITEMS FOR FUTURE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

April (2nd Meeting)

Finance:

- Central Okanagan Public Schools Superintendent of Schools/CEO Budget Recommendations Report
- Financial Report at March 31st
- Trustee Indemnity for the 2025/2026 Fiscal Year
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May

Finance:

- Auditor's Report to the Finance and Audit Committee – Initial Communication on Audit Planning for the Year
- Annual CommunityLINK Allocations
- Financial Update - International Education Program
- Financial Update - Feeding Futures Program

Planning:

- Annual Transportation Update
- Capital Plan Submission

June

Finance:

- School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year 2025/2026
- 2024/2025 Accumulated Operating Surplus Review
- Proposed Multi-Year Financial Plan (2025/2026 to 2027/2028)
- Annual Review of Financial Planning and Reporting Policy

Planning:

- Energy and Sustainability Presentation

FUTURE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Wednesday, April 30, 2025, 4:00 pm

Wednesday, May 28, 2025, 4:00 pm

Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 4:00 pm

MEDIA QUESTIONS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 pm.

Questions - Please Contact:

Trustee Lee-Ann Tiede, Committee Chair at 250-258-3556 or Lee-Ann.Tiede@sd23.bc.ca

Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer at 250-860-8888 or Delta.Carmichael@sd23.bc.ca

Lee-Ann Tiede, Chair