



CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS - BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

Finance and Planning Committee Meeting

Public Meeting

Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 4:00 pm

School Board Office

1040 Hollywood Road S

Kelowna, BC

Board of Education: Trustee J. Fraser, Committee Chair
Trustee L. Tiede, Committee Member
Trustee C. Desrosiers, Committee Member
Trustee W. Broughton
Trustee A. Geistlinger
Trustee L. Guderyan (*joined meeting at 4:42 pm*)
Trustee V. Johnson

Staff: Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Kate Cumming, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Lynda Reeve, Assistant Superintendent
Lise Bradshaw, Executive Assistant (Recorder)
Stuart Kamstra, Assistant Director of Capital and Planning
David Widdis, Planning Manager
Gabe Cacchioni, Finance Manager
Gail Prokopchuk, Transportation Manager

Absent: Josh Currie, Assistant Director of Operations

Partner Groups: Mary Hope, COTA 2nd Vice-President
George York, CUPE Vice-President and Jana Laing, Secretary-Treasurer
Nicola Baker, COPAC President
There were no representatives from COPVPA or DSC.

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

The Committee Chair opened the meeting with a statement acknowledging the tragedy that occurred in Tumbler Ridge and expressed heartfelt condolences to those affected.

AGENDA

February 11, 2025 Committee Agenda - approved as presented.

REPORTS/MATTERS ARISING

Finance and Planning Committee Public Meeting Report - January 21, 2026

January 21, 2026 Committee Report - received as distributed.

PRESENTATION

2026/2027 Preliminary Budget Presentation

The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer presented a PowerPoint regarding the 2026/2027 Annual Budget. The presentation addressed the District's primary objectives, strategic directions, staffing, student data, financial resources, as well as the assumptions and challenges associated with preparing the 2026/2027 Annual Budget Bylaw.

The primary consideration for 2026/2027 is that enrolment is projected to be lower than the previous year, as a greater number of Grade 12 students are graduating while fewer kindergarten students are entering the school system. Budget pressures for the 2026/2027 year are expected.

This PowerPoint was also delivered at the COPAC Meeting on February 2, 2026, and is available on the District's website.

The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer answered queries from the Committee regarding mental health funding, federal funding, portables, costs to maintain the new free-standing daycare facilities and the Classroom Enhancement Fund.

PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT PERIOD

No members of the public in attendance.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' QUERIES/COMMENTS

None.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Mount Boucherie Secondary School - Baseball Academy Fee Increase

The Assistant Secretary-Treasurer advised that Mount Boucherie Secondary School is seeking an increase in their Baseball Academy fee. The Board of Education approved the Substantive Change Proposal for Mount Boucherie Secondary School Baseball Academy with a student fee set at \$200 in February of 2020 and there has not been an increase since that time. Due to rising busing and equipment costs, expenses have increased since then. A proposed fee increase aims to ensure financial sustainability. The Mount Boucherie Secondary School PAC supported the fee increase at its January 19, 2026 meeting.

OUTCOME: The Finance and Planning Committee recommended to the Board:

THAT: The Board of Education approve the proposed fee increase of \$50 (from \$200 to \$250/student) for the Baseball Academy at Mount Boucherie Secondary School, as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the February 11, 2026 Finance and Planning Committee Meeting.

4:42 pm Trustee Guderyan joined the meeting.

Review of Transportation Fees for the 2026/2027 Fiscal Year

The Assistant Secretary-Treasurer advised that although not mandated by the School Act, the Board of Education supports the operation of a student transportation system for students of Central Okanagan Public Schools. As part of its support for transportation, the District must heavily subsidize the Transportation Department with approximately \$4 million in operating funds that could otherwise be directed to classroom support and operations, as only \$600,000 is provided to the District by the Ministry of Education and Child Care. Each year, the Board of Education reviews the fee that it charges for all students that receive this service.

Options provided to the Committee to consider were to keep the transportation fee at \$525/year, or increase the fee to \$550/year. The Committee queried the possibility of an increase to the District's annual \$600,000 transportation funding from the Ministry of Education and Child Care, discussed potential advocacy for higher funding, ridership and enrolment trends, and family subsidies.

OUTCOME: The Finance and Planning Committee recommended Option #2 to the Board:

THAT: The Board of Education set the transportation fee at \$550 per year for each bus rider for the period effective July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

Property Bylaw No. 162 – BC Hydro Statutory Right-of-Way on École Peter Greer Elementary School Site

The Planning Manager advised that BC Hydro requires an update to the current Statutory Right of Way (SRW) for the existing and proposed electrical infrastructure on the École Peter Greer Elementary School site. A current SRW is registered on the school site, however, the SRW is for the overhead power works only. An updated SRW is required to be registered with the Land Titles Office, and the right of way is for the operation and maintenance of BC Hydro infrastructure. BC Hydro would bear all the costs associated with the infrastructure works, and the installation would occur at Spring Break, so disruption to the school would be minimal.

The Planning Manager answered queries from the Committee.

OUTCOME: The Finance and Planning Committee recommended to the Board

THAT: The Board of Education of School District No. 23 give first reading to School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Property Bylaw No. 162 (registration of a Statutory Right-of-Way) for registration of a Statutory Right-of-Way in favour of BC Hydro on Lot 1 Section 11 Township 20 Osoyoos Division Yale District Plan KAP49847, known as École Peter Greer Elementary School.

THAT: The Board of Education of School District No. 23 give second reading to School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Property Bylaw No. 162 (registration of a Statutory Right-of-Way) for registration of a Statutory Right-of-Way in favour of BC Hydro on Lot 1 Section 11 Township 20 Osoyoos Division Yale District Plan KAP49847, known as École Peter Greer Elementary School.

THAT: The Board of Education of School District No. 23 give all three readings to School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Property Bylaw No. 162 (registration of a Statutory Right-of-Way) for registration of a Statutory Right-of-Way in favour of BC Hydro on Lot 1 Section 11 Township 20 Osoyoos Division Yale District Plan KAP49847, known as École Peter Greer Elementary School, at the February 18, 2026 Public Board Meeting.

THAT: The Board of Education give third reading and grant approval for registration of a Statutory Right-of-Way in favour of BC Hydro on Lot 1 Section 11 Township 20 Osoyoos Division Yale District Plan KAP49847, known as École Peter Greer Elementary School.

Three Year Annual Facility Grant (AFG) Plan 2026/2027 - 2028/2029

The Assistant Director of Capital and Planning advised that the Annual Facility Grant Plan is prepared yearly by staff for approval by the Board of Education and for submission to the Capital Planning Branch within the Ministry of Infrastructure. For the provincial fiscal year of April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, the Ministry may grant the District approximately \$5.4 million in the Annual Facility Grant intended for minor capital improvements required to ensure the long-term viability of existing school district facilities. Staff have prioritized this grant funding towards the upgrading of mechanical and electrical systems, end of life roofing and urgent facility and site upgrades.

The Assistant Director of Capital and Planning answered queries from the Committee regarding the prioritized items and deferred maintenance.

OUTCOME: The Finance and Planning Committee recommended to the Board:

THAT: The Board of Education approve the Annual Facility Grant Plan for 2026/2027 through 2028/2029, as attached to the Agenda and as presented at the February 11, 2026 Finance and Planning Committee Meeting.

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

2026/2027 School Fees Summary

The Assistant Secretary-Treasurer advised that school supply fees and cultural fees remain unchanged for the 2026/2027 school year.

Transportation of Senior Secondary Students on BC Transit

The Committee engaged in a robust discussion regarding the transportation of secondary school students and the potential shift to public transit for secondary school students living on established transit routes.

Feedback from COPAC members indicates many parents feel strongly opposed to this potential change. While there is an understanding of the rationale behind exploring public transit, some Committee members emphasized that yellow school bus transportation offers significantly more than a basic mode of travel and delivers added value beyond transportation alone.

The current Policy 470R *Transportation Services Management – Regulations* was acknowledged, with a particular emphasis on focusing on secondary school students who live on public transit routes. It was also mentioned that some secondary students already use multiple forms of transportation. The importance of giving priority to elementary-aged students, including courtesy riders and those on waitlists, was highlighted, and it was noted that Trustees are responsible for making sound financial decisions.

Trustees expressed their appreciation to Transportation Manager Gail Prokopchuk for the difficult job and competing priorities in the Transportation Department, and her thoughtful response to Trustee Guderyan's daughter in a recent email.

5:37 pm - Trustee Geistlinger disconnected from the meeting.

Committee members advised that they look forward to the full report from the Transportation Manager in April.

ITEMS REQUIRING SPECIAL MENTION

None.

RECOMMENDATIONS/REFERRALS TO THE BOARD

February 18, 2026, Public Board Meeting

- Review of Transportation Fees for the 2026/2027 Fiscal Year (*Action item*)
- Property Bylaw No. 162 – BC Hydro Statutory Right-of-Way on École Peter Greer Elementary School Site (*Action item*)
- Three Year Annual Facility Grant (AFG) Plan 2026/2027 - 2028/2029 (*Action item*)

March 11, 2026, Public Board Meeting

- Mount Boucherie Secondary School - Baseball Academy Fee Increase (*Action item*)
- 2026/2027 School Fees Summary (*Information item*)

ITEMS FOR FUTURE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

April (1st Meeting)

Finance:

- Central Okanagan Public Schools Superintendent of Schools 2026/2027 Budget Proposal Report
- Budget Consultation Input Received
- Trustee Indemnity for the 2026/2027 Fiscal Year
- Report on Secondary School Bus Routes

April (2nd Meeting)

Finance:

- Central Okanagan Public Schools Superintendent of Schools 2026/2027 Budget Recommendations Report
- Financial Report at March 31st

May

Finance:

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

Planning:

- Annual Transportation Update
- Capital Plan Submission

June

Finance:

- School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year 2026/2027
- 2025/2026 Draft Accumulated Operating Surplus Review
- Proposed Multi-Year Financial Plan (2026/2027 to 2028/2029)
- Annual Review of Financial Planning and Reporting Policy

Planning:

- Energy and Sustainability Presentation

FUTURE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 4:00 pm

Wednesday, April 29, 2026, 4:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:51 pm.

Questions - Please Contact:

Trustee Julia Fraser, Committee Chair: Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca

Kate Cumming, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer: Kate.Cumming@sd23.bc.ca

Julia Fraser, Committee Chair