



BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

Date: Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Central Okanagan Public Schools – "Inside 23":

1. Primary Winter Gathering

In attendance:

April Strickland, District Vice-Principal – Indigenous Education
Deanna Necan, Cultural Coordinator – Indigenous Education
Christina Verhagen, Indigenous Advocate
Asher Albenez, Grade 3, Quigley Elementary School

The Indigenous Education's Primary Winter Gathering was held from January 10-13, 2023. It was an opportunity for all Grade Three Indigenous students to experience Indigenous cultures. The intentions of the day were to explore what it means to be Indigenous and to be proud of who they are, to learn about and celebrate their culture (regalia, dance, captik^wl, drumming, song and storytelling), and to connect with Elders, community, friends and teachers. The students had an opportunity to dance to the drumming from local drummer group "Birch Creek". Asher described the highlights of participating in his first Primary Winter Gathering.

2. American Sign Language

In attendance:

Michelle Kaupp, District Principal – Inclusive Education
Chelsea Thompson, American Sign Language Instructor, Rutland Senior Secondary School
Lauren Abney, American Sign Language Instructor, Mount Boucherie Secondary School
Kayla Malito, American Sign Language CEA
Scott Anderson, Teacher, Rutland Senior Secondary School (former American Sign Language instructor)
Jessica Carroll, Interpreter

The American Sign Language (ASL) program offers secondary level courses to hearing, hard of hearing and deaf high school students. These courses are offered at Mount Boucherie Secondary, Rutland Senior Secondary and École Kelowna Secondary Schools. ASL is accepted as a second language requirement for University and Central Okanagan Public Schools is one of the only school districts in the province to offer in person instruction. The program is supported by a member of the deaf community. The ASL program began in 2000 with one class and it continues to grow. This school year, there have been over 20 classes offered between the three high schools. The ASL instructors shared information about the program and took trustees through a brief activity to build awareness and learn.

Proclamation:

1. Harmony Day – February 15, 2023

PROCLAMATION:

WHEREAS Harmony Day recognizes that the citizens of the Central Okanagan bring unique gifts to this community through their diversity; and,

WHEREAS Harmony Day provides an annual opportunity for the Central Okanagan Public Schools community to celebrate diversity while committing to mutual respect; and,

WHEREAS Harmony Day creates sensitivity to and respect for differences; and

WHEREAS Harmony Day allows the Central Okanagan Public Schools to focus on the mission of educating students in a safe, inspirational learning environment; and

THEREFORE I, Julia Fraser, as Vice-Chair of the Board of Education of the Central Okanagan Public Schools, do hereby proclaim February 15, 2023 as Harmony Day in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

Declaration:

1. Bullying Awareness (Pink Shirt) Day – February 22, 2023

The Central Okanagan Board of Education declared Wednesday, February 22, 2023 as "Pink Shirt Day" in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

Presentation:

1. British Columbia Student Leadership Conference 2023

In attendance:

Jarret Atkins, Vice-Principal, Rutland Senior Secondary School

Lindsay Reynoldson, Teacher, Rutland Senior Secondary School (Conference Chairperson)

Jacqueline Groat, Teacher, Rutland Senior Secondary School

Ryan Wakefield, Vice-Principal, George Elliot Secondary School

Al Hopgood, Teacher, Springvalley Middle School

The British Columbia Association of Student Activity Advisors (BCASAA) has awarded Rutland Senior Secondary School (RSS) to be the host school of the 2023 British Columbia Student Leadership Conference (BCSLC). The conference is scheduled to take place on October 19 to 22, 2023 with the theme of *Back to Leadership – Recharge, Reconnect, Reimagine*. BCASAA has held an annual student leadership conference at various sites across the Province since 1991, with the goal to promote and enhance the development of student leadership in our schools, and empowering youth to be leaders in their communities. It is anticipated that 30 to 40 British Columbia provincial schools will be in attendance, represented by 350 to 450 student leaders and 30 to 40 advisors. Total attendance from Central Okanagan Public Schools will be approximately 204 students. The presenters arranged to date include Kevin Lamoureux, Tei Street, Sam Demma and Jacklyn Uweh. This is a cost neutral venture and will be funded by student registration and BCASAA sponsorship.

Action Items:

1. Central Okanagan Public Schools Student Reporting Guidelines (K-12)

The Board of Education approved the Central Okanagan Public Schools Student Reporting Guidelines (K-12) (to be fully implemented the 2023-2024 school year).

2. **Affirmation of Policy 160 – Finance and Audit Committee**

The Board of Education affirmed Policy 160 – Finance and Audit Committee.

3. **Student and Family Affordability Fund**

The Board of Education agreed to write a letter to the Ministry of Education and Child Care requesting them to commit to ongoing funding of the Student and Family Affordability Fund past the expiry of June 30, 2023.

The Board of Education reviewed the following:

1. British Columbia Student Leadership Conference 2023
2. Financial Update – December 31, 2022
3. 2023/2024 Budget Survey Questions
4. Level 4 and 5 Field Study Summary – 2022/2023
5. General Statement – January 25, 2023

Items of Special Mention

The Board Vice-Chair, Trustees and Superintendent of Schools/CEO spoke of the following:

- Attendance at the **48th Annual Interior Savings Western Canada Basketball Tournament** hosted by École Kelowna Secondary School, the **RSS Senior Girls Invitational Basketball Tournament**, **OKM Triple Threat Theatre** presentation of "**The Addams Family**", **Mount Boucherie Secondary Music Winter Concert**, including bands from Constable Neil Bruce Middle and Glenrosa Middle Schools, and the **Glenrosa Elementary Winter Carnival**.
- Central Okanagan Public Schools will be hosting Kelowna's **FIRST LEGO League "Superpowered" Regional Qualifying Tournament**. The tournament will take place at UBC Okanagan's Engineering, Education, and Management Building on Saturday, February 11th starting at 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Twelve teams, consisting of 60 students, will be competing, putting weeks of research, design and programming to the test in the hopes of moving forward in the competition.
- On **Friday, February 17th**, CUPE and COTA will be hosting their **professional development days** and therefore school will not be in session.
- Also, a reminder that **Monday, February 20th** is **Family Day** and schools will again not be in session.

Next Public Board Meeting

Regular Public Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Board Standing Committee Meetings

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

4:00 pm Finance and Audit Committee

6:00 pm Education and Student Services Committee

For comments, please contact:

Julia Fraser, Vice-Chair of the Board of Education, 250-718-8613

Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO, 250-470-3256

Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer, 250-860-8888f

The Board Meeting Highlights are published after each Public Board Meeting.

Please check the School District website (www.sd23.bc.ca) for all Board and Committee Meeting dates and times.

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