



The Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council

General Meeting Minutes

Date: October 7th, 2024, at 7pm

Location: Zoom

*The Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council acknowledges that this meeting
is being held on the unceded, Traditional Territory of the Okanagan People*

COPAC Executive: Nicola Baker (**CLE, CMS**), Jeanette Watson, Leslie Atwell (**DRK**), Deannie Zahara

In Attendance: Danielle -**BHE**, Shannon -**CTE**, Heather -**DRE**, Jennifer -**DWE, KLO**, Kellie -**GME**, Shan - **HRE**, Jill -**HGE**, Jessica -**RVE**, Lisa -**RLE**, Tricia -**SRE**, Kevin -**SVE**, Kay -**SKE** Pres, Sabrina -**WAT**, Ana -**PSE, RMS** Amanda -**RMS, RSS**, Camilla -**KSS**, Carmen -**OKM**, Jenny -**BME**, Tim -**PGE**, Brianna – **PLE**, Tanya **GESS**, Kirsty – **GRE**, Brittany – **BGE**, Madisyn - **PSE**, Taylor & Victoria- **OTS**,
PARTNERS PRESENT:

Superintendent of Schools- Kevin Kardaal

Acting Deputy Superintendent- Jon Rever

Board of Education: Trustee Chantell Desrosiers

COTA (Central Okanagan Teachers Association)- Mary Hope

CUPE (Canadian Union of Public Employees)- Teri Wishlow

DSC (District Student Council)- no reps present.

1.0 Call to Order -Greetings and Introductions Nicola Baker, COPAC President

2.0 Guest Speaker: Tobias Blaskovitz-SD23 District STEAM/Learning Technology Consultant

- **Role** is to support students, educators and school communities advance education within STEAM = Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics.
- Engage and support Coding & Robotics, Sustainability, Applied Design Skills & Technology (ADST), Technology innovation, Digital Wellness & Digital Literacy Skills, and most recently Artificial Intelligence
- **HOW:** We support our educators by providing hands on learning opportunities, provide inspiration, sharing stories, work side by side with educators to co-plan & Co-design lessons, leading professional learning. Loaning equipment & resources- SD23 has sets of robots to loan to schools to explore trying something new as entry point before schools commit to purchasing their own.
- Tobias is also member of [STEAM Ecosystem BC](#), there are lots of community organizations working together to engage students, parents, and community in hands on STEAM learning activities
- Showcase STEAM events throughout the year; [First Lego League](#), district [SumoBot](#) competition, and [Expo of Awesome](#)
- **Why is this Important?**
 - Many of our teachers don't have specialized backgrounds in science and technology, some are generalists, some are specialists, and at a district level we are working to support teachers develop and refine their pedagogy and their approach to design learning.
- We are sharing with COPAC today to bring awareness of STEAM to ignite and spark enrichment support for STEAM by volunteering or **through PAC financially supporting** STEAM activities and resources.
- Teachers, students, and parents value these opportunities.
- For more information: Connect with your school, be advocates for all students-if we want these opportunities in our schools we need people to bring awareness, ask questions and volunteer.
- Community STEAM Supports for Families.
 - Okanagan Regional Library- <https://www.orl.bc.ca/kids-teens/steam>
 - <https://www.orl.bc.ca/kids-teens/steam/steam-activity-of-the-month>
 - RDCO Parks & programs <https://www.rdco.com/en/parks-and-trails/parks-and-trails.aspx>

3.0 Establish Quorum (10 Voting Members) Established with school PACs.

AME	X	ASM		BHE	X	BGE	X	BCE	X	BME	X	CAS		CTE	X	CLE	X	DRE	X
DWE	X	ELE		GME	X	GRE	X	HGE	X	HRE	X	MJE		NGE		OTS	X	PLE	X
PSE	X	PGE	X	QGE		RAY		RVE	X	RLE	X	SLE		SKE	X	SRE	X	SVE	X
WAT	X	WRE																	
CMS	X	CNB		DRK	X	GMS		HMS		KLO	X	RMS	X	SMS					
GESS	X	KSS	X	MBSS		OKM	X	RSS	X										

4.0 Agenda: Additions/Approval

Motion: To accept the October 7th, 2024, COPAC General Meeting Agenda as presented.

Motioned by Leslie A., seconded by Jeannette W.

All in favour: **Motion carried**

5.0 Minutes: Additions/Approval

- **Motion: To accept the September 9th, 2024, minutes as circulated.**

Motioned by Tanya L., seconded by Trisha M.

All in favour: **Motion carried**

6.0 SD23 PARTNER GROUP REPORTS

Superintendent Update – Kevin Kaardal

- Continue to grow as a district, with increase of 169 FTE students (*however didn't meet our projected growth*)
- Handful of staff affected in terms of position changes.
- **2024 School Opening Reports are posted to the school district website** ([part 1](#) and [part 2](#))
- Couple of concerning events occurred within the community involving youth, while this didn't occur on school property-SD23 is working with school community and youth officers RCMP
- Tragic loss of an MBSS student, Post-Critical Incident Response team is working to support the school community.
- Groups from Europe, Switzerland primarily, to see the work SD23 does in Inclusive Education. We also had groups from Germany looking at how we implement inclusion teachers.
- Retirement announcement of Deputy Superintendent Terry-Lee Beaudry. Her last day will be December 31st. See [press release](#)
 - John Rever will be in as SD23's Acting Deputy Superintendent

Trustee Update – Trustee Chantell Desrosiers

- If anyone has questions encourage to reach out to your [School Liaison Trustee](#)
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to attend School Board meetings, these are **public meetings** and the business portion of meetings start between 6:30-6:45 via zoom. Agendas, Meeting minutes, and zoom link can be found on [SD23 website](#).

COTA - Mary Hope

- Superintendent Kaardal has done great job of sharing the major news within district
- Teachers have been connecting with students starting on good solid note developing routines for the school year.
- Cell phone restrictions have been a smooth transition and well supported
- Recently involved with a wellness meeting which went well for our teachers, Jon Rever was part of the lead on this.
- Saturday, October 5th was World Teachers Day. *Since UNESCO launched World Teachers' Day in 1994, October 5th is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the work of more than 60 million teachers, most of them working in developing countries with limited resources. As such, the Day is also a reminder that the great strides in Canadian education are a result of countless people working together over many years to create a brighter future for children.* [See press release](#)

CUPE – Teri Wishlow (No further updates)

DSC – No representative

7.0 PAC 360 – Nicola Baker *(A quick opportunity for PACs to briefly discuss topics they may need assistance with from COPAC or SD23 or topics that might be relevant to other PACs)*

7.1 PAC Stories – *An opportunity for COPAC reps to share positive stories from their school community of Authentic Parent Engagement. Looking for at least one each COPAC meeting.*

RLE rep was asked to share an update regarding info shared at the September COPAC meeting of the June 2025 closure of Rutland Community School childcare; positive outcome with SD23 senior staff and school principal and RLE PAC involved in conversations seeking solutions.

8.0 COPAC 360

Committee Reports –COPAC Exec or Reps who attend district committee meetings on behalf of COPAC to report important information

- Public Education Appreciation Committee (PEAC)
 - no time sensitive items to report, encourage community to read and share [Together We Learn publications](#)
- Education & Student Services committee (*Jeannette Watson*)
 - Meeting minutes and agendas are posted to [district website](#)
 - Highlight: hearing from students and staff that overall, the Cell Phone restrictions/policies put in place are positive stories, students are more engaged and focused on learning.
 - COTA rep Mary Hope shared appreciation for all the support and guidance on these policies and consistency across the district.
- Health Promoting Schools committee (*Leslie Atwell*)
 - Highlight: Renee Opperman (*K-12 Social Emotional Learning Team Teacher & District SOGI Lead*) gave a presentation on Diversity Equity & Inclusion

No further Questions or Comments for Partner Groups, Nicola gave opportunity to leave meeting 8:04pm

- **Treasurer Report** – *Leslie Atwell (see attached Treasurer Report)*
 - shared the bank statements showing that bank accounts for September aligned with reports.
 - Motion: To accept the October 2024 Treasurers report as presented
 - Motioned by Trisha M., seconded by Jeannette W.
 - **All in favour: Motion carried.**

Erase BC – *erase helps students, adults, and school staff build safe, caring, and inclusive school communities.*

- increase awareness about this resource and what supports are available, they also have new videos
 - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/erase/explore-erase>
 - **“Establishing Safe, Caring and Respectful Communities”** free online webinars in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Childcare’s erase strategy. [Register to attend](#) one of the upcoming webinars, suitable for families and their children ages 10 and up to watch together.
- **McCreary Youth Action Grants:** https://mcs.bc.ca/youth_action_grants
 - The purpose of the YAGs is to provide BC youth (ages 12–19) from school districts that participated in the most recent BC Adolescent Health Survey (BC AHS) the opportunity to deliver a project to improve youth health in their school or community.
 - Continuous application deadline.. Needs to be Youth Led & supported by at least one adult

• **Building a PAC purchases idea guide** – google doc created where PACs can share info regarding links to products purchased to support schools, ie technology-lego robotics, outdoor moveable play equipment
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qbdOhUWZMWf698IF6GNzeEBG9yBxrc5pQ5t7PTBskSU/edit?tab=t.0>

- **EVENTS & ENGAGEMENT:** Jeannette W.
 - **PAC 101** - October 17th PAC 101 – October 17 at 7pm zoom. **Registration required.** (Open to any SD23 PAC Executive Members) <https://sd23.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5Ysc-qupzMoE9ON4KNthjPxM1f7OpwQB>
 - **Treasurer 101** – November 14, 7pm on zoom. **Registration required.** (Open to any SD23 PAC Executive Members, encourage PAC treasurers to attend) <https://sd23.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5ctcOmsqzkoEtbLvY5iaQM-8jXWqvmTuQER>
 - Bylaw workshop will be in the new year
 - October is Dyslexia Awareness month. *Dyslexia BC: How DO we learn to read?* - with Dr Stephen Truch online webinar.
 - Working on bringing Cathy McMillan, [Dyslexia BC](#) founder, to Kelowna for an in-person event.
- **BC Provincial Election (Nicola)** – Support awareness of BC Public Education as an election issue
 - COPAC is working with our provincial DPAC colleagues in conversations regarding how the province is NOT funding portables directly and how funding portables cuts into school districts' operational budgets.
As we are in the middle of a provincial election, we have focused some of our attention on how to elevate public education to be a more prominent issue for the candidates. A letter has been put together by parents from across BC, and it is part of the work done by our growing coalition of DPACs.
[Open Letter: Fund Portables, Build Schools, and Fix Education Funding –BC Families Demand Action](#)
This letter will then be shared out via social media channels of various DPACs across the province and others from there. The intention is to demonstrate that BC parents are informed and paying attention to education this election. Anyone can sign the letter, it does not have to be a PAC or DPAC affiliation
- **BCCPAC Updates/Membership** – (Nicola)
 - Simon has resigned from BCCPAC Board, along with Bonnie McBride and Resha Sabti. Currently 5 positions are open and there will be an upcoming by-election to fill these positions.
 - COPAC Executive is actively working with provincial DPAC colleague engaging in provincial advocacy.
 - COPAC Executive is committed to holding BCCPAC accountable to its membership and increasing transparency and more opportunities of connection.
 - Encourage PACs to keep the \$100 BCCPAC membership fee in their budget, so that PACs can register to vote at the BCCPAC AGM. Registration is due by December 31st, 2024 if you choose to become a member this year.
 - Please contact copac.president@sd23.bc.ca
- **COPAC Executive Vacancy (Member-at-Large, Events Coordinator)** – **if interested, please email Nicola Baker**

9.0 Other Business – None

10.0 In Camera- No in camera items.

11.0 Adjournment – motioned by Leslie A. at 8:24 pm

Future Meeting

COPAC General Meeting- Monday, November 4th, 2024, 7:00pm via zoom.

COPAC Website: <http://copac.sd23.bc.ca>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sd23copac/>

Twitter: @COPACSD23

School Board and Board Standing Committee Meeting Information www.sd23.bc.ca

<http://www.sd23.bc.ca/Board/boardmeetinginfo/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

Recording Secretary: Deannie Zahara

COPAC President: Nicola Baker

Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council Treasurer's Report

Account Balances as of **SEP 30/2024**

General Account:

HSBC

Balance Forward	\$ 1,573.33
Deposits ()	700.00
Cheques written ()	-
Interest	
Service Charges	10.00
Balance	\$ 2,263.33

Deposits to general acct

Description	Amount
BCCPAC Travel Subsidy	600
Damage Deposit Return	100
Total	700.00

Cheques from general Account

Description	Amount	Chq #
Total	0	

Gaming Account:

HSBC

Balance Forward	\$ 944.48
Deposits ()	-
Cheques written ()	-
Interest	
Service Charges	11.06
Balance	\$ 933.42

Cheques from Gaming Account

Description	Amount	Chq #
TOTAL	0	

Member Shares: **\$ 5.00**

Account Summary: **\$ 3,201.75**