



# The Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council

General Meeting Minutes  
Date: March 4<sup>th</sup>, 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), Simon Adams (CMS), Roslyn Hazen (HMS), Deannie Zahara (KLO), Leslie Atwell, Nathan Hind, Jeanette Watson

**In Attendance:** Meenoo Thompson-ASM, Kristina Grant-AME, Danielle Ferguson-BHE, Brittany Connor-BGE, Nicole Codispotti-BCE, Ryan Liborian-BME, Ingeborg-CAS, Heather Engram-DRE, Kellie Garcia-Bunting-GME, Jill Glassford—HGE, Robin Kinney-MJE, Jennifer Dickie-PSE, Amy Smith-RVE, Lisa Schetel-RLE, Amanda Lucas(President)-SRE, Sabrina Chapman-WAT

**PARTNERS PRESENT:**

**Superintendent of Schools**-regrets  
**Deputy Superintendent**- Terry-Lee Beaudry  
**Board of Education:** Trustee Wayne Broughton  
**COTA (Central Okanagan Teachers Association)**- Susan Bauhart  
**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 – Jennifer Garner-UBC Geering Up**

*Geering Up offers camps for students entering Grades 1 to 12 at our UBC Okanagan campus located in Kelowna! STEAM camps inspire and challenge youth across the Okanagan through fun, innovative, and hands-on experiments and projects. To explore what programs we’re offering this summer, [see website](#).*

- Offer [Classroom workshops](#)-in person led by 2 Geering Up instructors consisting of exciting STEM based and hands-on activities that stimulate experimental thinking and scientific literacy.
- \*\*Offer volunteer opportunities- [Junior Instructors](#), starting in grade 10 to assist with clubs and camps, great **opportunity for students to fulfil volunteer requirements for graduation**.
- Offer [Bursaries](#) to subsidize program fees for summer camps
- **Geering Up is offering to attend PAC Spring Fairs/Carnivals for free of charge. They would set up a booth and run a hands-on activity during your event. Please reach out to [jen.garner@ubc.ca](mailto:jen.garner@ubc.ca) for more info.** This is a new opportunity and would be ‘first come first bases’, so reach out asap

**3.0 Establish Quorum (10 Voting Members) Established with 20 school PACs.**

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

**4.0 Agenda: Additions/Approval**

Motion: To accept the March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, COPAC Agenda as presented.  
Motioned by Roslyn H., seconded by Leslie A.  
All in favour: **Motion carried**

## 5.0 Minutes: Additions/Approval

Motion: To accept the February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, minutes as circulated.

Motioned by Jeannette W., seconded by Roslyn H.

All in favour: **Motion carried**

## 6.0 SD23 PARTNER GROUP REPORTS

### Trustee Update – Trustee Wayne Broughton

- 2024/2025 SD23 Budget. Provide feedback online via survey that has been open for the last month. Survey closes tonight.
- February Policy meeting included some recommended changes to SD23 policies:
- -Policy 703 Relations with Parents and Students- *regarding parent/guardians filling PAC executive positions that are employed with SD23 for 10 hours or more.* The final decision was to not proceed with the amendment, but rather amend [Policy 390-Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality](#) at a future policy committee meeting.
- -Policy 630 around Naming of schools. Recommendations are around naming of **FUTURE** schools around historical, geographic or operational characteristics VS. individuals.
- -Policy 135 School Board Operation: suspension of the second *public question/comment period* at regular School Board meetings will continue
- -Policy 405 Student Placement, aligns with the new legislation regarding Bill 40 providing indigenous students with school of choice and will get priority.
- -At last Board meeting, approved deletion of [Policy 505-Learning Assistance](#). Trustee Broughton stated there was a lot of discussion about this and clarified that this is part of the Boards effort to clean up the very large number of policies that are more appropriate under Human Resources department as they are basically providing job descriptions. Trustee Broughton shared that will not change the role of Learning Assistance teachers
- Approved new Board Authority Authorized (BBA) elective course “Holocaust 12: Beyond the Shoah”. Locally developed course by KSS and RSS Teachers
- Board submitted the [Annual Facilities Grant \(AFG\)](#).(page 17 of Board of Education Public meeting Agenda Package) Every three years school districts are required to submit to the Ministry of Education and Childcare. AFG funds are used to do maintenance on buildings (roof repair, HVAC, washroom upgrades, electrical, etc).
- SD23 Board of Education has passed a motion to ask the British Columbia School Trustee Association (BCSTA) to advocate to the government to increase Annual Facilities Grant funding. AFG is underfunded with millions of dollars in deferred maintenance and across the province its billions of dollars in deferred maintenance.
- Finance and Audit committee is recommending that the Board increase Bussing transportation fees for the next school year, from \$400 per student to \$450 to cover the expected increase in students using sd23 buses (2 new bus routes, increased fuel cost) estimating 5,500 students will be using SD23 bussing in September 2024. MOECC only subsidizes a small fraction of the transportation costs which requires our district to take over \$4million dollars out of our operating budget, which takes away from classrooms, to subsidize the school bus system.
- School Fees will remain the same
- Recapped highlights that Board of Education Trustees attended for the recent regional branch meeting for the Thompson Okanagan of BCSTA in Vernon.

### Deputy Superintendent Update- Terry-Lee Beaudry

- Shared info about our school districts 30-year partnership with Chuba University Haruhigaoka Junior High School in Kelowna's sister city of Kasugai, Japan. Huge thankyou to the families from Glenrosa Middle School and Constable Neil Bruce that served as Homestay parents in February for 4 days. SD23 welcomed 103 students from our sister school in Japan and this has been the first time we've been able to have them in 4 years (since 2019). This continues to be an incredible opportunity of

- exchanging students and cultures.
- Received Provincial 2024 Budget announcement – focused on Housing, Health, and Climate Change
  - Provincial level plans to hold contingency funds for wildfires due to anticipated droughts.
  - Some of the positives of this year budget for BC school districts, is the province will fund student enrollment increases -est. over \$650 million of 3 years.
  - Increase over 3 years of \$800 million for Capital, which includes the prefabricated modulars
  - We are one school district of many across the province that are really challenged with minor maintenance and deficiencies of not being able to fund it through AFG funding
  - 30 million dollars over 3 years invested in Literacy Support for K-3 students (early learning screening, advanced intervention for students that require extensive remedial support and professional development for staff). Looking forward to see what that will look like for our school district and how we can support our students in the early year.
  - the Student and Family Affordability fund is expected to come back to support families. However, this will mean less money expected for the Feeding Futures funding.
  - Significant challenge is that there are no increases to ministry budget to manage expected inflationary increases
- Due to the required budget pressures sd23 school budget for 2024/2025 year will need be conservative, more information to come over the next few months.

Assistant Superintendent shared update regarding the initial April 2023 meeting with Indigenous Education Council and COPAC President & Vice President on our path towards truth and reconciliation and introduced Jesse Bruce. *Discussed with membership in [May 2023 COPAC meeting](#).*

#### **Director of Instruction for Indigenous Education and Equity Update-Jesse Bruce**

- Discussed three distinct but connected items that are specific to Parent and Family Engagement;
  - 1. Inform and provide context to COPAC about Indigenous Education Councils (IEC)**
    - Jesse Bruce read [the announcement](#) from Ministry website: *“The province is proposing amendments to the School Act to fulfil 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 proposed changes take a distinctions-based approach and were developed collaboratively with the First Nations Education Steering Committee and reflect consultation with First Nations and Indigenous people throughout B.C. ... Changes to the School Act will require all boards to establish an Indigenous education council (IEC) in their school district to ensure Indigenous people have input into decisions affecting Indigenous students. The membership and function of IECs will recognize and reflect the local First Nations in whose territories the board operates. IECs will support boards in the provision of ongoing, comprehensive and equitable education and support services for Indigenous students, including providing Indigenous perspectives for the benefit of all students, and advice on and approving the board’s spending plans and reports in relation to Indigenous education-targeted funds.*
    - Its important to note that while this is a new provincially legislated mandate, Central Okanagan Public School District has had an Indigenous Education Council operating in our district for over 20 years.
    - Currently the Indigenous Education Council is comprised of VOTING members from Westbank First Nation, Lake Country Native Association, Okanagan Indian Band, Kelowna Metis Society, and Ki-Low-Na Friendship Centre. NON-VOTING members include SD23 senior staff and Board of Education Trustees
  - 2. The IEC is in support of 2 voting seats for parent reps, one of which would represent Westbank First Nation. The parents that are selected to be voting members of the IEC will also help to rejuvenate and reestablish the [Indigenous Parent and Family Council](#) for our community of learners. The hope is to disseminate this information through COPAC and school-based PACs to find indigenous parent representation. We invite parents/caregivers that self identify having indigenous ancestry that would like to consider contributing to COPAC and/or to the Indigenous Education Council Executive, please reach out to Jesse Bruce [jesse.bruce@sd23.bc.ca](mailto:jesse.bruce@sd23.bc.ca) or COPAC president so that we can help to make connections.**

- President Baker reiterated the ask of taking this information to your school PAC and suggested can invite Jesse to come to school PAC meeting to present this information.
- Members from IEC will be creating a one-page information document to advertise and assist with recruiting indigenous parent representation.  
<https://www.centralokanaganaindigenouseducation.com/>

**COTA - Susan Bauhart**

- Teachers are in the midst of preparing Student Learning updates (report cards)
- Cell phones are a huge issue in schools, the concern from teachers is that the hope that there will be a district wide policy rather than have it left on schools and left on teachers to establish/enforce rules. Looking forward to the ministry directions and being a part of the conversation with school district.

**CUPE – Teri Wishlow (left early).**

**DSC – No representative**

**No further Questions or Comments for Partner Groups**

Brief notes from District Committee Representatives (PEAC, HPS, Safe Schools, Early Years Partnership). *Reminder that, Past meeting minutes are posted to school district website; links to all the committees are on the [COPAC website](#)*

**Safer Schools Committee Highlights:** (Jeannette Watson)

-Principal Nathan Elliot (Central school) highlighted the new [“Take A Hike”](#) program, engages our most vulnerable youth in our district focusing on mental health wellbeing and outdoor adventures to engages our youth in a unique learning environment.

-Lake Country Fire Department is hosting a one-day workshop in April for grades10-12

-Fire Safety House will be going to schools in May, for primary grades 1- 3

**Public Education Awareness Committee** (PEAC) Stay Tuned for the Spring/Summer edition of [Together We learn](#)

**Human Rights Committee highlights:** (Deannie Z.)

-Presentation was shared showcasing the learning resource that was created for teachers K to 12 with reflective activities, inclusive practices to support Human Rights Month, Black History Month, and Inclusive Education Month for February.

“Themes of diversity, acceptance, and inclusion are embedded throughout all subjects in the curriculum, and they can be woven into cross-curricular activities”. It included links for YouTube videos for elementary or middle/high school and resources in multiple formats.

[Google’s Most Searched: A Celebration of Black History](#)

[Yes – I Can!](#)

[A LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT](#)

**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*

Members had nothing to Report

**8.0 COPAC 360**

• **Treasurer Report - Roslyn Hazen** (see attached Treasurer Report)

- Roslyn shared the bank statements showing that bank accounts for February aligned with her report.
- Motion: To accept the February 2024 Treasurers report as presented
  - Motioned by Simon A., seconded by Jeannette W.
  - **All in favour: Motion carried.**

*If anyone has any financial or treasury related questions, please reach out to Roslyn and she can help guide you [copac.treasurer@sd23.bc.ca](mailto:copac.treasurer@sd23.bc.ca)*

- SD23 2024/25 Budget Feedback- survey deadline March 4<sup>th</sup>

- **EVENTS & ENGAGEMENT:** *Jeannette W.*
  - The White Hatter on Digital Safety (March 5 & April 23). Event link and password sent via email, will be recorded, and will have 48hr access to view the recording.
  - PAC 101 Workshop – April or May *stay tuned for more info.*
  - BCCPAC Resolutions Workshop: Pre-AGM Discussion with COPAC Proxy Holders April 11<sup>th</sup> or April 18<sup>th</sup>
  - COPAC Social – May 10<sup>th</sup> same location as last year, Okanagan Mission Activity Centre. Opportunity to connect share ideas for COPAC Reps/PAC Presidents. More info to come.
  
- **ACCESSIBILITY SURVEY REMINDER** – *Deannie Z.*
  - “Help us better understand how Central Okanagan Public Schools can improve accessibility for persons with diverse abilities and disabilities. Your feedback will help guide the development of SD23 Accessibility Plan.” The survey was sent to all parents/guardians and staff on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024
    - Click here to view [Central Okanagan Public Schools Accessibility Plan 2023/2026](#)
- **Policy Committee Updates:** Policy 630 – Dedication and Naming of Schools and Facilities  
Policy 703- Relations with Parents and Students, PAC/COPAC parents serving as executive members-this will be reviewed at a future Policy meeting and will instead amend [Policy 390-Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality](#)
- **Cell Phones in Schools** – encourage PACs to review your school code of conduct a PAC meeting. As we await MECC guidance to School Districts, PACs can share reviews of School Codes of Conduct with our COPAC Community.
- **COPAC 1<sup>st</sup> Notice of AGM** – May 6, 2024
  - COPAC AGM 2024 Nominations Committee- need a couple people that are not interested in serving on COPAC exec to lead this committee
- COPAC Call for Nominations of Executive positions for the 2024/2025 School Year  
Executive nominations can be submitted at the following link:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfT09am2mR311EybgbKHc1FrXkyr1JoFrGDfsXnnpFfb\\_Odw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfT09am2mR311EybgbKHc1FrXkyr1JoFrGDfsXnnpFfb_Odw/viewform)

**President Baker gave Partner Groups an opportunity to leave the meeting.**

- **PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATION & BCCPAC** - *Nicola Baker*
  - Report on February Town Hall to discuss training Parent Advocates: The first opportunity for Parent Advocate training will be in Richmond, the day before the BCCPAC AGM. This would require the participant to pay to attend the BCCPAC Parent Conference, even if they just want to get the advocate training. COPAC has not yet established any terms for parent advocates in our district. If you think you might be interested in being a parent advocate or helping COPAC establish terms/guidelines, please reach out to our COPAC team. We will be requesting that BCCPAC provide virtual training opportunities.
  - BCCPAC Parent Conference/AGM – registration open now. Nominations for board positions will be accepted until March 31.
  - We are requesting SD23 PACs send their Proxy vote forms to us early, to help us ensure we have maximum representation at the BCCPAC AGM this year. Proxy vote form is attached. Both Nicola Baker and Simon Adams from COPAC will be attending the meeting to represent COPAC/SD23 PACs.
- Anyone interested in reviewing AGM booklets with resolutions from previous years can find them here (<https://bccpac.bc.ca/index.php/events/conference-agm/agm>) [Click here for BCCPAC Resolutions info](#)
  - Discussed 11 possible resolutions to put forward from COPAC, no objections from the membership. *See attached COPAC resolutions for BCCPAC.* It is unlikely that all these resolutions discussed will be submitted but plan to submit several over the coming weeks. We will provide copies of the submitted resolutions at our April meeting. If any PACs have suggestions, please reach out to Nicola or Simon.

**9.0 Other Business – None**

**10.0 Brief in Camera - (COPAC Members/PAC Presidents Only)**

-1 item discussed

**11.0 Adjournment** – motioned by Roslyn H. at 9:19pm

**Future Meeting**

**Next COPAC GM- Monday, May 6, 2024 7:00pm via zoom.**

**MAY: COPAC AGM Monday May 6, 2024**

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)

<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 **FEB 28/2024**

**General Account:**

HSBC

Balance Forward		\$ 5,053.16
Deposits ( )		-
Cheques written ( )		-
Interest		0.04
Service Charges		
Balance		\$ 5,053.20

**Deposits to general acct**

Description	Amount
<b>Total</b>	\$ -

**Cheques from general Account**

Description	Amount	Chq #
<b>Total</b>	\$ -	

**Gaming Account:**

HSBC

Balance Forward		\$ 2,873.96
Deposits ( )		-
Cheques written ( )		-
Interest		0.02
Service Charges		
Balance		\$ 2,873.98

**Cheques from Gaming Account**

Description	Amount	Chq #
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ -	

**Outstanding Commitments**

# COPAC SPENDING SUMMARY (2023-2024)

Current To: 2024-02-29

EXPENSES		BUDGET	EXPENSES	VARIANCE
General Account	BCCPAC Fees for SD23 PACs	\$ 3,375.00	2,625.00	750.00
	Communication Resources	\$ 1,500.00	509.46	990.54
	Conference Fees	\$ 500.00		
	Education	\$ 1,500.00	17.06	1,482.94
	Travel	\$ 1,300.00		1,300.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$ 8,175.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,151.52</b>	<b>\$ 4,523.48</b>

Gaming Account	BCCPAC DPAC Membership	\$ 150.00	150.00	-
	PAC Community Building	\$ 1,100.00		1,100.00
	Presenter Fees	\$ 1,250.00		1,250.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$ 2,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 150.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,350.00</b>

ACCOUNT	STARTING BALANCE	EXPENSES	REVENUE	CURRENT BALANCE
General	\$ 3,204.49	3,151.52	5,000.23	5,053.20
Gaming	\$ 523.87	150.00	2,500.11	2,873.98
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,728.36</b>	<b>3,301.52</b>	<b>7,500.34</b>	<b>7,927.18</b>

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