Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council



Annual Report 2022/2023

I am pleased to table the following joint year-end report on behalf of the members of the COPAC Executive.

Just 2 years ago, your COPAC Executive members committed themselves to a simple set of goals. COPAC set out to:

- Strengthen the effectiveness and awareness of COPAC
- Increase the number and strength of PACs in SD23
- Increase engagement and collaboration with SD23 Trustees and senior staff

2 years on, we're proud to say COPAC has repositioned itself as a respected, cohesive organization giving greater voice to parents and PACs while advancing public education in our community. Some notable COPAC accomplishments this year included:

- Co-hosted with DSC the only all-candidates forum leading up to the 2022 School Board election
- Provided DPAC input on the application of the BC MOECC Student and Family Affordability Fund in SD23
- Hosted online workshops for bylaw amendments and hot lunch programs
- Hosted a district-wide ADHD learning event attended by 430 participants
- Provided thought leadership and coordination that will lead to more effective efforts to reimagine the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (aka BCCPAC)
- Led a "letter to the Premier" initiative advocating for more capital funding for School Districts in British Columbia.
- Following the annual SD23 Budget Presentation at the February COPAC meeting, we worked to actively encourage parents to provide feedback into the district's budget feedback survey (ThoughtExchange). 2023 results showed record input from the community.
- Continue to work with eSchool23 to support the formation of a PAC for their parent community
- Hosted John Morrone, principal of eSchool23 at our January COPAC meeting to inform our membership about the opportunities available to students and families at eSchool23, the distance learning school of SD23.
- Developed a PST/GST rebate procedure for PACs

- Developed a charitable donation procedure for PACs
- Advocated on behalf of parents and PACs to protect the second public comment and question period and access to publicly elected Trustees at open School Board meetings
- Advocated at SD23 Education and Student Services Committees to ensure the BC School Act was followed requiring middle and high school PACs to approve fee changes with Specialty Academies
- A continued commitment to support CMS and HMS PACs as they work to support some challenges within their parent communities surrounding the implementation of a new learning model at their schools
- Changed COPAC Bylaws to ensure alignment with current climate and operational demands of COPAC
- Completed our first PAC Impact Survey revealing 21 out of 45 PACs in the 21/22 school year contributed \$387,509 in funding to support students
- Worked with the SD23 IT team to once again provide SD23 Zoom licenses for all PACs
- Provided parent voice at all SD23 School Board and Committee meetings and most SD23 School District Committee Meetings.
- Met with the SD23 Indigenous Education Council to discuss how COPAC could support the Indigenous Parent and Family Council and ensure we are providing a space that is welcoming to Indigenous parents.
- Provided crisis management and knowledge mobilization support to PACs to build capacity in addressing emergent issues
- Had a Parent Representative attend the ArtStarts Showcase to help determine which performance arts programs will be available in the 23/24 school year
- Hosted an in-person Spring Social for PAC Executive members to celebrate and honour our collective work
- Produced a Central-Interior PAC Volunteer Campaign ready for a back-to school September launch

Many of COPAC's accomplishments were achieved through meaningful support and partnerships with the Superintendent, SD23 Trustees, senior staff, PAC volunteers, COTA, CUPE, District Student Council representatives, and other partners and collaborators. We thank all of you for your continued support.

We were proud to serve on COPAC this year and look forward to renewed collaboration in the next school year!

Signed,

Simon Adams, President Nicola Baker, Vice President Roslyn Hazen, Treasurer Shannon Gallivan, Penny Liao-Lussier, and Deannie Zahara, Members At Large