The Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council

Annual General Meeting Minutes
Date: May 5th, 2025, 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),** Deannie Zahara, Leslie Atwell(**DRK** alternate), Nathan Hind**(BCE** alternate**),** Jeanette Watson (**OKM** alternate), *Simon Adams **(CMS)**-regrets,*

In Attendance: Kristina G.-**AME,** Meeno T.-**ASM,** Mikaela D.(Pres)- **BHE,** Jenny L.-**BME,** Ingeborg K.-**CAS,** Shannon T.-**CTE,**
Ally C..-**DRE,** Allyssa M.-**GRE,** Victoria T-**OTS,** Madisyn P.**-PSE,** Amanda D.-**QGE&SMS**, Lisa S.**-RLE,** Kevin G.-**SVE,** Sabrina Chapman-**WAT,** Carmen K**-OKM,** Amanda K.-**RMS & RSS,** Cadre S.-**KSS,** Camilla B.

PARTNERS PRESENT:
Superintendent of Schools- Kevin Kaardal
Acting Deputy Superintendent- Jon Rever (regrets)
Board of Education: Trustee Chantell Desrosiers
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 shared acknowledgement that today, *May 5th is **Red Dress Day**, the **National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People**. This day serves as a solemn reminder of the ongoing crisis of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals across Canada. The red dress symbolizes the lives lost and the voices that must be heard.*

2.0 **Guest Speaker** –none due to AGM

3.0 Establish Quorum *(10 Voting Members)* **Established with 22 school PACs.**

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

4.0 Agenda: Additions/Approval
Motion: To accept the May 5th, 2025, COPAC Annual General Meeting Agenda as presented.
Motioned by Shannon T., seconded by Jeannette W.
All in favour: **Motion caried**

5.0 Minutes: Additions/Approval
Motion: To accept the April 7th, 2025, minutes as circulated.
Motioned by Kristina G., seconded by Camilla B.
All in favour: **Motion caried**

6.0 SD23 PARTNER GROUP REPORTS

Trustee Update – Trustee Chantelle Desrosiers

- Trustee Desrosiers shared some highlights for the 25/26 school budget to address the over $5million funding shortfall.
- Eliminating Deputy Superintendent position
- Discretionary budgets reduced at the district and school levels
- Increase of CUPE staff 8 FTE
- Positive regarding funding is that the Feeding Futures Fund continues at 2.5 million- Breakfast and more food security provided in our district.
- New bus and staging compound approved to be at Quigley Elementary
- Highlight lots of upcoming exciting activities happening in school communities.

Superintendent Update- Kevin Kaardal

- Superintendent Kaardal shared updates regarding the more than $5M budget pressure in our district this year and the ways SD23 staff have recommended we deal with budget challenges.
  Central Okanagan Public Schools Superintendent of Schools/CEO 2025/2026 Budget Recommendations Report
  2025/2026 Annual Budget approval will take place at the June 25th Public Board Meeting
  Final Recommendation will be submitted to the Ministry of Education and Childcare June 30th

COPAC President expressed appreciation of all the nuanced work from finance team where thankfully we will not see a loss to teaching or CUPE staff. There have been some changes made at the district level, but all efforts have been made to maintain service levels across the district. Please share questions or concerns with COPAC Exec anytime.

If you are interested in the budget development discussions, the School Board meetings and/or the *Planning & Finance* committee meetings they are open to the public. Click this link for upcoming meeting agendas. https://pub-sd23.escribemeetings.com/?Year=2024

COTA – Susan Bauhart, President

- Posting season for teachers, so parents may be hearing of any staffing changes at PAC meetings or otherwise soon.

DSC – *no rep present*

No further Questions or Comments for Partner Groups, Nicola gave opportunity to leave meeting 7:44pm

Brief notes from District Committee Representatives (PEAC, Human Rights, 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
- Nothing to report

7.0 PAC 360 – Nicola Baker

- Nicola shared that this is a great opportunity to share highlights of what is happening in your school.
- Superintendent Kardaal shared that "Student and Family Affordability" Fund ends this year

8.0 COPAC 360

- **Treasurer Report** – *Leslie A.* (see attached Treasurer Report)
  - Leslie shared the bank statements showing that bank accounts for April aligned with her report.
  - Motion: To accept the April 2025 Treasurers report as presented
    - Motioned by Cadre S., seconded by Jeannette W.
    - **All in favour: Motion carried.**

**Reminder to submit your PAC 2024 BC Gaming Application IMMEDIATELY, DUE by June 30
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

- PACs & School Administration working together in a tight budget year
    - PACs can connect with their school Principal to hear about how budget pressures are impacting your school and to collaborate on meeting the pressures in creative ways. Consider your PAC financial support may be best used in a different yet still meaningful way in tighter budget years. We want to make it clear that PACs cannot fund staffing or core operational needs—but they can support a more nuanced approach to easing strain. Please reach out to COPAC President if you would like to discuss.

- **EVENTS & ENGAGEMENT:** *Deannie Z.*
    - COPAC Social – Tuesday, May 27th at Central school on Dehart Ave
        - 6:30-8:30pm signup required, form to be circulated.
        - Opportunity to connect in person, celebrate and share ideas for COPAC Reps/PAC Presidents.
    - COPAC hosting Hannah Beach –"Understanding Adolescence" zoom workshop for parents.
        - Save the date: October 16th, 2025. More details to come in the fall

- Partners for Inclusive Education (PIE) Meeting – May 27th via Zoom 6:30-7:30pm
    - *Agenda: School Transitions*
    - Still working on creating awareness of these meeting please share with your school community
    - Past meeting resources and more can be found on district website https://www.sd23.bc.ca/partners-for-inclusive-education-inclusiveeducation

- **Community Partners** – information sharing.
    - BGC Okanagan: Restorative Justice- Geared toward middle/high school *youth and "offers a court-alternative resolution process for youth and young adults. Our program focuses on repairing the harm caused by conflict or crime through a collaborative and inclusive approach."*
      They've reached out to COPAC Exec, that they can attend PAC meetings to share meaningful conversations about restorative justice—what it is, how it works, and the ways it can support youth, families, and schools to ultimately fosterer stronger, more resilient communities.
      Click here to view of the programs offered
      https://www.bgco.ca/club-location/central-okanagan/kelowna/

    - WWEST-May 12th (West Coast Women in Science, Engineering, and Technology) is an inspiring team of STEAM educators bringing hands-on science learning to youth across western Canada. We're fortunate to have them based in Kelowna and actively involved in our STEAM Ecosystem BC – Okanagan. WWEST regularly visits SD23 classrooms, offering free science workshops, and participates in school carnivals and community events. They're also available to partner with your PAC to host exciting STEAM events at your school. While their services are free, WWEST is grant-funded—so donations make a big impact and are often matched by grant programs. Please consider supporting WWEST to help them continue their incredible work in our community!

- **ADVOCACY**
    - COPAC Exec is working with our provincial partner DPACs on advocacy for increased funding to public education in BC. We are particularly focused on increases to address inflation over the last several years and increased costs of teacher and staff illness. COPAC is signed on to a letter to Premier Eby along with other DPACs. If your PAC would like to send a letter, please connect with Nicola for help on content.

- Provincial Representation & BCCPAC
    - BCCPAC AGM May 23-25, Prince George BC and Online
    - Proxy Forms – Please complete proxy forms ASAP (UPDATE to process)

- As of May 5th, 8 out of 29 SD23 PACs have submitted their Proxy
- BCCPAC Resolutions https://bccpac.bc.ca/images/AGM/2025_AGM_Booklet.pdf
- Previous AGM Meeting minutes, Townhall Summit resources, Gaming Grant webinars and more can be found on their website

9.0 COPAC AGM

- **Annual Report** – COPAC Executive (Nicola presented joint report, see attached)
  The Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council (COPAC) is proud to present our 2024-2025 Annual Report, reflecting a year of collaboration, advocacy, and growth. Guided by our mission to strengthen public education, school communities, and authentic family engagement, COPAC worked diligently to elevate the voice of parents and caregivers across SD23 and the province.
  - Motion: To Accept the 2024/2025 Annual Report as Presented
    - Motioned by Simon A., seconded by Tanya L.
    - **All in favour: Motion caried**

- COPAC Budget: **Treasurer's projected year-end report 2024/2025** – Leslie A.
  - Motion: To Accept the 2024/2025 Treasurer's Projected Year-End Report
    - Motioned by Kristina G., seconded by Jeannette W.
    - **All in favour: Motion caried**

  Draft COPAC Budget for 2025/2026 will be presented at the June meeting, to be approved at the September meeting.

- **2025/2026 COPAC Executive Election** – Camila Biffard
  - Notice of Nominations made at last three COPAC General Meetings for the COPAC Executive positions. Nominations forms were circulated electronically to COPAC reps and PAC Presidents, from those we received one nomination for each position for the 2024/2025 school year as follows:
    - **President, Nicola Baker**
    - **Vice President, Leslie Atwell**
    - **Treasurer, Jeannette Watson**
    - **Secretary, Deannie Zahara**
    - **Members at Large- Nathan Hind**, **Cadre Simpson,** *(one MaL position left unfilled, and can remain open to fill at the September General Meeting)*

  After three calls for nominations from the floor and that there were no further nominations, the Nominations Committee Chair declared the following nominees are appointed by acclamation: Leslie Atwell is elected Vice President, Jeanette Watson is elected Treasurer, and Cadre Simpson are elected Members At Large for a 1-year term beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 by unanimous consent of the members present.
    - Motioned by Camila B. to accept these nominees, seconded by Sabrina W.
      All in favour: Motion carried.

- Whereas the current COPAC President has completed two consecutive one-year terms, the President has expressed willingness to continue serving for one additional year, no other nominations for President have been brought forward and the COPAC bylaws allow for an extension of officer terms beyond two years if approved by a vote of the membership,

  - Motioned by Camila B. and seconded by Sabrina W. that the COPAC membership approve an extension of the current President's term for one additional year (2025–2026), allowing Nicola Baker to serve a third consecutive term. **All in favour: Motion carried.**

- Whereas the current COPAC Secretary has completed two consecutive one-year terms, Deannie Zahara has expressed willingness to continue serving for one additional year,

no other nominations for Secretary have been brought forward and the COPAC bylaws allow for an extension of officer terms beyond two years if approved by a vote of the membership,

- Motioned by Camila B. and seconded by Carmen K. that the COPAC membership approve an extension of the current Secretary's term for one additional year (2025–2026), allowing Deannie Zahara to serve a third consecutive term. **All in favour: Motion carried.**

- Whereas the current COPAC Member at Large Nathan Hind has completed two consecutive one-year terms, COPAC Member at Large Nathan Hind has expressed willingness to continue serving for one additional year, no other nominations for Member at Large have been brought forward and the COPAC bylaws allow for an extension of officer terms beyond two years if approved by a vote of the membership,

  - Motioned by Camila B. and seconded by Sabrina W. that the COPAC membership approve an extension of the COPAC Member at Large Nathan Hind term for one additional year (2025–2026), allowing Nathan Hind to serve a third consecutive term. **All in favour: Motion carried.**

President Baker shared gratitude for Simon Adams outgoing COPAC Member for all the support he has provided to COPAC and SD23 PACs over the last several years.

- **Changes to COPAC Signing Authorities**
  - Motion to name signing authority for Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council (COPAC) as follows; **Nicola Baker**-President, **Leslie Atwell**-Vice President, **Jeanette Watson**- Treasurer and to remove signing authority for **Simon Adams**-Member at Large *(outgoing* Member at Large), effective July 1, 2024.
    - Motioned by Sabrina C., seconded by Cadre S.
    - **All in favour: Motion carried.**

10.0 Other Business – None

11.0 Adjournment – motioned by Nicola B. at 8:42pm

Future Meeting

COPAC General Meeting- Monday, June 2nd, 2025, 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 **APR 30/2025**

General Account:
Interior Savings

Balance Forward	$ 7,203.33
Deposits ()	-
Cheques written ()	-
Interest	
Service Charges	10.00
Balance	**$ 7,193.33**

Deposits to general acct

Description	Amount
Total	$ -

Cheques from general Account

Description	Amount	Chq #
Total	$ -	

Gaming Account:
Interior Savings

Balance Forward	$ 3,173.42
Deposits ( )	
Cheques written ()	1,609.00
Interest	
Service Charges	10.00
Balance	**$ 1,554.42**

Cheques from Gaming Account

Description	Amount	Chq #
BCCPAC AGM Registration Fee	$ 349.00	1003
Heather Beach Parent Presentation	$ 1,260.00	1004
TOTAL	$ 1,609.00	

PROJECTED YEAR END TREASURER'S REPORT (2024-2025)

EXPENSES		BUDGET	EXPENSES	VARIANCE
General Account	Cheque Orders		122.72	- 122.72
	BCCPAC AGM Fees	$ 650.00		650.00
	Travel & Education	$ 2,000.00	984.15	1,015.85
	Social		500.00	- 500.00
	Education	$ 2,500.00		2,500.00
	BCCPAC Fees for SD23 PACS	$ 1,500.00		1,500.00
	Bank Fees		120.00	- 120.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES	**$ 6,650.00**	**$ 1,726.87**	**$ 4,923.13**

Gaming Account	BCCPAC AGM 2024 Costs		324.00	- 324.00
	Cheque Orders		100.57	- 100.57
	BCCPAC Fees	$ 200.00	200.00	-
	BCCPAC AGM Costs		1,000.00	- 1,000.00
	Heather Beech Parent Presentation	$ 2,500.00	1,260.00	1,240.00
	Social	$ 1,200.00	500.00	700.00
	Bank Fees		128.25	- 128.25
	TOTAL EXPENSES	**$ 3,900.00**	**$ 3,512.82**	**$ 387.18**

ACCOUNT	STARTING BALANCE	EXPENSES	REVENUE	CURRENT BALANCE
General	$ 1,716.05	1,726.87	5,700.00	5,689.18
Gaming	$ 1,396.24	3,512.82	2,500.00	383.42
TOTAL	**$ 3,112.29**	**5,239.69**	**8,200.00**	**6,072.60**

Printed as of: 2025-05-05

Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council (COPAC)

Annual Report 2024-2025

The Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council (COPAC) is proud to present our 2024-2025 Annual Report, reflecting a year of collaboration, advocacy, and growth. Guided by our mission to strengthen public education, school communities, and authentic family engagement, COPAC worked diligently to elevate the voice of parents and caregivers across SD23 and the province.

Key Activities and Achievements

District Engagement and Parent Voice

- Continued to push for resolution throughout the year on the obstruction of PAC funded enhancement projects
- COPAC President and Vice President held monthly meetings with the Superintendent and engaged in frequent discussions with senior SD23 staff to address emergent issues.
- Provided parent input to the Central Okanagan School Board into the Superintendent search process.
- Maintained parent representative roles on district committees including Human Rights, Health Promoting Schools, Public Education Appreciation Committee, Safe Schools Committee and in the STEAM Ecosystem BC monthly meetings, ensuring parent perspectives informed local initiatives.
- Continued support of the district initiative to restart the Indigenous Parent and Family Council, and invited Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction for Indigenous Education, to a COPAC meeting to share updates and introduce the two new parent representatives on the Indigenous Education Council

Promoting Parent Engagement, Feedback and Advocacy

- Advocated for meaningful parent engagement opportunities by promoting surveys and other channels for parent input at both the district and provincial levels.
- Worked with SD23 senior staff to draw from Brookings Institute's insights on authentic family-school engagement, aiming to build trust and collaboration between parents, teachers, and administrators.

- Continued to support and raise awareness of *Partners for Inclusive Education (PIE)* by ensuring a dedicated contact email (copac.pie@sd23.bc.ca), supporting new Chair Sarena Smith, and navigating the leadership transition following the retirement and appointment of new Inclusive Education department leads.
- Invited to participate as a local community organization in the City of Kelowna *Future of Kelowna's Urban Centres* engagement. COPAC was encouraged to provide DPAC/Parent perspective on the strengths, challenges and opportunities in each of the five Urban Centres in Kelowna.
- Hosted parent learning opportunity on AI with Jennie King from Science World

Provincial Engagement and Advocacy

- Supported duly elected BCCPAC President Bonnie McBride, Vice President Resha Sabti and Director Simon Adams, during the fall 2024 turmoil and events at BCCPAC that ultimately led to their resignations.
- Advocated for increased transparency at BCCPAC via resolutions submitted at 2024 and 2025 AGMs
- Collaborated with a coalition of provincial DPAC leaders to elevate public education issues in the media ahead of the 2024 provincial election, contributing to advocacy efforts such as the *Medium* article on portable classrooms. (https://medium.com/@bcdpacs/fund-portables-build-schools-bc-election-2024-4bfc4498b3ef) See coalition website at: www.bcdpacs.ca
- Strengthened connections with DPACs across the province, building a powerful, united parent advocacy network.
- Participated on the BC Facilities Group (via COPAC Member at Large Nathan Hind)
- Attended the BCCPAC Fall Summit (virtual) to observe the board's management/revisionist history of the fall events and to ensure COPAC maintains a presence and strong voice in provincial education discussions.

Support for PACs

- Offered direct support to many PACs, providing procedural guidance and neutral, third-party assistance in resolving complex issues including AGM support.
- Encouraged PACs to review and update bylaws, offering templates and guidance on digital document storage.
- Created PAC Bylaw guidance document to support Bylaw review and updates (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yrsoD2RH8_zOrwD2SX70qPZmvG33KFo_3tQM6OegZ-8/edit?usp=sharing)
- Planned and promoted PAC education sessions, including PAC 101, Treasurer 101 and bylaw update seminars in Fall 2024 and Winter 2025.

- Identified potential gaps in insurance coverage for PAC volunteers. We continue to explore the limits and options for PAC liability coverage.
- Created an SD23 PAC Purchase Idea Guide to support PACs in generating ideas for enrichment of school communities. (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qbdOhUWZMWf698lF6GNzeEBG9yBxrc5pQ5t7PTBskSU/edit?usp=sharing)

Looking Ahead

COPAC remains committed to fostering strong, equitable public education in SD23 and the BC Public Education system. We will continue our work to ensure parents are viewed as vital partners in education, advocate for improved student experiences, and nurture collaborative relationships with all educational partner groups.

Together, we harness the power of our community to uplift and transform public education.

Nicola Baker, COPAC President 2024/2025

Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council (COPAC)
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