



**Central Okanagan
Public Schools**
Together We Learn

News Release

January 10, 2019

Board of Education Supports Parent Advisory Councils

The Board of Education of Central Okanagan Public Schools wishes to address the widely reported alleged theft of funds from two Parent Advisory Councils (PAC): Glenrosa Elementary PAC and South Rutland Elementary PAC. These events are under investigation by the RCMP.

The Board of Education appreciates all the work undertaken by parents and their communities to support extra programs for students, and Trustees share the dismay felt by the school communities when these thefts came to light.

While the Board of Education is willing to provide support to Parent Advisory Councils, PACs have a large degree of autonomy under the School Act and Board Policy, and the Board has very little legal authority to exercise oversight on the management of their fundraising accounts and efforts. However, the Board will be offering support to PACs in a number of ways.

The Board has asked District staff to provide "Best Practice" documents to support all PAC Executives with their work. The Board of Education has also offered to have School District finance staff review the accounting practices and financial statements of any PAC that requests this support.

The Board will also suggest that all PACs review their Constitution and Bylaws to ensure they are up to date and reflect the roles and responsibilities of all Executive Members. In this regard, the Board will continue to work with the Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council as they provide support to their member PACs.

In addition, the Board of Education has asked District staff to work with the Executives of the PACs whose accounts have been compromised, to find ways to provide bridge funding (primarily through loans) to support activities like field studies. Parents and the Principals of the schools will consider potential fundraising activities to replace the stolen funds.

Most importantly, the Board values the important work undertaken by Parent Advisory Councils in the areas of fundraising for extra school programs and activities and also in providing input and advice on the education programs offered in our schools. Having sound accounting practices in place will help protect PACs and their Executive Members as they continue to work on behalf of the students in their schools.

For questions/comments, please contact:
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