



**Central Okanagan
Public Schools**
Together We Learn

Central Okanagan Public Schools

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

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Date: Sept 8, 2021

Robert Miles
OCP Project Planner
City of Kelowna
1435 Water Street
Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 1J4

Dear Mr. Miles,

SUBJECT: OCP Review

School District staff supports the City of Kelowna 2040 Official Community Plan.

The City of Kelowna planning staff have continued to reach out and solicit feedback from the School District as the City plans for the next 20+ years. The Central Okanagan Public Schools (SD23) has provided update information with respect to SD23's historical, current and projected capacity and enrollments for schools. In addition, SD23 has provided information on facilities planning with respect to the facility needs of SD23 over the next 20-30 years based on current demographic trends. SD23 and the City planning department have engaged in discussion regarding population growth, enrolment projections, areas of concern regarding schools and potential school site needs.

The School District staff and the City staff over the years have continued to collaborate with each other to identify potential schools sites for new development in Area Structure Plans and the OCP land use map. The growth scenario that has been developed for this recent OCP is now focused growth in the urban core. With growth now focused on densifying existing developed areas, continued discussions between the City and SD23 are necessary to mitigate risks that there will not be suitable sites in the urban core areas for new schools to accommodate student population growth in these areas. In order to serve the community effectively for education, it is important, that school site needs are included in community planning as well as understand the potential need to expand current educational facilities.

Accommodation and expansion of the urban core must consider the need for schools and school amenities such as play space, parking, pick up/drop off areas and other transportation options to and from schools. Land acquisition for schools in the urban core is significantly more challenging than in a new suburban neighbourhood development that sets aside land for school sites as part of their subdivision plans. As the focus is now for the population growth to be in the urban cores, if the support of families is an important consideration for the OCP, the allocation of previous school sites for future school development is integral to maintaining the attractiveness, vitality and viability of core neighbourhoods. The variety of housing that is a suitable choice for families in the urban core should also be accompanied by amenities that are attractive for families and schools.

The identification and designation for potential school sites to accommodate the population growth is important for community and school planning. The collaboration with the local government regarding new schools or school

additions provides the support for future funding from the Ministry of Education to accommodate a School District's future growth issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the review of the OCP and allowing the School District to have a voice in this process. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the writer at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,



David Widdis
Planning Manager

Copy: Ryan Stierman, Secretary Treasurer
Mitch Van Aller, Director of Operations