



Via Zoom
2:30 p.m.

Facilitator: Trustee Austin

We would like to give thanks and acknowledge that the lands on which we work and learn are on the shared traditional territory of the Qualicum and Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose) First Nations People.

MANDATE:

To discuss and make recommendations to the Board on aspects of teaching, learning and educational equity. We will strive to have all students receive whatever they need to develop to their full academic and social potential and to thrive every day.

SCHOOLS AND/OR PROGRAMS

Kwalikum Secondary School Europe Trip

Jaret Abel and students attended to give presentations on their March 2023 Europe trip. 43 students went to Dachau, Germany, Prague, Czechoslovakia and Paris, France. Before leaving on the trip the group talked about ways to mitigate the environmental impact of the trip. They picked up 200lbs of garbage and received over \$1200 in bottle recycling. Bi-weekly meetings were held prior to the trip to talk about safety when traveling, traveling through airports. Jaret offered a Genocide 12 study course to augment the trip. We broke into 5 break out groups and students spoke to their experiences and impressions. Dachau created meaningful impressions and helped further their understanding of the holocaust. Prague was a favorite place. Friendships and bonds were strengthened and confidence, both in travel and personally was built.

Nanoose Bay Elementary School Music Program and Indigenous Learning

Kevin McKee, Principal, Kerri Faa, Teacher, and Linda Rabideau, First Nations Liaison presenting.

Kerri showed a great video that provided the size and scope of the music program at NBES. Every student has access to 50 minutes of music a week with many students taking advantage of extra music time in the choir and the substantial concert band. Music is community, is collaboration, is play, and is creative.



From Kerri's notes:

Understandings on the benefits of music education for all learners: (Not an exhaustive list!)

**Music in school is 'therapy first', academic/cognitive second. It creates the 'safe learning environment' that every child needs and deserves. {Social/Emotional Learning}*

**Music learning supports structuring neural pathways that strengthen working memory, developing perseverance (thank you practice skills!) and boosts healthy risk taking.*

**Music learning builds capacity for problem solving, collaboration, tolerance of others and strengthens self-confidence.*

**Musically trained learners demonstrate higher levels of auditory processing, resulting in improvements in speech/language & social aptitudes.*

**Music learning makes every other learning area (LIT/NUMERACY) easier for students!*

**Music learning fosters inhibitory control in the brain – strengthening learner’s capacity to sit with frustration and learn to work through it.*

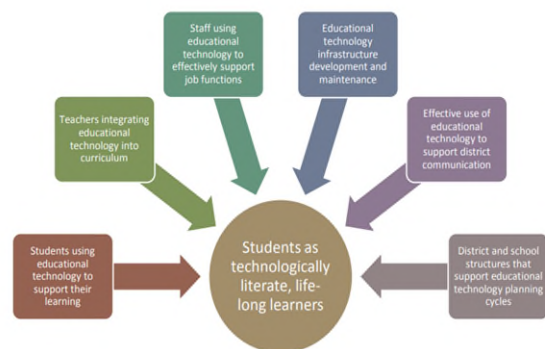
Recommended reading : The Music Advantage - How Music Helps Your Child Develop, Learn, and Thrive <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/670698/the-music-advantage-by-dr-anita-collins/9780593421451>

Linda shared her love of her culture and the Indigenous Ways of Knowing, Being and Doing. She shared the work that's been done on the school's Circle of Courage that includes Love, Respect, Honesty.... The culture club is open to all students and they have done projects on shawl making, the meanings of songs, drum making, and what the animals mean to them. Words from the Hul'q'umin'um' Language are introduced during weekly announcements. A beautiful display of student made hearts honour the ones who did not survive Residential School and honours the survivors as well. We learned of the medicine bags and the traditional game of Lahal. Thanks to LesLIE Sam for his inspired art and Shirley Bob for help in making connections with the Coastal peoples. Room 12 has the incredible opportunity to take a trip in June to the Ditidaht First Nations to be part of the reserve and take part in Paddle Days.



Hul'q'umin'um' Language
 Sta'kaya is the Hul'q'umin'um word for wolf.
 Xwtluqutch is the Hul'q'umin'um word for cougar.
 Spa'ath is the Hul'q'umin'um word for bear.

Technology Management



Rudy Terpstra, Director of Instruction, gave an update on the Technology Plan.

Goal #1: Student Centered Learning – To provide and support educational technology for staff and students to support development of curricular and core competencies that enhance student achievement and independence.

Goal #2: Quality Teaching and Leadership – Expand capacity of our educators on the use of technology.

Goal #3: Social/Emotional Learning – To foster healthy relationships with technology while also creating safe and positive digital citizens.

We have 2497 devices in total in the district, with staff accessing 548. The students access devices at a 3:1 ratio.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND CLIMATE ACTION

Student Leadership Climate Conference, April 19th

This fantastic event is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19th, after the Education Committee of the Whole Meeting, so we will speak to it at the May Education Committee of the Whole Meeting. Congrats to a great symposium!

AES/Community Brant Festival

Trustee Austin acknowledged the great collaboration of school and community in putting on the environmental fair during the Brant Children's Festival. Community groups such as Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers, Broombusters, and Wetland Restoration shared space with the students who had wonderful interactive displays of artwork and information sharing about the Brant goose, their reliance on a healthy environment as well as other environmental concerns. Thank you to all that helped make this happen!

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

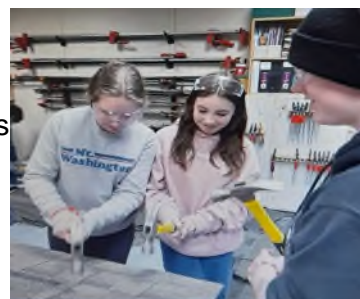
Updates from student meetings around the district (YDI team) - More on this at the next meeting

SHARED LEARNING

Update from Director of Instruction

Rudy Terpstra gave updates on the now completed "Walking Alongside" series that was well attended with between 30-50 participants. Staff also attended the student self-assessment and core competencies presentation by Katie White.

Rudy spoke to our district strategic planning sessions and the survey results from parents and teachers looking at core skills programs. The district offered a "Try a Trade" day for grade 8 students. There were hands on opportunities to plumb a sink, work on small engines, carpentry skills with building a header and roof shed, how to change a tire, to name a few. There was a wealth of experience shared.



Early Learning Updates

Gillian Wilson, Associate Superintendent, shared a new pre-school type program being offered for the first time in the district. Children enrolled in the kindergarten program beginning September 2024 have an opportunity to attend Oceanside or Errington Elementary schools starting next month. They will attend for 2 hours, 2 times a week for 6 weeks. In September, we will see if this introduction helped students settle more easily into Kindergarten.



That discussion of course, lead to Pete the Cat, a favourite and annual event to welcome families and new kindergarten students that will be held on Thursday, April 20. Multiple tables are set up showcasing some of the many resources available to families in our district.

Other updates included an expansion of the STREAM program at Arrowview Elementary to two classes, instead of one, with no new staffing implications. There is a small waitlist for Kindergarten French Immersion and the Primary Community Learning Program at Oceanside Elementary is still one class.

Resources:

SD69 STREAM <https://www.sd69.bc.ca/Lists/Calendar/Attachments/4715/STREAM%20Brochure.pdf>

Primary Learning Community Program
<https://www.sd69.bc.ca/Programs/ElementaryPOC/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION TO MOVE TO THE BOARD MEETING

None

UPCOMING TOPICS

- Further discussion regarding recording of the Education Committee of the Whole Meetings was deferred to May's meeting due to time constraints.
- Secondary School Indigenous Education Courses and the Graduation Requirements.
- Report from staff who are attending the Mental Health in Schools Conference being held in Richmond May 2/3, 2023

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, May 16 at 2:30 p.m. (via Zoom)

ADJOURNMENT

The Education Committee of the Whole Meeting Adjourned at 4:10 pm