



Yath ċisum
Always growing
Grandissons ensemble

**Qualicum School District
Education Committee of the Whole
Tuesday, January 16, 2024
2:30 P.M.
Via Video Conferencing**

Facilitator: Trustee Julie Austin

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

Career Education

Career counselors Darin Carmichael, Martin Jedlik, Christopher Gauvin, Greg Muirhead gave a full report on career options and programs offered in our district.

Discussed was the Work Experience program in the Career Education Department. Students engage in jobs within the community to gain practical experience. To complete the course, students need 100 hours in their job, along with assignments reflecting on their work and connecting it to future career possibilities. Participation not only enhances awareness of employment but also earns students credits applicable towards graduation. Currently, 270 students in grades 9 to 12 are part of this program through Ballenas, Kwalikum, and CEAP.

Work experience placements facilitated by students, families, or schools, connect students with various employers. It emphasizes apprenticeships, with examples of students entering trades. The Head Start program allows students to complete the first year of university during high school, earning both high school and university credits. A student shared her experience planning and taking the dental hygiene course at VIU. The government funds initiatives, including a pilot healthcare dual credit expansion program. The dual credit program, allows flexibility to accommodate individual student interests and career paths and emphasizes the flexibility and personalized learning approach of dual credit programs. This approach supports a more tailored educational experience.

The discussion covered various programs and initiatives related to career education. Highlights include a Healthcare Dual Credit Expansion Program, Summer Explore the Trades program, Fire Camp, and RCMP Camp. These initiatives aim to provide students with hands-on experiences, skills development, and exposure to various career paths, emphasizing trades, health sciences, and public safety. Additionally, elementary students participate in events like District Skills Day, fostering awareness and celebrating achievements in trades and engineering. The conversation also touched on funding, partnerships, and the government's support for these programs.

Work In Trades – Youth Apprenticeships

- ▶ 29 Qualicum District students signed Youth Trade Apprenticeships in 2022/23
- ▶ 20 so far in 2023/24
- ▶ 18 students received \$1000 from Ministry of Education as award for reaching 900 hours for the 22/23 year
- ▶ Four Ministry courses (WRK 11a/b, WRK12a/b) and 16 credits towards graduation
- ▶ Ages 15-19 and employed with a sponsor
- ▶ Leads directly to Dual Credit opportunity at post secondary

District Skills Day

Oceanside Elementary
9:30 AM - 1:00 PM. Friday February 9th.

Find Your Fit

Qualicum Beach Elementary
9:30 - 2:00. Wednesday, February 14th.

Cardboard Boat Challenge

Qualicum Beach Rec Center
9:30 - 11:30 and
Ravensong Aquatic Centre 12:00 - 1:00 Friday, May 24th.



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The discussion highlighted upcoming events, including "Find Your Fit" for grade sevens in February, exposing them to various career opportunities, and the "Cardboard Boat Challenge" in May, where students build and race boats across a pool.

Resources:

Head Start/ Dual Credit Programs:

Qualicum School District - <https://www.sd69.bc.ca/Programs/CE/Pages/Dual-Credit-.aspx#/≡>

Province of BC - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/dual-credit>

Indigenous Education



Katie Marren, District Principal of the Indigenous Education Program, shared a significant event involving Indigenous Elders from Snaw-naw-as at Nanoose Bay Elementary School last September. The ceremony featured a blanketing ceremony of the Elders, a tradition that symbolizes respect and gratitude. The students also acknowledged the Elders by drumming and singing a west coast song that represents family and community coming together.

After lunch, Elder Jim Bob announced he would like to gift a name to the school. - "**hw'i'alas** " meaning "to look out for or watch over." This is a wonderful honour and will move forward in a thoughtful, inclusive collaborative way with the local First Nations.

The discussion then touched on the Indigenous Education Committee, recent legislation, and the need for thoughtful engagement with the Indigenous community. Overall, the focus is on fostering understanding, support, and collaboration in the spirit of reconciliation.

FESL(Framework for Enhancing Student Learning) update

Superintendent Peter Jory walked the committee through the evolution of reporting student achievement, emphasizing the shift from superintendent-led achievement contracts to legislative requirements for public reporting. He presented data on provincial graduation rates, completion rates, and literacy/numeracy assessments, highlighting challenges, improvements, and the need for increased focus on specific areas. Of note was the acceleration in Indigenous graduation rates, signaling positive progress. We concluded with an acknowledgment of achievements, identification of areas for improvement, and plans for future efforts to address challenges.

Resources: Public data, BC Public Schools Completion Rates - <https://studentsuccess.gov.bc.ca/school-district/099/report/completion-rates>



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SHARED LEARNING

Coming out of November's Education Committee, we anticipate the launch of a youth-oriented app from the Younger Minds project out of UBC. The app is scheduled for launch on February 7th, with UBC researchers presenting it to secondary schools. Students from the district YDI (Youth Development Instrument) group will be part of a provincial focus group to provide feedback. The app aims to address mental health, distinct from another school organizer apps. Trustees express interest in having students present at future meetings. The conversation also touches on coordinating with Spring Vista and incorporating student voice in decision-making. Once students have had an opportunity to explore the app, we hope to have them come to an Education committee meeting to share their thoughts.

Resources: Younger Minds Project - <https://vigolab.med.ubc.ca/projectsandprojects/health-data-science-and-e-mental-health/younger-minds-project/>

CLIMATE ACTION & ENVIROMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Trustee Austin raised concerns about possible lead and other contamination on school grounds, and proposed periodic soil testing. The conversation revealed mixed opinions with some expressing skepticism about the necessity. Ultimately, the committee leaned towards not pursuing soil testing within the district at this time. Trustee Austin will do further research at the provincial level and if new information is discovered will bring it back for a potential future discussion.

COFFEE WITH TRUSTEES



Trustees will be visiting one school per month during the school year to make themselves available to parents/caregivers, staff and students for information sharing...please join them for coffee/tea and goodies.

Trustees will arrive shortly before each school's end of day bell to set up where the school administrator has a space arranged.

QUALICUM ELEMENTARY	FEB. 7 @ 2:40
BALLENAS SS	APR. 3 @ 3:05
KWALIKUMM SS	MAY 1 @ 3:00
BOWSER ELEMENTARY	JUNE 5 @ 2:48



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ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION TO MOVE TO THE BOARD MEETING

Nothing going forward

UPCOMING TOPICS

Audit Teams report
Kwalikum Secondary School Symposium?

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 2:30 p.m. via video conferencing

ADJOURNMENT