



REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017

7:00 PM

THE FORUM

PARKSVILLE CIVIC & TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

2. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) adopt the agenda as presented (*or...as amended*).

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- | | | |
|----|---|---------|
| a. | Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes: February 28, 2017 | p 1-6 |
| b. | Ratification of In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: February 17, 2017 | p 7 |
| c. | Ministry News Releases | |
| | • Minister's statement on Vancouver School Board investigation | p 8 |
| | • Tentative agreement reached with BCTF | p 9-10 |
| | • Annual fundraising campaign helps graduates celebrate safely | p 11-12 |
| | • Minister of Education's statement on agreement with BCTF | p 13 |
| | • Province invests \$2 million for rural teacher recruitment | p 14-15 |
| | • Bot Battles, Tech Scavenger Hunt and Cool Careers Await Youth at #BCTECH Summit | p 16-17 |
| | • #BCTECH Summit delivers unparalleled fusion of tech collaboration | p 18-19 |
| | • Province commits funding for trades equipment in Qualicum, Alberni school districts | p 20-21 |
| | • BC Training and Education Savings Grant celebrates \$75m milestone | p 22-23 |
| | • Apply now for BC Arts Council grants and scholarship | p 24 |
| d. | Reports from Board Representatives to Committees/Organizations | |
| | • Oceanside Building Learning Together Coalition – Trustee Young | p 25 |
| | • District French Advisory Committee – Trustee Gair | p 26 |
| e. | Status of Action Items - March 2017 | p 27 |
| f. | Finalized 2017-18 School Calendar – District | p 28 |

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve the consent agenda items of the Regular Board Meeting of March 28, 2017, as presented (*or, as amended*).

5. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS (10 MINUTES)

- a. **District Teachers' Mentorship Program**

(Mentorship Group)

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

7. TRUSTEE HIGHLIGHTS

8. MOUNT ARROWSMITH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

9. CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES (LOCAL 3570)

10. DISTRICT PARENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL

11. PUBLIC QUESTION (WRITTEN) AND COMMENT PERIOD (10 MINUTES)

12. ACTION ITEMS

13. INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. Educational Programs Update (Gillian Wilson)
- b. Education Planning Update (Rollie Koop)

14. CORRESPONDENCE ATTACHED

15. POLICY (Chair Flynn)

- a. **Board Policy 5020: Field Experiences** p 29-33
(previously titled Co-Curricular and Extra Curricular Activities)

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve third and final reading of Board Policy 5020: *Field Experiences* and its attendant Administrative Procedure at its Regular Board Meeting of March 28, 2017.

- b. **Administrative Procedure – Travel Expenses** p 34
(Previously Board Policy 6005)

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve first reading of the Administrative Procedure – *Travel Expenses* at its Regular Board Meeting of March 28, 2017.

- c. **Administrative Procedure – Credit Cards** p 35
(Previously Board Policy 6006)

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve first reading of the Administrative Procedure – *Credit Cards* at its Regular Board Meeting of March 28, 2017.

- d. **Administrative Procedure – Interview and Relocation Reimbursement** p 36
for Exempt Staff
(Previously Board Policy 6166)

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve first reading of the Administrative Procedure – Interview and Relocation Reimbursement for Exempt Staff at its Regular Board Meeting of March 28, 2017.

16. **TRUSTEE ITEMS**

- a. **\$10aDay Child Care Plan** (Trustee Young)

Rationale:

The cost of childcare in BC remains a major economic and family stress point for BC families. The provision of quality, affordable childcare would reduce family stress, improve the ability of families to work, increase respect for Early Childhood Educators and could contribute to significant economic activity in BC. 30 BC school districts as well as many other organizations, businesses and individuals have endorsed and supported \$10aDay Child Care Plan.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) endorse the \$10aDay Child Care Plan by adding its name to the petition at www.10aday.ca; and,

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) write a letter in support of the \$10aDay Child Care Plan to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Finance (copied to usual) requesting that the Province fully support and fund the \$10aDay Child Care Plan.

- b. **Public Education is the Key** (Chair Flynn)

17. **NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

18. **PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**

19. **ADJOURNMENT**



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2017

7:00 PM

THE FORUM

PARKSVILLE CIVIC & TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

ATTENDEES

Trustees

Eve Flynn	Chairperson
Jacob Gair	Vice Chairperson
Julie Austin	Trustee
Barry Kurland	Trustee
Elaine Young	Trustee

Administration

Ron Amos	Secretary Treasurer
Gillian Wilson	Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Ryan Hung	Assistant Secretary Treasurer
Kerri Steel	Principal, Learning Services
	Qualicum District Principals/Vice Principals' Association (QDPVPA)
Karin Hergt	Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)

Education Partners

Mount Arrowsmith Teachers' Association (MATA)
 Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 3570
 District Parents Advisory Council (DPAC)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Chair Flynn acknowledged that the Board was meeting on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish people and thanked the Qualicum and Nanoose First Nations for sharing their shared territories with the District.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Trustee Austin requested an addition under Trustee Items: Student field trip to the United States.

17-18R

Moved Trustee Austin *Seconded* Trustee Gair

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) adopt the agenda as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee Flynn provided her written report from Provincial Council to be added to the consent agenda.

- a. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes: January 24, 2017
- b. Ratification of In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: January 17, 2017
- c. Final approval for a Kwalikum Secondary Student Field Trip to Calgary and Edmonton from May 15 to 21, 2017
- d. Final Approval for a Kwalikum Secondary Student Field Trip to Paris in March 2018
- e. Final Approval for a Ballenas Secondary School Music Student Field Trip to Seattle on May 14-17, 2017
- f. Ministry News Releases
 - \$29.5 Million Back to School Boost for BC Classrooms
 - BC's fifth consecutive balanced budget delivers the dividend of a strong economy
- g. Reports from Board Representatives to Outside Organizations
 - Curriculum Implementation Advisory Committee – Trustee Young
 - Oceanside Building Learning Together Coalition – Trustee Young
 - Provincial Council – Trustee Flynn
- h. Status of Action Items - February 2017

17-19R

Moved Trustee Young *Seconded* Trustee Gair

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve the consent agenda items of the Regular Board Meeting of February 28, 2017, as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**a. Redesigned Curriculum Implementation**

Staff from three elementary and one high school highlighted a number of initiatives they are, or will be, implementing in their classrooms after obtaining approval for proposals submitted to the Curriculum Implementation Advisory Committee for access to funds from the curriculum implementation grant. Two students from Qualicum Beach Elementary School then showcased some of the games and robotics they have created during their coding class.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

7. TRUSTEE HIGHLIGHTS**Trustee Austin**

- Expressed appreciation to MATA for the invitation to trustees to attend one of two learning sessions offered at the MATA Professional Development Day on February 24th. She attended the Indigenous Hands-On Learning Session which she found to be very engaging and informative.
- Highlighted a book titled: *Joint Indian Reserve Commission in District 69*, written by Carrie Reid, District Support Teacher in the Indigenous Education Program, which relates some of the document history of the creation of the Qualicum and Nanoose Indian Reserves and what the reactions of the Indigenous people of the day may have been. She recommended everyone take the opportunity to read it.

Trustee Young

- Appreciated the showcase which portrayed ways schools are using the curriculum implementation money to create inquisitive and creative opportunities for students. The examples presented were exactly what she, as an educator, envisioned the money could be used for. She has been waiting a long time for student centred curriculum to come forward and she expressed her hope that it would continue well into the future.
- Reported that she was part of a Rotary team which travelled to Mexico to build a community centre in a very poor community. The Centre will house a seniors program in the morning and an after school program in the afternoon. The project was a collaboration of two different groups and the goal is to encourage cross-generational initiatives in the community.

Trustee Gair

- Appreciated the number of attendees at the Board meeting and the presentation by staff and students.
- Visited Oceanside Elementary School earlier in the week during the 100th day of school and had the opportunity to observe the children at work and play.

Trustee Kurland

- Attended the Annual General Meeting of the BC Public School Employers' Association on January 27, 2017, where a number of motions were passed and he heard some interesting perspectives from other districts as to the impact of the recent Supreme Court decision.
- Attended the District Occupational Health & Safety Committee Training on February 16th. He found the sessions to be a very intense experience and highlighted just how much work is required to adhere to changing safety and first aid regulations to ensure the safety of staff and students, which often goes unnoticed. The committee has requested additional funding for OH&S for consideration in the 2017/18 operating budget.
- Acknowledged the staff and students for their presentations to the Board.

Trustee Flynn

- Attended the Robotics Session presented on the MATA Professional Development Day on February 24th, which she found to be very engaging and informative. It also helped her more thoroughly understand the staff and student presentations on coding.
- Congratulated the MATA Pro-D Committee for their work in presenting meaningful sessions for staff and for extending the invitation to Trustees.

8. MOUNT ARROWSMITH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (MATA)

Norberta Heinrichs, President, commented on the following:

- Social Justice Representatives, MATA representatives and the teachers and students of the PASS/Woodwinds class participated in MATA's LGBTQ and transphobia awareness workshops on February 28th. The workshops were facilitated by Heather Kelley, a Surrey teacher who spearheaded the first Pride Prom in Surrey last year. Discussion was rich and the Union is excited about using this experience as a launching pad to move forward in bringing awareness and acceptance of those marginalized by their sexual orientation and/or their gender identity.
- The MATA Professional Development Committee met on the afternoon of February 28th for a debriefing on the successful Pro-D Day held February 24th. There was great feedback on the various opportunities presented to teachers and she acknowledged the work of the co-chairs and the committee in making the learning practical and relevant.

- MATA looks forward to the following year in terms of the budget and the application of the restored language of the collective agreement. She appreciated the summary of feedback provided by stakeholder groups as it was beneficial to see where the priorities have aligned and stressed the importance of the priorities, especially those that support the restored collective agreement language. The board was urged to consider all new funding announcements with a lens to addressing those priorities.
- Mr. Heinrichs referred to the recent announcement of \$29 million and noted that senior administration has advised that there is a framework for the use of those funds. MATA is hopeful that there is an opportunity to meet many needs within that framework.
- MATA will be bringing working conditions to the forefront of the conversation as teachers' working conditions are the students' learning conditions.

9. CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES (LOCAL 3570)

No Report

10. DISTRICT PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (DPAC)

Chair Flynn began by thanking Ms. Hancock for a letter outlining parent concerns regarding sexual health and education for students. She noted that the Board has asked the Secretary Treasurer to add DPAC's suggestion for the Board to consider hiring a District Sexual Health Coordinator to support teaching staff in teaching the revised K-10 Physical and Health Education Curriculum.

Kim Hancock, Member at Large, expressed her pleasure at having had the opportunity to see that night's presentations. She noted that conversation regarding the new curriculum could be expanded with the addition of health and sexual education, particularly when considering the high use of the internet by youth and the potential for children to access sexually explicit information. She appreciated Trustees' consideration of the DPAC's suggestion for a Sexual Health Coordinator in the upcoming year's budget.

11. PUBLIC QUESTION (WRITTEN) AND COMMENT PERIOD

No questions/comments were received.

12. ACTION ITEMS

None

13. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Educational Programs Update

Assistant Superintendent Wilson reported on the following district initiatives and events:

- Work is continuing on gauging parents' and students' interest in a Late French Immersion Program in the District. She acknowledged the work done by Francine Frisson, Vice Principal of Oceanside Elementary School, to visit all grade 5 classrooms to obtain feedback directly from students. An information evening was also held on February 22nd for interested families. Expressions of Intent have been requested through a variety of social media and written communication to determine if there is enough interest for the District to be able to provide Late French Immersion as early

as September 2017. To date, only 7 letters of intent have been received. The deadline to submit expressions of interest is March 7, 2017.

- School reviews have been completed and Kerri Steel, District Principal of Learning Services, was acknowledged for her organization and participation in conversations with school administrators. She noted that each administrator also had numerous conversations with classroom teachers and school teams to ensure their feedback was included in the conversations.
- A *Vancouver Island Early Years to Kindergarten Transitions Session* is being hosted by the District on Friday, March 3rd at the Parksville Community and Conference Centre. Maria LeRose, a well-known television, webcast and live-event moderator, will facilitate the sessions along with Maureen Dockendorf, the Ministry of Education's Superintendent of Literacy and Numeracy. Over 200 attendees are expected.

b. Budget Planning Update

Secretary Treasurer Amos presented a summary of the feedback received to date from stakeholder groups outlining each group's priorities for the Board to consider in its 2017/18 operating budget. Additional items have since been received which will be added to the list. The Board and Senior Staff are now waiting for the Funding Announcement from the Ministry of Education, which is expected to be released in mid-March.

14. CORRESPONDENCE ATTACHED

None

15. POLICY

a. Board Policy 5020: Field Experiences

(Previously titled Co-Curricular and Extra Curricular Activities)

17-20R

Moved Trustee Flynn *Seconded* Trustee Austin

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve second reading of Board Policy 5020: *Field Experiences* and its attendant Administrative Procedure at its Regular Board Meeting of February 28, 2017.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16. TRUSTEE ITEMS

a. Update on Provincial Council

Chair Flynn referred to her report on the Provincial Council Meeting, noting that trustees had received videos of the presentations from the BCSTA's Sector Leaders Speaker Series and she encouraged her fellow trustees, staff and members of the public to view the presentations.

b. Student Field Trips to the United States

Trustee Austin referred to recent media reports advising that districts are being more cautious and questioning student field trips to the United States given the US President's recent immigration ban. Boards are taking the ban into consideration as it could affect teaching staff as well students, particularly foreign born and international students. District also have to decide whether to take a stance on the ban even for trips that do not involve students affected by the ban.

Chair Flynn provided a summary of SD69 field trips planned to the U.S. and other countries over the next year which have been approved or approved in principle by the Board. At this time, there are no plans to withdraw that approval.

Trustee Kurland added that earlier in the week the Greater Victoria School District voted to cancel trips to the U.S. to ensure no students or staff are denied entry to the U.S. because of faith or ethnicity.

The Board and Administrators will continue to keep an eye on the situation.

17. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

18. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

No questions/comments were received.

19. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Gair moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY TREASURER



IN-CAMERA MEETING

SECTION 72 REPORT
February 17, 2017

ATTENDEES:

Trustees

Eve Flynn	Chair
Jacob Gair	Vice-Chair
Julie Austin	Trustee
Barry Kurland	Trustee

Administration

Rollie Koop	Superintendent of Schools
Ron Amos	Secretary Treasurer
JoAnne Shepherd	Director of Human Resources
Karin Hergt	Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)

The Board of Education discussed the following matter(s):

- Personnel
- Land

The Board of Education passed motions regarding the following matters:

- Personnel
- Land

Chairperson

Secretary Treasurer



STATEMENT

For Immediate Release
2017EDUC0037-000466
March 3, 2017

Ministry of Education

Minister of Education's statement on Vancouver School Board investigation

VICTORIA – Education Minister Mike Bernier has released the following statement:

“I am aware that the Vancouver School District has completed its investigation into reports of alleged bullying and harassment. WorkSafeBC has received the report and reviewed it to ensure the employer conducted a full, fair and impartial investigation. I am pleased to hear that WorkSafeBC’s independent review of this matter also is now complete.

“We have great confidence in the work of VSB staff and the official trustee. B.C.’s budget just delivered record funding increases for operating budgets, hiring more teachers and seismic projects.

“With the investigation done, it gives everyone a chance to focus on the exciting opportunities ahead for the upcoming school year.”

Learn More:

Vancouver School Board news release: www.vsb.bc.ca/district-news/external-investigation-finds-bullying-and-harassment-existed-vsbc

Media Contact:

Government Communications and Public
Engagement
Ministry of Education
250 356-5963

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2017EDUC0038-000477
March 4, 2017

Ministry of Education

Tentative agreement reached with BCTF

VICTORIA – Representatives of the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA), the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF), the Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat, and the Ministry of Education have reached a tentative Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) negotiated pursuant to Letter of Understanding (LoU) No. 17 to the 2013-2019 BCPSEA-BCTF Provincial Collective Agreement.

On Nov. 10, 2016, the Supreme Court of Canada issued its decision regarding the deletion of certain BCPSEA–BCTF Provincial Collective Agreement provisions by the Education Improvement Act. The Court's decision restored the deleted provisions, which triggered the negotiation process under LoU No. 17, which states:

“If the final judgment affects the content of the collective agreement by fully or partially restoring the 2002 language, the parties will reopen the collective agreement on this issue and the parties will bargain from the restored language. The Education Fund provisions will continue in effect until there is agreement regarding implementation and/or changes to the restored language.”

Given the Court's restoration of nearly 1,400 clauses across 60 collective agreements, it was important for the parties to determine how to implement the restored language within the context of an education system that had evolved over the past 15 years. The tentative MoA provides clarity related to class size and composition, non-enrolling staff and process language that are now restored.

LoU No.17 negotiations began on Nov. 30, 2016 and spanned across 27 bargaining sessions. The BCTF will put the MOA forward for ratification by its members over the coming week. Details of the MOA will be available once the BCTF ratification process is complete.

Quote:

Mike Bernier, Minister of Education –

“This is great news for students, parents, and teachers. If ratified, the agreement means thousands more teachers, more resources and more classroom supports. If ratified, it will build on the \$100 million for up to 1,100 new teachers announced in January's interim agreement with the BCTF and the record funding increase we just announced in the budget.

“I want to congratulate the parties and thank them for the significant effort and professionalism that was brought to the table. The parties had to deal with some very complex issues, it involved a lot of work, and everyone remained focused on problem-solving. We hope to build on this constructive approach and relationship in the years ahead.

“Student outcomes have improved dramatically over the past 15 years and are among the best in the world. We already have a world-leading education system. With this agreement, we can expect even greater results for our students in the years ahead.”

Media Contact:

Government Communications and Public
Engagement
Ministry of Education
250 356-5963

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2017SBRT0013-000479
March 6, 2017

Ministry of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction
and Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch

Annual fundraising campaign helps graduates celebrate safely

VANCOUVER – BC Liquor Stores are once again encouraging customers to support the annual Support Dry Grad Campaign, an initiative that raises funds for public and independent schools to host safe, alcohol-free celebration events for graduating high school students.

Chocolates are being sold in stores for \$1 with all the proceeds going directly to schools in the local community. The campaign runs until March 31 at which time the money is divided up, based on the number of graduating students in each school.

Almost \$365,000 was raised last year for dry grad events. Some of the activities included:

- Camping and watersport weekend
- Banquet and social
- Vancouver Harbour cruise
- Chaperoned dance with DJ
- Event at the Vancouver Aquarium
- Supervised games at Burnaby 8 Rinks

This year, 55 public school districts and 59 independent schools have applied for funding. All participating schools must sign an agreement that the money is only to be used toward graduation celebrations that are alcohol-free.

BC Liquor Stores' Support Dry Grad campaign reinforces its commitment to corporate social responsibility, preventing underage drinking and giving back to the communities it serves.

Quotes:

Coralee Oakes, Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction and Minister Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch –

"This is a great campaign because it not only celebrates the accomplishment of graduating from high school, but also promotes the importance of health and safety for youth. There are all kinds of ways to have fun, and for minors that has to be without alcohol."

Blain Lawson, general manager and CEO, Liquor Distribution Branch –

"This is the 17th year that BC Liquor Stores have participated in the Support Dry Grad campaign and we are proud to assist graduating high-school students across the province to safely enjoy an important milestone in their lives."

Quick Facts:

- BC Liquor Stores' Support Dry Grad initiative has collected \$6.2 million since 2001.
- 55 public school districts and 59 independent schools are participating this year.
- In the 2016 campaign:
 - more than 270 high schools participated
 - \$364,296 was raised through chocolate sales

Learn More:

Read more about the BC Liquor Stores' Support Dry Grad campaign:

<http://www.bcldb.com/corporate-social-responsibility/community-fundraising/support-dry-grad>

For more information on talking to your kids about alcohol visit: www.AlcoholSenseBC.ca

Media Contact:

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Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect



STATEMENT

For Immediate Release
2017EDUC0040-000573
March 10, 2017

Ministry of Education

Minister of Education's statement on agreement with BCTF

VICTORIA – Education Minister Mike Bernier has released the following statement:

"I am very pleased that teachers have ratified the agreement because working together for student achievement is at the core of ensuring British Columbians can benefit from a strong, growing and diverse economy. The parties had to deal with some very complex issues. The challenge was how to restore nearly 1,400 old clauses across 60 different collective agreements within the context of an education system that evolved dramatically over the past 15 years.

"We have a system today that has far more choice and flexibility for students and parents. There is more diversity in programs and courses. We have a system that is more inclusive of individual student needs. Student outcomes are up across the board and are amongst the best in the world. And we've seen dramatically improved outcomes for students with special needs and First Nations students.

"So a key objective was to protect equitable access to learning and build on the significant gains that students have enjoyed. The parties agreed to make the old language work to the extent we can and to continue the dialogue until the next round of bargaining where we can pursue longer-term solutions.

"Teachers will see reduced workloads and will be welcoming thousands of new colleagues into the system over the coming months. And students will benefit from knowing that they have access to the same learning opportunities as before.

"I want to thank the parties for the significant effort and professionalism that was brought to the table. I hope we can build on this constructive approach. Government and the BCTF are working collaboratively on files, such as the new curriculum and Aboriginal education. If we continue in a spirit of collaboration, I am confident we can deliver even better results for our students in the years ahead."

Learn More:

Education system snapshot: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/factsheets/education-by-the-numbers>

Education funding: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/factsheets/bc-education-funding-sets-a-new-record>

B.C.'s new curriculum: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2017EDUC0041-000592
March 14, 2017

Ministry of Education

Province invests \$2 million for rural teacher recruitment

VICTORIA – The Province is investing \$2 million to enhance the recruitment and retention of teachers and other qualified education sector professionals to rural schools, Education Minister Mike Bernier and Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Education Linda Larson announced today.

This investment will help support local and provincewide solutions for school districts with hard-to-fill positions in rural and remote communities. This challenge has been a recurring topic of discussion through the Province’s ongoing engagement to create a rural education strategy.

In June 2016, Premier Christy Clark tasked Larson to work with the education sector, the public and community stakeholder groups to create a rural education strategy by the summer of 2017. The goal is to find long-term solutions for the unique challenges facing rural schools, while recognizing the economic and social impact of single schools in small communities.

To date, there have been eight open houses throughout the province to engage the public and stakeholders on how government can best serve the educational needs of rural communities. B.C.’s rural education strategy is expected to look at public school funding, facilities and the role education and schools play in rural communities.

Including the interim steps announced in January 2017, the recently concluded agreement with the BC Teachers’ Federation (BCTF) will result in the hiring of thousands of new teachers around the province. This provincewide hiring drive adds significantly to the recruitment challenge faced by rural school districts for more teachers and education-sector professionals, such as certified educational assistants and human resource professionals.

The \$2 million in provincial funding will flow to districts from the BC Public School Employers’ Association’s recruitment and retention program (Make a Future – Careers in BC Education) to be used for:

- free job posting services and access to an online teacher application management system;
- coordination of national and international recruitment efforts;
- local incentives, such as enhanced funding for travel expenses for professional development, relocation expenses and transitional housing assistance.

Quotes:

Mike Bernier, Minister of Education –

“We know our rural school districts can experience recruitment challenges at the best of times.

But with record investments in education and a final agreement with the BCTF, the public education system is gearing up to hire thousands of new teachers. That makes the challenge all the more pressing and I'm pleased that we can target additional funding to help rural districts attract the teachers and other professionals they need."

Linda Larson, Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Education –

"Schools are the heart of our communities. This is especially evident in smaller towns where one elementary school may serve many purposes within the community. For the past few months, I've been listening to citizens and local governments across the province express their challenges and accomplishments when it comes to supporting education in their rural communities. While work continues on the rural education strategy, we are taking action now to help rural school districts attract and keep teachers and educators."

Teresa Rezansoff, president, BC School Trustees Association –

"As a trustee in a small rural school district, SD51 Boundary, I can appreciate the difficulties rural and remote school districts face in both recruiting and retaining qualified teachers. The recent agreement reached with the BCTF will result in a significant number of new teacher postings across the province. This presents both a wonderful opportunity and a significant challenge for northern, remote or rural school districts. This investment will help address those challenges and supports equality of opportunity throughout the province."

Glen Hansman, president, British Columbia Teachers' Federation –

"Recruitment and retention of teachers has been a growing concern across B.C. for several years now. For rural and northern communities, the problem of attracting and keeping teachers is especially acute. Targeted funding to ensure school districts are better able to meet the growing demand in our schools is welcome. As the union that represents B.C.'s public school teachers, the BCTF will look forward to further discussion and co-operation on addressing these issues."

Quick Facts:

- In British Columbia, approximately 32% of the students in the K-12 education system attend schools located outside of the Greater Victoria, Lower Mainland and Kelowna areas – many in very small communities that use school facilities as a hub for community activities.
- Rural school districts in B.C. receive about 20% more funding per student than urban districts – and special supports like Rural Education Enhancement Funding.
- The BC Public School Employers' Association created Make a Future – Careers in BC Education to increase recruitment and retention in B.C.'s public education sector. Make a Future is a joint initiative between the BC Public School Employers' Association, all 60 boards of education, and the Ministry of Education.

Learn More:

The B.C. government is seeking input on the province's rural education system to help develop a new rural education strategy. Read and comment on the rural education discussion paper until March 15, 2017 at: <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/ruraleducation>



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2017MTICS0013-000601
March 15, 2017

Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

Bot battles, tech scavenger hunt and cool careers await youth at #BCTECH Summit

VANCOUVER – B.C.'s next generation of tech talent will be inspired by 13-year-old tech prodigy Tanmay Bakshi, and can explore career opportunities in an augmented reality scavenger hunt at Youth Innovation Day at the #BCTECH Summit.

"This generation represents tomorrow's software developers, technology entrepreneurs, and innovators," said Premier Christy Clark. "B.C.'s technology sector is growing fast, which means incredible career opportunities for these students, and the chance to build a career right here at home."

Today approximately 1,500 B.C. secondary and post-secondary school students will discover the technology programs available from colleges and universities, hear inspiring tech leaders share how technology is changing the world and meet representatives from innovative technology companies in British Columbia.

Students will hear thirteen year-old Tanmay Bakshi, honorary IBM Cloud Adviser, share his personal story of learning to code from age five, and how he developed his first iPhone app by the time he was nine years old.

Karina LeBlanc, former Canadian soccer goalkeeper and UNICEF Ambassador, will host the morning youth session along with Lane Merrifield, co-founder of educational engagement platform Fresh Grade and Disney's virtual game Club Penguin. A morning scavenger hunt will transform technology career exploration into a game for the students, using QuestUpon's augmented reality mobile app. The game will encourage students to connect occupations and skills with tech industry sub-sectors, and interact with over 40 exhibitors throughout the summit.

Awake Labs CEO Andrea Palmer and ShareShed Founder Daniel Dubois will talk with students during a noon-hour fireside chat, highlighting exciting career opportunities in B.C.'s technology sector.

The #BCTECH Summit compliments the #BCTECH Strategy, which is a key component of the BC Jobs Plan to support the growth of B.C.'s vibrant technology sector and strengthen British Columbia's diverse innovation economy. The multi-year strategy includes a \$100-million BC Tech Fund and initiatives to increase talent development through new curriculum and coding, and market access for tech companies that is driving innovation and productivity throughout the province. For more information, visit: <http://bctechsummit.ca>

Quotes:

Amrik Virk, Minister of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services –

“Tech is about the future, and today is about highlighting the potential of our youth. We’re aiming to show kids how cool and diverse these career options are in an interactive and engaging environment with aspirational speakers that will get them thinking.”

Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism, and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour –

“Every company today is a tech company. It is so important that our young people learn as much as possible about the future career options they will have to choose from. And what better way to learn than from some of the most innovative speakers and companies in the world.”

Mike Bernier, Minister of Education –

“We’ve set the stage for tomorrow’s talent in the #BCTECH Strategy by establishing coding for the K-12 curriculum and placing an increased emphasis on co-ops at the post-secondary level. The #BCTECH Summit makes post-secondary education and career exploration fun and engaging, encouraging students to consider their future place in the tech sector.”

Tammy Meyers, QuestUpon co-founder and chief operating officer –

“We saw Youth Innovation Day as the perfect opportunity to show off our social augmented reality platform by turning the #BCTECH Summit into a game. That way youth will be challenged to interact with all the different exhibitors while getting to explore independently and with other students.”

Tanmay Bakshi, honorary IBM Cloud Adviser –

“I believe that we need to be introducing coding to kids, and what I usually say is that we have to start slow, start easy and start playful. Kids should do what they want to do. Don’t do it because you have to do it, but do it because you want to. If we can get the youth interested in technology, then I believe we can be ready for that next generation.”

Quick Facts:

- Nearly half of the day’s youth participants will visit the #BCTECH Summit from Vancouver Island, the Interior and northern B.C.
- B.C.’s tech sector employment eclipsed 100,000 for the first time in 2015, rising 2.9% to 101,780.
- Technology salaries are 75% higher than B.C.’s industrial average and 7% higher than the Canadian average.

Learn More:

#BCTECH Strategy Update:

https://bctechstrategy.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/10/2017/03/Renewed_BCTechStrategy.pdf

#BCTECH Summit: <http://bctechsummit.ca>

BC Jobs Plan Update: <http://bcjobsplan.gov.bc.ca>

Profile of the British Columbia Technology Sector: 2016 Edition:



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2017MTICS0014-000627
March 15, 2017

Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

#BCTECH Summit delivers unparalleled fusion of tech collaboration

VANCOUVER – With record numbers of attendees and the demand for tickets outnumbering availability, the Province is announcing that the #BCTECH Summit will become an annual event, co-hosted by its Crown agency, the BC Innovation Council.

British Columbia's second #BCTECH Summit brought together over 5,000 business and technology leaders, entrepreneurs, investors, academics and students to exchange ideas and explore the latest tech innovations fuelling B.C.'s economy.

B.C.'s vibrant tech sector set the stage as the summit showcased life-changing innovations made in B.C. and provided attendees with dozens of thought-provoking sessions, panels and keynotes by global thought leaders highlighting how technology is shaping B.C. and the world.

More than 1,000 organizations were represented; including hundreds of B.C. technology companies that were matched with potential clients and investors, while 1,500 students explored diverse and exciting career opportunities with their teachers and chaperones.

Highlights from the 2017 summit include:

- More than 3,000 delegates registered from throughout the province and right across the globe.
- 300 B.C. companies, organizations and post-secondary institutions wowed attendees with unique innovations and research – such as virtual and augmented reality, robots, exoskeletons and robots in the Marketplace and showcase areas.
- More than 1,500 secondary and post-secondary students, along with teachers and chaperones, explored exciting career paths related to technology during Youth Innovation Day.
- Forty of B.C.'s brightest tech stars pitched to more than 200 elite, national and international investors during the Investment Showcase.
- Over 250 business-to-business (B2B) meetings connected 145 B.C. tech firms with 41 potential technology buyers and scouts from the private and public sectors.

In addition, Techfest, which is a unique recruiting event, will be held tonight at the summit; where attendees will be presented with more than 300 exciting career opportunities.

Quotes:

Amrik Virk, Minister of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services –

"The sold-out #BCTECH Summit underscored the dedication, passion and success of B.C.'s diverse technology innovators and entrepreneurs across the province. Our #BCTECH Strategy is

driving momentum, helping B.C. technology companies grow and create jobs throughout the province.”

Carl Anderson, president and CEO, BC Innovation Council –

“This year’s #BCTECH Summit wowed more than 3,000 conference delegates. Nearly four times as many B.C. companies showed off their ground-breaking innovations and almost three times the number of students spent a day exploring diverse technology career paths. I look forward to watching the connections made over these two days evolve into new partnerships, products and opportunities for this thriving sector.”

Quick Facts:

- B.C.’s tech sector employment eclipsed 100,000 for the first time in 2015, rising 2.9% to 101,780.
- Wages and salaries in the tech sector also hit a new high for the fifth consecutive year, climbing 4.5% to over \$8.4 billion.
- B.C. has seen a 1.9% rise in the number of new technology companies with employees in 2015, growing to over 9,900 businesses. B.C. is home to 14% of Canada’s tech businesses.
- The tech sector produced approximately \$26.3 billion in revenue in 2015, a rise of 5%.
- In 2015, the technology sector added \$14.1 billion to B.C.’s GDP; contributing more than 11% of Canada’s tech total.
- B.C.’s tech commodity exports increased by 20.4% to just under \$1.4 billion, representing 3.8% of the province’s overall exports.

Learn More:

To watch #BCTECH Summit videos, visit: <https://bctechstrategy.gov.bc.ca/bctech-summit-webcasts>

#BCTECH Strategy Update:

https://bctechstrategy.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/10/2017/03/Renewed_BCTechStrategy.pdf

BC Jobs Plan Update: <http://bcjobsplan.gov.bc.ca>

Profile of the British Columbia Technology Sector: 2016 Edition:

<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/BusinessIndustry/HighTechnology.aspx>

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Citizens’ Services
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Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2017JTST0062-000602
March 16, 2017

Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and
Responsible for Labour

Province commits funding for trades equipment in Qualicum, Alberni school districts

PARKSVILLE – Skilled trades students in the Qualicum and Alberni school districts will benefit from a three-year, \$15-million investment by the B.C. government to support youth trades programs with the purchase of new trades training equipment.

- School District 69 (Qualicum) is receiving \$118,232 over the next three years for the purchase of equipment including band saws, plasma cutters and welders.
- School District 70 (Alberni) is receiving \$108,495 over the next three years to purchase equipment including torch welders, table saws and drill presses.

The Youth Trades Capital Equipment Program will see \$7.5 million dispersed during the current school year. The remaining \$7.5 million will be distributed in 2017-18 (\$4 million) and 2018-19 (\$3.5 million).

Of the \$7.5 million being distributed this year, more than \$5 million is going to school districts in rural B.C. Over the program's three years, more than \$9 million of the \$15-million total will be distributed to rural school districts.

This investment in rural communities supports the recently announced "Building on our Rural Advantages: B.C.'s Rural Economic Development Strategy". The strategy outlines the Province's long-term vision to ensure British Columbians in all regions have the opportunity for well-paying jobs and a high quality of life in their community.

Fifty-nine B.C. school districts are receiving youth trades capital funding over the next three years, 42 of which are in rural B.C.

The Youth Trades Capital Equipment Program is designed to:

- Increase participation and successful completion of youth trades programs and the number of students that continue on to further trades training programs;
- Ensure school districts have safe and appropriate modern trades equipment to support the delivery of trades training programs;
- Gain a better understanding of current inventory and future need for youth trades equipment in each district.

To be eligible for funding, school districts must have demonstrated that the capital investment supports the delivery of one or more Industry Training Authority (ITA) youth trades programs.

In partnership with the Ministry of Education and secondary schools, the ITA funds six youth programs in B.C. – Youth Discover the Maker Way, Youth Discover the Trades, Youth Explore Trades Skills, Youth Explore Trades Sampler, Youth Train in Trades and Youth Work in Trades.

These programs map out a clear path for youth to start their trades training earlier in high school, through post-secondary and into the workforce where they can continue an apprenticeship.

The ITA leads and co-ordinates British Columbia's skilled trades system by working with employers, employees, industry, labour, training providers and government to issue credentials, manage apprenticeships, set program standards and increase opportunities in the trades.

Apprenticeship programs are one of the best ways for British Columbians to gain the skills and training they need to succeed in their chosen career. It is estimated 80% of training takes place on the work site and 20% takes place in the class.

The B.C. government is making record investments in modern, safe infrastructure projects throughout the province. In doing so, these construction projects are creating well-paying, family-supporting jobs. These investments are possible because of the fiscal plan of the B.C. government.

Quotes:

Michelle Stilwell, MLA for Parksville-Qualicum –

"This is exciting news for our students as we continue to set them up for success with new trades training equipment to support school districts as they prepare students for their journey toward great careers. With more skilled tradespeople retiring from the workforce than entering it, it is essential that we start preparing our youth now for careers in the skilled trades."

Gary Herman, CEO, Industry Training Authority –

"Trades careers are a great option for youth who are passionate about making a difference in the everyday lives of British Columbians. Investments in youth trades training like this one are important to ensure our students are provided with opportunities to explore different trades careers to find the one that best suits their interests."

Quick Facts:

- Last year the B.C. government invested more than \$17.4 million in secondary school trades programs
- ITA provides more than 100 apprenticeship training programs in B.C., including 50 Red Seal trades.
- There are currently nearly 45,000 participants in apprenticeship programs in the industry training system (apprentices, high school youth and foundation), more than double the 20,050 participants when the ITA was created in 2004.
- B.C. is expecting up to one million job openings by 2025 due to retirements and economic growth.
- Eight of every 10 of these job openings will require post-secondary education or trades training.

Learn More:

Industry Training Authority: <http://www.itabc.ca/>



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2017EDUC0042-000630
March 16, 2017

Ministry of Education

B.C. Training and Education Savings Grant celebrates \$75-million milestone

VICTORIA – More than 60,000 B.C. children will have an additional \$1,200 towards their post-secondary education by the end of March, as a result of government’s contribution to the B.C. Training and Education Savings Grant (BCTESG).

Education Minister Mike Bernier joined families and Bank of Montreal representatives today at the B.C. Legislature to celebrate the milestone. The grant puts British Columbians first by helping parents, grandparents and guardians kick-start savings for their children’s future education.

Applying takes just three easy steps:

1. Make sure the child and parent each have a Social Insurance Number.
2. Ensure the child has a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) at a participating financial institution.
3. Complete the application at your financial institution before the eligibility deadline.

More than 240,000 B.C. children are eligible to receive the grant. Children born in 2006 or later who are residents of British Columbia are eligible to apply between their child’s sixth and ninth birthday. Older children born in 2006 – 2009 have extended deadlines to allow for the same three-year application period.

The Province announced the grant in August 2015 to help families start saving early for their children’s post-secondary education. The grant helps make sure students have the opportunity to benefit from British Columbia’s strong and growing economy with the skills and training they need to succeed.

It is anticipated that in the next decade, about 80% of the job openings in British Columbia will require some form of post-secondary education and training. The grant supports this need and B.C.’s Skills for Jobs Blueprint, a detailed plan that gives students a clear and seamless path from school through to the workplace.

The Government of British Columbia is working with the Government of Canada to encourage all financial institutions to offer the grant.

Quotes:

Mike Bernier, Minister of Education –

“This milestone means 60,000 B.C. kids now have money in the bank for their future education. Government is working hard to make education more affordable and accessible for B.C.

families. I encourage all parents, grandparents and guardians to kick-start their child's post-secondary education savings by visiting their local participating financial institution and opening a RESP today to receive the \$1,200 grant."

Henry Donkers, regional vice-president, BMO –

"The B.C. Training and Education Savings Grant, combined with the benefits of the Registered Education Savings Plan, provides fantastic value for our customers and helps the province's young people achieve their educational goals. Through partnerships like this between the public and private sectors, we can offer British Columbians real benefits in meeting their financial needs."

Quick Facts:

- The Government of Canada administers the B.C. Training and Education Savings Grant.
- B.C. has the second highest average annual personal RESP contribution per beneficiary in Canada at \$1,708.

Learn More:

For more information on the B.C. Training and Education Savings Grant, call 1 888 276-3624 or visit: www.gov.bc.ca/bctesg

For more information on how to open a RESP, visit: <https://www.canada.ca/education-savings>

Bank of Montreal: <https://www.bmo.com>

Media Contact:

Government Communications and Public
Engagement
Ministry of Education
250 356-5963

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect



INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release
2017CSCD0047-000707
March 21, 2017

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
BC Arts Council

Apply now for BC Arts Council grants and scholarships

VICTORIA – B.C. students pursuing a career in the arts could receive up to \$6,000 through the BC Arts Council's Scholarship Awards, one of several grant programs now open for applications. Other programs with upcoming deadlines include project assistance for music, dance, theatre, media artists and the literary arts, as well as assistance for arts periodicals.

Project assistance programs with an application deadline of Tuesday, April 18, 2017:

- **Arts Periodicals** – assists arts periodicals not currently receiving BC Arts Council operating assistance that are devoted to the first publication of any form of artistic expression, or social, cultural or intellectual commentary or inquiry.
- **Professional Arts Training** – supports arts and cultural training activities, programs and organizations.
- **Professional Performing Arts (Music, Dance or Theatre)** – supports the development, creation, production or live performance of classical, experimental, original, traditional and contemporary art forms from all world cultures.
- **Professional Literary** – supports activities in literary arts in British Columbia.

Arts awards with an application deadline of Monday, May 1, 2017:

- **Scholarship Awards** – assists with pre-professional training of outstanding B.C. students with a grant of up to \$6,000 per year for studies at the post-secondary level in the arts. Applicants must submit reference letters and a portfolio of recently completed work.

Arts awards with an application deadline of Wednesday, May 31, 2017:

- **Project Assistance for Media Artists** – supports independent media artists with the creation of specific projects such as works in film, video, audio/sound art and new media.

The Government of British Columbia is investing approximately \$60 million in arts and culture in 2017-18 to further support a thriving creative economy. Within this funding, the BC Arts Council is providing \$24 million to help artists and cultural organizations flourish in more than 200 communities throughout the province. The BC Arts Council draws upon the expertise of British Columbia's arts and culture community to provide an independent peer-review adjudication process.

Learn More:

For information on guidelines and program details, including eligibility:
http://www.bcartscouncil.ca/guideline_list.html



SD69 QUALICUM

Board and Trustee Representative Committee Report

Trustee Representative: R. Elaine Young
Committee Name: Building Learning Together Coalition
Meeting Location: Family Place
Meeting Time: March 2, 2017

The Oceanside Building Learning Together (OBLT) is our early learners program, which is operated as a non-profit society. The Coalition includes community groups, government and others who are interested in early learning in District 69. OBLT operates Munchkinlands at Qualicum Commons and Family Place as well as Storybook Village. The Heart-Mind Interest Group emerged from the OBLT Coalition and is dedicated to operationalizing Heart-Mind Principles into the Oceanside Community. Membership is fluid and open.

1. **United Way Process and Resource Allocation:** Last meeting we agreed to be the table to vet applications for the "All that kids can be" Grant. No applications have been received to date. When applications are submitted, a subcommittee will be formed to review them. Discussion regarding allocation of resources coming to us for this service. Decision to support Saturday Morning Breakfast Club at Munchkinland (Parksville).
2. **Pete the Cat Event** April 20, 2017 from 5-7pm at Oceanside Place for preschool students with special attention to steps to Kindergarten. First organizing meeting March 5. (Reviewed last year and agreed to some changes for this year. Bigger event this year!)
3. **Heart/Mind Interest Group** reviewed conversation cards based on Heart/Mind principles at last meeting. Very good discussion and more work is needed. Meetings continue.
4. **\$10 a day Childcare Presentation.** Report on presentation to Qualicum Beach Town Council. Request to have Coalition Members support this initiative to fund affordable, licensed childcare. More information at www.10aday.ca where individuals can sign a petition.
5. **Early Years/Kindergarten Regional Meeting** at PCCC on March 3 – Eve Flynn to attend from SD69 Board of Education.
6. **Half Day Strategic Planning Session** – Possible dates (April 4/5)?
7. **Updates from Coalition Members**
 - ACRA – Family Day cancelled due to weather. Dad's night out poorly attended (Valentine's Day). Other programs are full and running well. ACE is finishing this week at EES.
 - RDN – Masterplan being developed and surveys are being done. If you did not get a mailed postcard, pick up a paper survey at RDN sites. Due date is March 20. Registration started for Spring/Summer Programs.
 - Island Health – Focus on Nutrition Health in March. Foodshare presentation here next week on Food Security HUBS.
 - SD69 – New Curriculum Implementation ideas are inspiring.
 - MCFD – Anxiety Groups continue
 - Career Centre – Hiring Fair April 12; Bladerunners happening now; Single Parent Employment Initiative is up and running.
 - Pacific Care – Daycare staff are moving to sectors where they can earn more money and respect. Support \$10 a day childcare!
8. **Next Meeting:** Thursday, April 6 at noon at Family Place



SD69 QUALICUM

Board and Trustee Representative Committee Report

Trustee Representative: Jacob Gair
Committee Name: District French Advisory Committee
Meeting Location:
Meeting Time: February 28, 2017
Committee Report:

School Updates:

Ballenas - There were many bilingual courses offered this year, in addition to the usual bilingual courses, including Science classes offered in French and a Civilizations course that was bilingual. There were 6 applicants for the BC Quebec student exchange.

Oceanside - "Ici on Parle Francais" (Here we speak French) cultural/public speaking event was held. This is a public speaking preparation program where students choose a cultural text to present to their class.

Oceanside is in need of more appropriate reading materials for the French Program. It is difficult to find materials that are highly interesting and also of the desired difficulty level for the students.

Oceanside has lost three French Immersion students since June of 2016. Exit interviews have been conducted with those students and their families for the District to understand the reasons for their withdrawal.

Kindergarten - There are 33 new kindergarten students that are siblings of other French Immersion students signed up for next year. The total enrollment for the French Immersion kindergarten program is in the high sixties and considerations are being made for the inclusion of a third kindergarten class.

Late Immersion - Francine Frisson visited all grade five classes to speak about the late immersion program. The presentation included a PowerPoint, an information session and a flyer to take home to parents. A letter was also mailed to all parents with children in the district and a public meeting was held with guests from the Nanaimo late immersion program. One on one meetings were also held with interested parents that were unable to attend the public meeting. Only seven expressions of interest were received by the district. No hard number was given as required for the establishment of a late immersion program but seven was deemed to be too low. As a comparison there were 26 students the first year a late immersion program was run in Nanaimo.

National News and Concerns - There is a French language teacher shortage in Canada. Many French language teachers immigrate to Canada from France but that process can be difficult.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 69 (QUALICUM)

STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS

Action Item	Responsibility	Status	Proposed Deadline
Establishment of Performance Assessment Committee (June 24, 2014)	Senior Staff	In abeyance pending Ministry of Education's review of assessment, evaluation and reporting	In abeyance
Strategic Planning Process (January 24, 2017)	Superintendent	To begin in the 2017-18 school year	July 1, 2018



**SCHOOL DISTRICT 69 (QUALICUM)
SCHOOL CALENDAR 2017-18
DISTRICT**

Days in Session: 189

Days of Instruction: 180

September 2017	5	Schools Reopen (Regular Start Time – Schools dismiss three hours early) Ballenas and Kwalikum Secondary – Grade 8 students only
	6	Ballenas and Kwalikum Secondary – First day for Grades 9-12
	22	District-wide Planning Day
	25	School-based Professional Development Day – No school for students
October	Oct 10 – Nov 10	Conferencing in schools – Please refer to individual school schedule(s)
	9	THANKSGIVING DAY
	19	Conferencing Adjustment – Schools not in session
	20	Provincial Professional Development Day – No school for students
November	6-7	Secondary Provincial Exams
	10	Curriculum Implementation Day – Non-instructional day – No school for students
	13	REMEMBRANCE DAY (OBSERVED)
December	22	Last day of classes prior to Winter Vacation Period
January 2018	8	Schools reopen after Winter Vacation Period
	25-26	Secondary: Internal and Provincial Exams
	29	Secondary Semester II Starts
February	12	BC FAMILY DAY
	23	Professional Development Day – No school for students
March	Mar 5 – Apr 13	Conferencing in schools – Please refer to individual school schedule(s)
	16	Last day of classes prior to Spring Vacation Period
	30	GOOD FRIDAY
April	2	EASTER MONDAY
	3	Schools reopen after Spring Vacation Period
	27	Conferencing Adjustment – Schools not in session
May	18	Professional Development Day – No school for students
	21	VICTORIA DAY
June	25-27	Secondary: Internal and Provincial Exams
	28	Final Day for Students – schools dismiss three hours early
	29	Administrative Day

Prescribed minimum number of hours of instruction for **2017/18:**

873 hours of instruction for students in Grades 1 to 7

947 hours of instruction for students in Grades 8 to 12



SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 69 (QUALICUM)

BOARD POLICY 5020

FIELD EXPERIENCES (TRIPS) ~~CO-CURRICULAR AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES~~

Page 1 of 1

The Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) supports and encourages schools to plan field experiences for groups of students in order to provide supplemental opportunities which enhance curricular learning and expand on athletic, cultural, musical, linguistic, or other educational endeavours.

The Board of Education further believes that in planning for any learning experience including field experiences, consideration must be given to student safety, curricular relevance and the appropriateness of the activity to the students' educational program. In all cases it is necessary for supervising staff to have the requisite skills and experience necessary to provide safe and appropriate field trip experiences.

The Board assigns each Principal primary responsibility and authority to approve student field experiences, and to ensure that these experiences conform to Board policies and administrative procedures.

The Board assigns the Superintendent or designate responsibility and authority to establish district practices and standards for the conduct of students during field experiences and provide approval for specified trip categories.

The Board retains the right to review and give approval for experiences that are out of province (including the continental United States) and extended off-continent studies (Category 4-5).

References

- *Administrative Procedure – Field Experiences (Trips)*
- *Vancouver School Board – Field Studies Resource Book: Guidelines and Policy for Elementary and Secondary Schools*

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 69 (QUALICUM)

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

FIELD EXPERIENCES (TRIPS)

Page 1 of 4

Guiding Principles Purpose

The Board considers the purpose of field experiences is to enable students to participate in quality off-site learning activities that are:

- An integral part of the educational process
- Closely connected to curriculum and prescribed learning outcomes
- Relevant, effective, affordable and accessible

The Board views field experience to be an outgrowth of a school program that involves a clearly defined class or group, such as: a secondary Leadership Program, a grade 6/7 class, a group of international students, band or athletic team.

The Board believes it is of paramount importance that student field experiences are selected, planned, organized and conducted with consideration and care for:

- The safety and security of all participants
- Risk assessment and mitigation
- Protection of students, staff, volunteers and the school district from liability or harm

Eligibility criteria to participate in field experiences must be established. No eligible student may be denied access to participate in a day field experience held during instructional hours due to financial hardship. A Principal, or Board designate, may exclude a student from the activity if the student does not meet the eligibility criteria.

The Board will provide field experiences free of charge to school-age students resident in the district and enrolled in an educational program at one of its schools where attendance is mandatory and/ or assessment will take place.

The Board may charge fees for the expenses such as transportation, accommodation, meals, entrance fees and equipment rentals for optional supplementary field experiences. Efforts to minimize costs to students/parents should be evident in all field experience planning.

All details of fundraising activities and requirements for the proposed field experience must be communicated clearly to students and parents and agreed upon at the outset of the planning process.

Field experiences should occur as close to the district as is reasonable without compromising the quality of the experience.

All details of proposed field experiences must be clearly communicated to students and parents.

Field experiences should not seriously interfere with the education of neither students who remain at school nor the students who are participating on the field experience.

School sponsored field experiences are considered to be school program activities and as such are subject to both the regulations of the school and to all School District 69 (Qualicum) Board policies and administrative procedures. When other agencies (e.g., Rotary, Government of

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 69 (QUALICUM)

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

FIELD EXPERIENCES (TRIPS)

Page 2 of 4

Canada) contact schools regarding opportunities for students to participate in activities sponsored by their organizations, parents should be made aware that such activities are not school field experiences.

Responsibilities Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

Parents/Guardians are responsible to determine whether their child may participate in a student field experience. In order to provide informed consent, comprehensive student field experience information that clearly describes the educational benefits and safety risks must be communicated to parents and guardians.

Student Responsibilities

Students participating in a field experience are responsible to comply with the school rules, Student Code of Conduct, Board policies, fulfill the preparatory requirements and cooperate with all supervisors.

Educator-in-Charge Responsibilities

The Educator-in-Charge is responsible to:

- Ensure the field experience is appropriately planned, authorized and organized
- Ensure parents have been provided with comprehensive student information that clearly describes the educational benefits and safety risks of the field experience
- Exercise supervision on a full-time basis
- Ensure detailed contact and trip information is left with the school Principal or designate
- Take whatever precautions are necessary to ensure the proper conduct, appropriate behaviour and safety of students.

Field Experience Supervisor Responsibilities

Supervisors (teachers, volunteers, contracted instructors) are responsible to:

- To provide supervision of students 24 hours per day
- To serve as role models to students and as ambassadors of the school district
- To conduct themselves accordingly, and within the expectations of the Board
- Alcohol or non-prescription drugs are not to be consumed while on, or before, supervising students as supervisors must be capable of reasoned judgment in case of an unexpected emergency at all times during the field experience. This expectation includes international locations where the cultural norms may vary.

Field Experience (Trip) Categories

The Board expects all Board employees responsible for planning and authorizing field experiences to be knowledgeable of the category definitions for field experiences.

Category 1 - Same Day Field Experiences

These may last up to a full day. Destinations and activities are determined by learning outcomes; examples of such field experiences are visits to museums, law courts, art galleries, nature parks, etc.

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 69 (QUALICUM)

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

FIELD EXPERIENCES (TRIPS)

Page 3 of 4

For the purposes of this policy, local neighbourhood excursions that are based on a specific class activity/learning outcome, such as a grade 3 class going to the local park to collect leaves for an art project, or a grade 11 Physical Education class jogging in the local neighbourhood, are not considered field experiences. However, teachers must always ensure that the school Principal is aware of such neighbourhood learning activities when they are occurring and that parent consent has been granted.

Category 2 - Overnight or Outside of the Central Vancouver Island Area Field Experiences

- Overnight Field Experiences may last for one or more days and take place within the province of British Columbia. Such excursions require an additional level of approval by the Superintendent or designate.
- Outside of Central Vancouver Island Field Experiences require Superintendent or designate approval because of the travel required. Field experiences that extend beyond Central Vancouver Island, even if lasting only for the day, are classified as Category 2.

Category 3 - Higher Risk Outdoor Field Experiences

These are outdoor education based field experiences that may last up to a full day, or may last for two days or more, and entail a level of risk that is higher than activities in which students are normally engaged in at school.

These would typically be:

- Outdoor Programs where an outdoor setting is important and it becomes the classroom. Examples might include Outdoor Education and Physical Education Activities. Examples could include the Rivers, Mountains and Oceans School (ROAMS) and the Vancouver Island Student Ski Patrol Program (VISSPP).
- Outdoor Pursuits refers to activities related to self-propelled travel on land, water and snow or ice. Examples may include hiking, kayaking and surfing. The definition of outdoor pursuit includes higher risk activities, such as skiing, and extended wilderness travel. Outdoor pursuits are typically of a higher care nature and as such these environments require some more specialized awareness, planning, instruction and leadership. Outdoor pursuit does not include local ice area activities, such as skating, hockey or curling.

Category 4 - Out of Province (Canada and Continental United States)

These field experiences involve travel outside of British Columbia, but within Canada or the continental United States and last typically for 5-14 days, such as cultural and linguistic exchanges where students travel outside B.C. to be immersed in the language and culture of another area. Examples could include French Immersion Grade 7 student exchange with a Quebec school and an international student trip to Seattle.

Category 5 - Extended Off-Continent Field Experiences

These comprise travel to foreign countries for the purpose of broadening students' understanding of other cultures and of helping them to see their relationship in the world as a Canadian. Extended Off-Continent Field Experiences include excursions during Spring Break.

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 69 (QUALICUM)

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

FIELD EXPERIENCES (TRIPS)

Page 4 of 4

Excursions During the Non-Instructional Year (school closure in June to school opening in September)

Excursions planned for the non-instructional period of the year (typically the months of July and August) will be supported as school-sponsored field experiences provided all requisite field experience policies, guidelines, and approval processes have been followed.

Teachers, or other Board employees, who participate in a supervisory role during non-instructional year excursions do so as volunteers, without salary compensation or the expectation of time in lieu.

Liability insurance coverage under the School Protection Plan does extend to any Board employee or volunteer acting in a supervisory capacity during the non-instructional year provided the excursion is a school-sponsored field experience and all requisite field experience policies have been followed.

Inappropriate Field Experiences

Field experiences may be deemed to be inappropriate by either the school administrator, or the Board designate.

Inappropriate field experiences are characterized as those that may involve:

- Activities that have inordinate risk for serious injury
- Dangers that cannot be overlooked regardless of their attention to risk and planning (such as supervision ratios, equipment, instruction and supervisors/ instructors experience and training)
- Age or developmentally inappropriate for activities for students, individually or as a group
- Inordinate expense or excessive absence from school
- Travel to areas where Foreign Affairs-Canada has published a travel advisory
- Compliance issues with the policies and procedures of the Board

References

- *Board Policy 5020 – Field Experiences (Trips)*
- *Vancouver School Board – Field Studies Resource Book: Guidelines and Policy for Elementary and Secondary Schools*

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 69 (QUALICUM)

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

TRAVEL EXPENSES

Page 1 of 1

(Previously Board Policy 6005)

Purpose

~~The Board of Education believes that Personnel traveling on behalf of the District to participate in meetings, workshops, negotiations and conferences, either by assignment or by directed attendance at workshops, are entitled to receive an appropriate travel allowance.~~ **reimbursement of expenses incurred.**

1. Application for remuneration reimbursement **of travel expenses** shall be made to the appropriate executive officer **supervisor with the submission of original receipts.**
2. ~~Car allowance~~ **Travel expense reimbursement** shall be consistent with **the BC School Trustees Association's (BCSTA) rate-per kilometer Policy on Travel Expenses.**
3. Upon the submission of necessary receipts all other expenses will be paid at the discretion of the appropriate executive officer.
4. This policy **administrative procedure** will be reviewed annually in the month of February by the Secretary Treasurer or designate.
5. Expenses covered by a contractual travel allowance do not apply.

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 69 (QUALICUM)

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

CREDIT CARDS

Page 1 of 1

(Previously Board Policy 6006)

Purpose

The Board of Education believes that for Sound business practices support the use of Board issued credit cards by designated staff and School Trustees as their use contributes to the efficiency of school district operations.

1. Board Credit cards may be issued to the following staff:
 - a. Superintendent of Schools
 - b. Secretary Treasurer
 - c. Assistant Secretary Treasurer
 - d. Assistant Superintendent
 - e. Director of Instruction
 - f. ~~Transportation Manager~~ General Manager of Operations
 - g. ~~Operations and Maintenance Manager~~ Assistant Manager of Operations
 - h. ~~Human Resources Manager~~ Director of Human Resources
 - i. School Trustees (five)
 - j. District Principals and ~~District~~ Vice-Principals
 - k. School secretaries - may hold ~~minor store~~ site cards to facilitate school purchases.
 - l. Other employees with areas of responsibility that require either regular purchasing or situational purchasing that cannot be managed through petty cash or requests for funds. Such employees must be recommended by their supervisor (who must also be an individual designated in 'a' through 'j'), and approved by the Secretary-Treasurer.
 - m. ~~No other employees shall be authorized to have a Board credit card.~~
2. The Board credit card issued to the aforementioned designated staff and School Trustees shall be utilized to cover expenses incurred on Board business or Board sponsored professional development: in accordance with the "Acceptable Use" document Card User Agreement.
3. ~~Use of the Board credit card for non travel related expenses should only occur when necessary due to timing, inability to issue a purchase order (for example, internet purchases) or for minor purchases.~~
34. The Board District endeavors to use credit or purchasing cards that provide savings back to the Board.
45. Card holders shall sign and adhere to an ~~Acceptable Use document~~ the Card User Agreement.

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 69 (QUALICUM)

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

INTERVIEW AND RELOCATION REIMBURSEMENT FOR
DISTRICT PRINCIPALS/VICE PRINCIPALS AND EXEMPT STAFF

Page 1 of 1

(Previously Board Policy 6166)

Purpose

The Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) believes that In order to attract the best candidates for its administrative **exempt** positions, candidates should be reimbursed for expenses.

Reimbursement shall be as outlined in the regulations below **follows:**

1. Candidates selected for interview will be reimbursed **for legitimate** travel, accommodation and meal expenses, up to a maximum of \$500, subject to **Submission of receipts and is required** in accordance with Board travel and reimbursement rates.
2. The successful candidate may be reimbursed for expenses to relocate within School District 69 boundaries up to a maximum of \$1,000. Receipts must be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer within sixty (60) days of the move.