



SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 69 (QUALICUM)

REGULAR BOARD MEETING ADDENDUM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2020
6:00 PM
THE FORUM
PARKSVILLE CIVIC & TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

b. ***Attachment to Climate Action Task Force Update***

(Barry Kurland/Julie Austin)



Board and Trustee Representative Committee Report

Trustee Representatives: Julie Austin & Barry Kurland
Committee Name: **Climate Action Task Force**
Meeting Location: QB Commons
Meeting Time: Multiple dates, 3:30 pm

Mandate

The School District 69 Climate Emergency Task Force will promote action to decrease greenhouse emissions, help develop plans to educate our learning community and advocate for progressive policy solutions.

Meetings to date:

The CATForce has met three times since November 2019. Each meeting has been well attended and had representatives from our senior leadership, school administration, teachers, students and community members.

The board passed three motions emerging from our first CATForce meeting:

Recommendations:

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) request staff to prepare a report on the school district's current plans in relation to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including data and targets related to district operations and transportation.

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) request senior staff to prepare a report for embedding and creating a focus on stewardship and climate change learning into the core competencies.

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) support a task force initiative to host a Climate Action Symposium in the spring of 2020.

We are awaiting data from Chris Dempster who is compiling a report emerging from the board's motion. We look forward to this data as it will be something tangible for teachers and students to use and extrapolate from. Vivian Collyer has been instrumental in helping embed stewardship and the climate crisis into the core competencies and is looking to create a Student Action Network. P/VP are working with students in leadership roles to further pursue activities and learning opportunities as it relates to the climate crisis.

As there were already climate crisis symposiums happening this spring elsewhere, the task force decided to postpone a spring symposium in favour of hosting an event in the fall. The task force hopes some students will step forward to help give shape and meaning to the fall event.

There has been lots of meaningful discussion and sharing around the table. David Haynes, retired SD 69 teacher, shared his work with the UN's 17 sustainable development goals. He is piloting this work in a couple of classrooms in the district and will discuss with MATA as a possible Pro-D share.

We were fortunate to have numerous students attend our January meeting, each sharing some of the sustainable initiatives that are happening at their schools. EES has numerous initiatives relating to recycling and are working with the RDN for better service. Student reps for QBES shared part of their presentation to a school wide assembly and are working toward a 30% reduction in power consumption, KSS and Ballenas also shared about things like Bike to Work week, Zero waste week and Fridays for Future.

Symposiums and conferences were held in Courtenay and by the QBRA in February and those that attended spoke to some of the inspiring speakers and activities that were on offer. In sponsoring our own symposium we can learn a lot from these others, including one hosted by VIU in the spring. We are looking at different approaches such as ED camps and Ignite sessions or Un-conference. A sub-committee will be struck to help plan the event.

Two students from the district leadership group came out to February's meeting to inform the task force of a question posed at the leadership's most recent meeting :

How do we balance the opportunities we have to create global awareness and global citizenship with the need to protect our environment?

Thanks to superintendent Elder for recording the responses and to Shelby and Alanna for providing context and insight. The responses were thoughtful and have kindled a conversation that will continue to grow.

Barry and I would like to thank all those that have come out and are so obviously committed to change. We thank the teachers, administrators, students and especially welcome the breadth of knowledge that resides with our community members. We especially thank Vivian and Chris for all their work in creating the foundations onto which we can build successful education and action.

Next meeting---April 2020, but there may be smaller symposium organizing meetings before then.