



REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2020

6:00 pm
VIA ZOOM

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

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: June 23, 2020 | p 1-8 |
| b. | Approval of Special Budget Board Meeting Minutes: June 5, 2020 | p 9-10 |
| c. | Ratification of In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: June 23, 2020 | p 11 |
| d. | Receipt of Ministry News | |
| | • Province implements vaping action plan | p 12-17 |
| | • Qualicum Beach parents to benefit from new child care spaces | p 18-21 |
| | • New community roundtable to tackle racism in BC schools | p 22-25 |
| | • Minister and K-12 education partners' statement of support of anti-racism | p 26 |
| | • Plan to safely bring K-12 students back to class full time | p 27-32 |
| | • Orientation week ensures a safe, ready and welcome return to school | p 33-34 |
| | • K-12 operational guidelines set requirements for masks | p 35-37 |
| e. | Status of Action Items – August 2020 | p 38 |

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve the consent agenda items of the Regular Board Meeting of August 25, 2020, as presented (*or, as amended*).

5. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS (10 MINUTES EACH)

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

7. MOUNT ARROWSMITH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

8. CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES (LOCAL 3570)

9. DISTRICT PARENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL

10. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (WRITTEN)

11. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **Restart Plan** (Keven Elder)
Recommendation:
THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) supports the Qualicum School District’s September Restart Plan for the 2020-2021 school year as presented by the Superintendent of Schools.

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **Educational Programs Update** (Gillian Wilson/Vivian Collyer)
- b. **Education Planning Update** (Keven Elder)
- c. **Summer Projects Update** (Chris Dempster) p 39-40

- 13. EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT** (Trustee Godfrey)
 No report

- 14. POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT** (Trustee Young)
 No report

- 15. FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT** (Trustee Flynn)
 No report

- 16. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS**
 No reports

17. TRUSTEE ITEMS

- a. **Letter to Minister of Education** (Trustee Kurland)
Recommendation:
THAT the Board Chair, on behalf of the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum), write a letter to the Minister of Education, copied to the Premier and the Ministry of Health, requesting clarification regarding the government’s COVID-19 plan for return to school. Aspects that require clarification are but not limited to:
 1. What criteria will the government use to move between stages of reopening?
 2. Does each school district have the authority to make the local decision to move thru the various stages?
 3. If there is an outbreak in a district, will that effect what stage other districts are in?
 4. If there is an outbreak specific to a school in a district, does the whole school require quarantining? Or will the government only require quarantining on an individual basis.
 5. Will the government consider a selective return to closure of various businesses to help lessen the spread of covid-19, as a consideration to slow the spread of covid-19, to ensure that schools will be open to server our children’s educational needs

The Board of Education would like clarification of these items, and others, in order to facilitate the return to schools in September in our district and British Columbia.

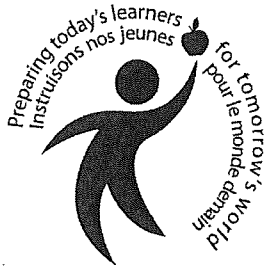
18. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

19. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE AND MEDIA

20. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

21. ADJOURNMENT

To be followed by Special Board Meeting for yearly election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Board.



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2020
3:00 PM
VIA ZOOM

ATTENDEES

Trustees

Eve Flynn	Chairperson
Julie Austin	Vice-Chairperson
Laura Godfrey	Trustee
Barry Kurland	Trustee
Elaine Young	Trustee

Administration

Keven Elder	Superintendent of Schools
Gillian Wilson	Associate Superintendent of Schools
Ron Amos	Secretary Treasurer
Vivian Collyer	Director of Instruction
Chris Dempster	General Manager of Operations
Corleen McKinnon-Sanderson	Principal, False Bay School/Vice Principal, Qualicum Beach Elementary Qualicum District Principals/Vice Principals' Association

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 zoom meeting to order at 3:02 p.m., reviewed the protocol for the zoom meeting and noted that the meeting was being recorded and posted on the district website.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Chair Flynn acknowledged that the Board was meeting via zoom on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish people and appreciated the Qualicum and Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose) First Nations for allowing the district to live, work and play on their lands.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Chair Flynn added an item under 'Board Correspondence and Media'.

20-67R

Moved: Trustee Godfrey *Seconded:* Trustee Young

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes: May 26, 2020
- b. Ratification of In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: May 26, 2020
- c. Ratification of Special In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: May 13, 2020
- d. Receipt of Ministry News
 - Nearly 60,000 students return on first day of in-class instruction
 - Improving outcomes for First Nations children in care
 - Thousands of BC students return for part-time in-class instruction
 - BC Summer Reading Club goes virtual: Let's explore our universe
- e. Receipt of Reports from Trustee Representatives
 - Oceanside Building Learning Together Coalition – Trustee Young
 - Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre Society – Trustee Flynn
- f. Status of Action Items – June 2020

20-68R

Moved: Trustee Austin *Seconded:* Trustee Godfrey

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve the consent agenda items of the Regular Board Meeting of June 23, 2020, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

None

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a. **Update on Letter from Parksville Lions Housing Society**
Secretary Treasurer Amos advised that the District will be responding to the Society with a letter indicating that the Board had discussed the Society's proposal to donate or lease part of the Craig Street Commons land for affordable housing and that the District will continue to be open for further discussions.

7. MOUNT ARROWSMITH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (MATA)

Deb Comer, President, commented on the following:

- The uniqueness of the school year due to COVID and the affect it had on how teachers did business and how they think about schooling. Teachers rose to the challenge and while some thrived by working remotely, others preferred to be in the classroom.
- During school visits last week, teachers expressed how glad they were to be back in front of students.
- Teachers are hoping that some of the protocols put into place over the past few months will be maintained in the 2020-2021 school year, i.e. daytime custodians, fresh air circulation, and hot water in schools
- Teachers also commented on the growth of students with smaller class sizes. They were able to connect more often and focus on specific areas of the students' learning needs.
- Teachers are exhausted and grateful that summer break is coming and everyone is hoping it will be a return to normal teaching in the fall.
- Appreciation to all CUPE members for their work in keeping school safe, clean and maintained.

8. **CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES (CUPE) LOCAL 3570**
No Report
9. **DISTRICT PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (DPAC)**
No Report
10. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS)**
None
11. **ACTION ITEMS**
None

12. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

a. **Education Update**

Gillian Wilson, Associate Superintendent, spoke to the following:

i. **Update on Kwalikum Secondary Student Trip to Japan 2020**

Associate Superintendent Wilson advised that the trip approved for spring break 2020, which had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, has been rescheduled to take place from March 10 to 22, 2021, should international borders be open and the government of Canada deem it safe to travel.

Trustees discussed the history of the trip to Japan as well as some of the merits considered for Category 4 field trips and referred to the updated Board Policy 502: Field Experiences (Trips) and the need for administrators to be aware of the changes and the requirement for proposed Category 4 trips to first be reviewed by the Education Committee of the Whole and be aware that the Board would only approve those trips pending confirmation that the destination is safe for travel according to the Government of Canada.

- ii. Acknowledgement of teaching staff who have worked hard to make schooling as normal as possible for students and to keep them connected via electronic and in-class means.
- iii. Acknowledgement to the support staff who have done an amazing job to connect with students and staff in schools and to make staff feel safe.
- iv. Associate Superintendent Wilson then advised that she and the Director of Instruction Collyer had created a parent survey to obtain feedback on the continuity of learning experiences which closed on June 22nd. She then reviewed the questions posed to parents and a high level overview of the results of the survey. A more detailed report will be provided to the Board as the data is reviewed.

Vivian Collyer, Director of Instruction, spoke to the following:

- Results of the parent survey will be important in planning and preparations for next year to identify what worked well and use that information as processes that would be continued in the fall as well as lessons learned and what can be improved.

- A research team from the Vancouver Island University (VIU) has also been approved to survey the district's employees regarding the rapid shift due to COVID, what communications have been like and what teaching and learning has been like as well as their perspectives on resources and supports that were made available. The survey went out last week to employees and closes tomorrow. All employees that work directly with students on their learning were included. VIU will also host a focussed group discussion with interested groups sometime in the next few weeks and in August will share a synthesis report of the results of the employee survey and focus group study. Since there is a possibility that districts may be providing learning in the same way as over the past few months, this will allow time for more reflection and staff are looking forward to reviewing the results of both surveys to improve on providing support for staff and students in the fall.

b. Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Elder commented on the following:

- Appreciation for what all staff in the District have done since news of the pandemic came down in March to provide a safe working and learning environment and allowed staff to focus on the primary objective to ensure children are safe and educated.
- An End of Year message will be sent out to parents via School Messenger on June 24th and posted on the district and school websites.
- It is anticipated that the end of this pandemic is not near and the district will continue to work through the challenges in the true spirit of collaboration, care and support.
- Staff are preparing for September at the same time as the current school year is coming to an end. There are 5 stages being contemplated for education in the fall. While it is hoped that the province will be in Stage 1, it is more likely that school will start in one of the other stages. It is anticipated that districts will know by August 20th which stage of school start-up will be in place. In the interim, a planning document for the 2020-2021 school year is being prepared that will be shared with administrators and union partner representatives prior to being finalized in the next week.
- Numerous celebrations for retirement, commencement and leavings as well as welcoming student to Kindergarten have been taking place over the past few weeks.
- Thank you to the whole learning community for the extraordinary work done since the pandemic to the end of the school year.

Trustees referred to a number of graduation event and acknowledgements, including lawn signs and posters of individual 2020 graduates which were being displayed throughout the district. A letter of thanks will be sent to the Town of Qualicum Beach for providing funding for the posters to be displayed at local businesses as well as the businesses who initiated and contributed to the cost of the creation of the lawn signs.

13. EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

Trustee Godfrey noted that a highlight for her was the presentations from staff on their learning grant projects and she plans to provide the opportunity for those types of presentations again throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

a. Approval in Principle for a Kwalikum Student Field Experience to Spain/Portugal

Trustees spoke to the motion to approve in principle a student field experience to Spain and Portugal in Spring of 2021. Trustees considered a number of issues including educational value, global citizenship, climate action, carbon footprint, carbon offsets, equity for students, similar local opportunities and how those related to the board's field trip policy and administrative procedures. The current pandemic, student and staff safety and the potential for another outbreak was also discussed.

20-69R

Moved: Trustee Godfrey *Seconded:* Trustee Flynn

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) give approval in principle for a Kwalikum secondary students field experience to Spain and Portugal in March 2021, pending a package being prepared which includes climate offset considerations and equitable access.

CARRIED

Trustees Young Godfrey and Flynn voted for the motion
Trustees Kurland and Austin voted against the motion

Trustees requested that the information package would come forward prior to the trip being brought forward for the Board's final approval.

Trustee Kurland withdrew from the zoom meeting at 4:20 p.m.

14. POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

a. Board Policy 103: New/Repurposed Facilities *(previously numbered 4003)*

20-70R

Moved: Trustee Young *Seconded:* Trustee Austin

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve first reading to adopt the revisions to Board Policy 103: *New/Repurposed Facilities* at its Regular Board Meeting of June 23, 2020

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Board Policy 104: Video Monitoring *(previously numbered 4004)*

20-71R

Moved: Trustee Young *Seconded:* Trustee Godfrey

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve first reading to adopt the revisions to Board Policy 104: *Video Monitoring* at its Regular Board Meeting of June 23, 2020

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. Board Policy 105: Use of School Facilities *(previously administrative procedure only)*

20-72R

Moved: Trustee Young *Seconded:* Trustee Austin

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve first reading to adopt Board Policy 105: *Use of School Facilities* and its attendant administrative procedure at its Regular Board Meeting of June 23, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- d. **Board Policy 100: Sustainable Practices** *(previously numbered 4009)*
It was noted that the members of the CAT Force would be given the opportunity to provide feedback on the policy prior to third and final reading.

20-73R

Moved: Trustee Young *Seconded:* Trustee Godfrey

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve second reading to adopt the revisions to Board Policy 100: *Sustainable Practices* at its Regular Board Meeting of June 23, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- e. **Board Policy 101: Capital Projects: Tendering, Purchase, Disposal**
(merging of 4001, 4002 and 4007)

20-74R

Moved: Trustee Young *Seconded:* Trustee Austin

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve second reading to adopt the revisions to Board Policy 101: *Capital Projects: Tendering, Purchase, Disposal* at its Regular Board Meeting of June 23, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- f. **Board Policy 302: Communities' and Volunteers' Involvement in our School District.**

20-75R

Moved: Trustee Young *Seconded:* Trustee Godfrey

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve third and final reading to adopt the revisions to Board Policy 302: *Communities' and Volunteers' Involvement in our School District* and its attendant administrative procedures at its Regular Board Meeting of June 23, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- g. **Board Policy 304: School Closure, Consolidation or Reconfiguration**
(previously numbered 3004)

20-76R

Moved: Trustee Young *Seconded:* Trustee Godfrey

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve second reading to adopt the revisions to Board Policy 304: *School Closure, Consolidation or Reconfiguration* and its attendant administrative procedures at its Regular Board Meeting of June 23, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

15. FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

- a. **Annual Five-Year Capital Plan Submission for 2021-2022**

20-77R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Young

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve the Annual Five-Year Capital Plan Submission for 2021-22 as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Placing of Playground Equipment for Errington/Coombs/Hilliers Community**
Trustees discussed information provided by Secretary Treasurer Amos which provided three options for the board to consider regarding playground equipment for Errington Elementary School and the French Creek site.

Secretary Treasurer Amos advised that districts are normally only allocated a small amount in the capital plan for playground equipment, which is why it had not been included in the five-year capital plan and, instead, had provided alternative way the board could address the issue.

20-78R

Moved: Trustee Austin *Seconded:* Trustee Young

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) support option 3 as presented and commit \$50,000 of the Local Capital (or Operating) reserve balance to fund a new play structure at Errington Elementary School.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

None

17. TRUSTEE ITEMS

- a. 2020-2021 Trustees' Schedule of Meetings**

Chair Flynn presented the draft schedule of meetings for 2020-2021, noting that the location or means by which the meetings would take place would be determined by which phase of the Restart Plan was in place at various times throughout the upcoming year.

- b. Motion to Support Inclusiveness and Social Justice**

Trustee Young spoke to her rationale as provided on the agenda and provided additional details on the history of social injustices and the movement to eradicate systemic racism.

Trustees discussed ways the statement proposed could be more inclusive of all races, ethnicity and sexual orientation.

20-79R

Moved: Trustee Young *Seconded:* Trustee Austin

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) express support for the Black Lives Matter movement and for the establishment of a socially just community by releasing a public statement of this position; and, further,

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) encourage all members of our community to actively work toward eradication of barriers by learning about the histories, understanding peoples' lived experiences, and examining personal privilege.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- c. Climate Action Task Force Report**

Trustee Austin reviewed the topics discussed at the on-line Climate Action Task Force meeting held on June 10th. A question regarding the climate crisis as it related to student field trips was discussed and will be considered further in the

context of local experiences and humanitarian value. There is also an opportunity for students to participate in a tree planting project which has the support of the General Manager of Operations. Information will be provided to the Superintendent to share with schools.

18. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

19. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE AND MEDIA

a. VIU Teacher Practicum Thank you Letter

Chair Flynn noted that an email was received from the Professor of Graduate Programs at the Vancouver Island University's Faculty of Education extending appreciation to the board and district staff for the support of the VIU pre-service teachers in practicum this past year.

20. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

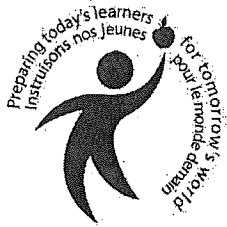
None

21. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Godfrey moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:01 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY TREASURER



SPECIAL BUDGET BOARD MEETING MINUTES

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2020
10:00 A.M.
VIA ZOOM

ATTENDEES

Trustees

Eve Flynn	Chairperson
Julie Austin	Vice Chairperson
Laura Godfrey	Trustee
Barry Kurland	Trustee
Elaine Young	Trustee

Administration

Keven Elder	Superintendent of Schools
Ron Amos	Secretary Treasurer
Gillian Wilson	Associate Superintendent
Vivian Collyer	Director of Instruction
Chris Dempster	General Manager of Operations
Rudy Terpstra	Principal, Ballenas Secondary School Qualicum District Principal and Vice Principals Association
Karin Hergt	Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)

Education Partners

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Flynn called the Special Budget Board Meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Chair Flynn acknowledged that the Board was meeting on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish peoples and the home of the Qualicum and Snaw-Naw-As First Nations and the Board appreciates working and playing on their shared territories.

3. 2020-2021 ANNUAL BUDGET BYLAW

Secretary Treasurer Amos provided additional details on the proposed budget, noting that the allocation for social emotional teaching positions were reinstated at 2.0 FTE following further discussion at the May 26th Board Meeting.

It was noted that the budget could be amended in future should additional funding be provided or if priorities shift during the school year.

Trustees stressed the importance of allocating any additional funding to directly benefit students, especially vulnerable learners. They also expressed concerns regarding the potential need to increase custodial time given the current pandemic and the required ongoing enhanced cleaning protocols through the upcoming school year.

20-62R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Young

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) give third and final reading to adopt the School District No. 69 (Qualicum) Annual Budget Bylaw in the amount of \$57,330,357 for the 2020/21 fiscal year.

CARRIED

Trustee Austin abstained

4. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

Trustees/senior administrators received comments and/or answered questions on the following topic(s):

- COVID contingency fund of \$190,908

5. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Godfrey moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY TREASURER



SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 69 (QUALICUM)

IN-CAMERA MEETING

SECTION 72 REPORT
June 23, 2020

ATTENDEES:

Trustees

Eve Flynn	Chairperson
Julie Austin	Vice Chairperson
Elaine Young	Trustee
Laura Godfrey	Trustee
Barry Kurland	Trustee

Administration

Dr. Keven Elder	Superintendent of Schools
Ron Amos	Secretary Treasurer
Gillian Wilson	Associate Superintendent

The Board of Education discussed the following topics:

- Land
- Labour Relations

No motions were presented for approval at this meeting

Chairperson

Secretary Treasurer

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2020HLTH0038-001324
July 20, 2020

Ministry of Health
Ministry of Education

Province implements vaping action plan

VICTORIA – The Province is bringing into force regulations to fully implement the Province’s leading-edge vaping action plan, which was announced in November 2019.

The regulations restrict the content, flavour, packaging, advertising and sale of vapour products in British Columbia.

B.C.’s ministries of Health and Education will also establish a provincial youth advisory council to develop, pilot and launch youth-informed strategies to reduce vaping by young people.

“We heard from young people across the province that vaping companies are targeting them with a product that poses real and serious health and addiction risks,” said Adrian Dix, Minister of Health. “That’s why we are bringing in regulations to keep vapour products away from developing lungs and to prevent nicotine addiction. We know youth are eager to get involved in this action, and I’ve seen promising work through early youth engagement to help influence their peers and stop this dangerous trend of addiction.”

The new E-Substances Regulation, under the Public Health Act, restricts the amount of nicotine in vapour pods and liquid to 20mg/ml, and requires retailers to sell only those vapour products that are plainly packaged and have labels with health warnings. New retailers planning to sell vape products will need to comply with the regulation immediately. Existing vapour-product retailers will have a short transition period until Sept. 15, 2020.

The regulation immediately prohibits all retailers from selling non-nicotine or nicotine-cannabis blended vapour products.

Changes to the Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Regulation ban advertising of vapour products in places where youth can access, hear or see advertisements, such as bus shelters or community parks. They also restrict the sale of flavoured vapour products, which are attractive to youth, to adult-only shops.

The provincial youth advisory council will launch in September 2020, through a partnership between the ministries of Education and Health. The council will be established next month and will also monitor and evaluate the overall impact of the plan.

“Schools are the perfect place to talk with young people about the negative effects vaping can have on their health and development, so they have the knowledge they need to make decisions about the use of nicotine and tobacco,” said Rob Fleming, Minister of Education. “That’s why we worked with students and health experts to find the best ways to reach British Columbia’s youth and their families for a campaign that will go a long way in promoting healthy choices for kids.”

Other non-regulatory action under the Province's vaping action plan, includes a youth-led anti-vaping social media campaign to de-normalize vaping. Youth throughout B.C. were engaged through regional youth advisory tables, to provide guidance for the "evaporate" campaign. Launched in February 2020, the campaign has so far garnered over 27 million digital impressions.

With provincial support, last year the BC Lung Association created and distributed a youth vaping prevention toolkit to all K-12 schools in British Columbia. The toolkit provides information for educators, parents and youth to use when having discussions and making choices about vaping.

The Province is also providing support to vapers who want help to quit through the quit-smoking service, QuitNow. QuitNow has been updated to include new quit-vaping information resources for youth and provides coaching by phone or text.

The action plan required the Province to implement increased sales tax, which was implemented on Jan. 1, 2020.

B.C.'s youth vaping action plan is the most comprehensive plan in Canada to address vaping by youth. It focuses on stopping youth vaping, while ensuring vaping can still be used as a harm reduction tool by adults.

Quotes:

Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer –

"Providing young people in B.C. information about the risks of vaping, while restricting the advertising and flavours used to make it attractive, is an important step in stemming the use of this addictive and dangerous product. This approach mirrors the effective measures we used to reduce youth smoking, and continuing to work with youth on this action plan can ensure we protect a new generation from nicotine."

Christopher Lam, president and CEO, BC Lung Association –

"We applaud the B.C. government's determination to protect our youth from the harms of vaping. Increased measures to cap allowable nicotine dosages, further limit advertising and restrict access to flavoured products are very positive, as is the Province's commitment to giving youth an active voice and role in defining effective vaping education solutions."

Jeff Sommers, director, government relations and health promotion, Heart & Stroke BC & Yukon –

"Heart & Stroke has been advocating for these changes for a long time and we applaud the provincial government for moving forward with such a bold and comprehensive plan to address the youth vaping crisis. Use and addiction of vape products among youth has skyrocketed. Flavours provide the attraction, while high nicotine content hooks them. This is why the government's actions are so vital, as they will protect the health of our young people."

Andrea Seale, chief executive officer, Canadian Cancer Society –

"We are deeply concerned by the dramatic increase in youth vaping. The new B.C. regulations

are strong, containing a series of essential measures. The regulations, which we fully support, will significantly reduce youth vaping and will help prevent a new generation of youth from becoming addicted to nicotine through vaping products.”

Learn More:

For a summary of vaping regulations:

https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/2020.07.20_SummaryVaping_Regs.pdf

Ministry of Health vaping website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/vaping>

BC Lung Association Vaping toolkit: <https://bc.lung.ca/vaping-toolkit>

QuitNow quit smoking/vaping service: <https://www.quitnow.ca/>

Two backgrounders follow.

Contact:

Ministry of Health

Communications

250 952-1887 (media line)

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

BACKGROUND 1

For Immediate Release
2020HLTH0038-001324
July 20, 2020

Ministry of Health
Ministry of Education

Vaping action plan: updates

- Regulate nicotine content in vapour products:
 - in force July 2020, for new retailers
 - Existing retailers have until Sept. 15, 2020, to sell existing stock.
- Restrict the sale of flavoured vapour products.
 - in force July 2020, for new retailers
 - Existing retailers have until Sept. 15, 2020, to sell existing stock.
- Implement new labelling requirements to include plain packaging and health warnings:
 - in force July 2020
- Strengthen restrictions on public advertising:
 - in force July 2020
- Increase the provincial sales tax on vapour products and accessories:
 - completed Jan. 1, 2020.
- Create a provincial youth advisory committee to support and advise on youth vaping, education, social awareness and other initiatives:
 - to begin in August 2020
- Distribute the BC Lung Association vaping prevention toolkit provincewide to schools for students, parents and educators:
 - completed Jan. 1, 2020
- Launch a stop vaping youth social awareness and marketing campaign:
 - launched November 2019
- Enhanced QuitNow resources for youth wanting to quit vaping:
 - completed

Contact:

Ministry of Health
Communications
250 952-1887 (media line)

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

BACKGROUND 2

For Immediate Release
2020HLTH0038-001324
July 20, 2020

Ministry of Health
Ministry of Education

Provincial youth advisory council

On Nov. 14, 2019, Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, and Rob Fleming, Minister of Education, announced the Province's Vaping Action Plan that included launching a provincial youth advisory council.

The purpose of the council is to:

- have a sole focus on youth vaping;
- engage the youth voice and perspective;
- provide feedback on existing actions in the action plan; and
- identify additional actions and initiatives that would be effective in reducing youth vaping.

The original proposal was to establish an in-person council that would operate for approximately 18 months, meeting approximately quarterly over the school year.

- The launch was proposed for May 2020.
- A decision on the creation of the council was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of school classes.

Provincial youth vaping advisory council – terms of reference

Overview:

E-cigarettes have become popular among youth in recent years. They are easy to access, come in a variety of appealing flavours and are promoted as safe and fun by many influencers. These products may cause health risks and have not been fully evaluated for safety and quality by Health Canada. The evidence is mounting that the health-related impacts, and number of youth who are addicted to nicotine is on the rise.

On Nov. 14, 2019, one of the key commitments from the provincial vaping action plan, made by the Minister of Health on behalf of the Province, was to establish a provincial youth vaping advisory council (the council) to actively engage youth on this important issue.

Mandate:

The mandate of the council is to provide advice and inform vaping related education and awareness and social awareness campaigns, as well as identify other actions and initiatives with the goal to support the health and wellness and improve the overall resilience of youth.

Term:

The first term of the council will be from September 2020, to June 2021 (eight months). The first meeting is expected to occur in September or October 2020, with meetings throughout the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.

Membership:

The council membership will be drawn from B.C., youth aged 13 to 18 years.

Youth selections for the council will reflect regional representation, support diversity of perspectives and varied provincial contexts.

Students may qualify for course credit, acknowledging their work on the council and discuss with their school principal how they might access credits for Independent directed studies.

Working groups:

Working groups may be established as needed, to develop resources based on the council's advice and/or ministry direction. Working group membership may consist of council members, as well as external members, as needed.

Frequency of meetings:

The advisory will meet quarterly (up to four times per year) virtually. Special ad hoc meetings may also be called as required.

Agenda and minutes:

Ministry representatives will provide an agenda in advance of the meeting. Notes will be taken at the meeting and a record of discussion will be shared with all group members.

Secretariat and support:

The sponsoring ministry will provide secretariat support to the council.

Review of the terms of reference:

The terms of reference will be reviewed by the council to ensure they remain current. At the discretion of the ministry, the terms of reference and membership of the council may also be reviewed and adjusted.

Confidentiality:

It is understood that meetings and discussions of the council are not confidential. However, at the discretion of the ministry, members may be asked to keep specific items confidential. Names of members may be shared publicly.

Contact:

Ministry of Health
Communications
250 952-1887 (media line)

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2020CFD0069-001341
July 24, 2020

Ministry of Children and Family Development

Qualicum Beach parents to benefit from new child care spaces

QUALICUM BEACH – Families in Qualicum Beach will have access to 68 new licensed child care spaces as part of the Province’s ongoing commitment to increasing child care through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

“It takes a village to raise a child and it takes a community coming together to create affordable, quality child care for local families,” said Katrina Chen, Minister of State for Child Care. “I’m proud our government is supporting the Town of Qualicum and the Qualicum School District to create new, licensed child care spaces that will offer local children a safe and caring place to learn and grow for generations.”

Childcare BC’s New Spaces Fund is supporting the Town of Qualicum Beach to create 25 new spaces for children aged three years to kindergarten at the Into the Woods Early Learning Studio, which is expected to open in September 2021.

The studio will be fully accessible and inclusive to children requiring extra support needs and will offer programs to support Indigenous communities and cultures by inviting community educators, traditional language speakers, artists and First Nations storytellers to teach children about the Hul’qumi’num language and Pentlatch culture.

“This project will create a truly remarkable space for our town’s youngest residents, within the natural beauty of our community park,” said Luke Sales, director of planning and community development, Town of Qualicum Beach. “Thanks to this funding, the town will be able to support local families in a way that never would have otherwise been possible.”

School District 69 (Qualicum) is receiving funding to create a total of 43 new licensed spaces. The spaces include 16 for children aged three years to kindergarten and 27 for school-aged children and will be located at Arrowview Kids Club, a two-classroom stand-alone building next to Arrowview Elementary school. It is expected to open in early 2021. Oceanside Building Learning Together Society will operate the new facility and employ a cultural liaison worker to provide Indigenous language lessons, stories, program materials and local knowledge to children.

“School District 69 Qualicum is excited to provide additional child care space on site at Arrowview Elementary for the parents of the youngsters in our community,” said Eve Flynn, board chair, School District 69.

Recent changes made by the government to the School Act will make it even easier for school boards to create and operate before- and after-school care. The changes will also require school boards to prioritize space that is not being used for K-12 students for child care and encourage school boards to adopt an inclusive child care policy.

“For too long, families throughout B.C. have struggled to find quality, affordable child care close to home,” said Rob Fleming, Minister of Education. “We’re making it easier for child care to be delivered on school properties because children benefit when they spend more time in spaces that are already designed for enrichment and play, and families save time and money with one central drop-off location in their neighbourhoods.”

July 2020 marks the second anniversary of the launch of the New Spaces Fund, which has approved an average of 700 new spaces for funding each month. So far, nearly 16,800 new spaces have been funded throughout the province, helping parents return to work, go back to school or pursue other opportunities.

“As a former early childhood educator, I know that quality child care makes a huge difference to families, allowing parents to go back to work or school and benefiting local economies in every part of B.C.,” said Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development. “I’m proud of the progress our government has made in a short time. By funding over 16,000 child care spaces across the province, our Childcare BC plan is saving parents time and money and helping children along the path to lifelong learning.”

These new spaces are part of the fastest creation of child care spaces in B.C.’s history. An additional 4,100 spaces, funded through the 2017 Budget Update and the Early Learning and Child Care agreement with the Government of Canada, means that more than 20,900 new licensed spaces have been funded since July 2017.

Investing in child care and early childhood education is a shared priority between government and the BC Green Party caucus and is part of the Confidence and Supply Agreement.

Quick Facts:

- This investment means 112 new licensed child care spaces have been funded in Qualicum Beach since July 2018.
- As the Province moves towards its “new normal” under COVID-19, child care capital builds may see unexpected delays.
- Once operational, child care providers will be required to follow guidelines provided by the Ministry of Health and BC Centre for Disease Control to keep staff and the families they serve safe and to limit the risk of transmission.

Learn More:

For information on health and safety standards for child care, visit:
www.gov.bc.ca/ChildCareCovid-19Response

For more about Childcare BC, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/childcare

To learn more about the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund, visit:
www.gov.bc.ca/childcare/newspacesfund

For more information on child care in Qualicum Beach, visit the PacificCARE Family Enrichment Society: <https://pacific-care.bc.ca/>

To find child care in your community, view the online child care map:

<http://maps.gov.bc.ca/ess/hm/ccf/>

Child care factsheet: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/18430>

A backgrounder follows.

Contact:

Ministry of Children and Family Development
Government Communications and Public
Engagement
778 587-3237

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



BACKGROUND

For Immediate Release
2020CFD0069-001341
July 24, 2020

Ministry of Children and Family Development

Childcare BC improves access to quality, affordable child care

- Since launching in February 2018, the Childcare BC plan has helped parents save up to \$1,600 a month, per child, for a total of nearly \$510 million through the Affordable Child Care Benefit and Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative. As a result of these investments:
 - over 32,000 children have received child care for no more than \$10 a day, including 80 in Qualicum Beach.
 - parents in Qualicum Beach have saved more than \$1.1 million.
- Qualicum Beach, in partnership with Lantzville, Parksville and the Regional District of Nanaimo, received a \$125,000 grant from the Community Child Care Planning program, administered by the Union of B.C. Municipalities, to identify their specific child care space needs.
- In January 2020, the Province launched a new professional development program, which is giving early childhood educators access to more than 30 teaching specialists at community hubs throughout B.C., helping them to stay up to date on the latest child care teaching trends and techniques.
- The Province has made significant investments to improve supports to B.C.'s early care and learning professionals, including approximately \$16 million to provide more than 6,000 bursaries and workforce-development supports for students pursuing a career in child care.
- To date, the Province has invested more than \$27 million to provide more than 12,000 early childhood educators with a \$1-per-hour wage enhancement, which increased to \$2 an hour in April 2020. This includes more than \$52,000 for early childhood educators in Qualicum Beach.

Contact:

Ministry of Children and Family Development
Government Communications and Public
Engagement
778 587-3237

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

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2020EDUC0051-001372
July 24, 2020

Ministry of Education

New community roundtable to tackle racism in B.C. schools

VICTORIA – A new Community Roundtable on Anti-Racism in education has been created to support the development of an anti-racism action plan and to strengthen the K–12 curriculum, ensuring the culture, beliefs and ancestry of all students and staff are accepted, celebrated and understood.

“There is no place for racism, discrimination or intolerance in British Columbia – in our schools or anywhere else,” said Premier John Horgan. “We are bringing important voices to the table to help us bolster culture-based learning in the education system and build a better and more inclusive future for B.C.”

Rob Fleming, Minister of Education, has brought together community leaders from a wide range of groups to better understand the impact of racism on B.C. students and provide input into strengthening and developing new policies and programs that promote anti-racism. The roundtable held its first meeting on Friday, July 24, 2020, and will continue to meet as the action plan is developed.

“Now is the time to listen, learn, engage and act,” Fleming said. “We are committed to working with community and education partners to build a meaningful and lasting anti-racism action plan to ensure schools are safe and welcoming places where diversity is celebrated.”

This is the first in a series of conversations to guide the ministry and B.C. education partners in understanding barriers faced by Indigenous students and students of colour. Fleming has asked the First Nations Leadership Council, the First Nations Education Steering Committee and Métis Nation BC to help set up a distinct Indigenous table and co-develop its approach. A new student advisory group will also be formed in the fall to hear directly from students on their experiences.

“Through this roundtable, we are hopeful for a more inclusive tomorrow by supporting students, families and educators today,” said Anne Kang, Minister of Citizens’ Services and responsible for Multiculturalism. “By listening and learning from the experiences of others we can all work together to build an environment that is understanding and respectful of our differences.”

The Community Roundtable on Anti-Racism in education builds on a series of community dialogues led by Ravi Kahlon, former parliamentary secretary for sport and multiculturalism, last summer. The feedback from these meetings informed the development of Resilience BC, a provincewide anti-racism network announced in November 2019. The network connects communities with the information, supports and training they need to respond to and prevent future incidents of racism and hate at a local and regional level. Resilience BC is being

established in 40 communities.

Quotes:

Silvia Mangué Alene, president, BC Black History Awareness Society –

“We are pleased to be working with the Ministry of Education to address racism in our schools. We’ve been advocating for this for many years now, and this roundtable is an important first step towards bringing the experiences and history of Black Canadians into our classrooms. We believe strongly that education about people and other people’s culture really reduces racism and prejudice.”

Tyrone McNeil, president, First Nations Education Steering Committee –

“Recent events demonstrate the imperative for concrete measures to address racism in our society and the responsibility of the Province to act. By including a mandatory course on First Peoples as part of B.C.’s K-12 graduation requirements, we can ensure that every student graduates with an understanding of First Peoples’ perspectives, cultures, and histories. This is a widely supported measure that will contribute to significant change in the province.”

Stephanie Higginson, president, BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) –

“These conversations are necessary and long overdue. Developing an anti-racism action plan for B.C. is an important step in ensuring all students feel safe and welcome in our schools. I am pleased that Minister Fleming is moving forward with this important initiative and that the ministry is committed to listening and learning from all voices in our province. Most importantly, BCSTA looks forward to working shoulder to shoulder with education stakeholders and rights holders to move from conversations to action.”

Teri Mooring, president, BC Teachers’ Federation –

“Confronting racism in our schools and society is important work. All students will benefit from an enhanced focus on antiracism in the K–12 curriculum. We are very happy to contribute to this important initiative.”

Paul Faoro, president, CUPE BC –

“I want to thank Premier Horgan and ministers Fleming and Kang for showing provincial leadership on this incredibly important issue. I also want to thank MLA Kahlon for his work leading last year’s community dialogues on racism. There is no place for racism in our society, full stop, yet racism still exists. We must fight it wherever we find it, but we must also redouble our efforts to ensure that all education partners work harder than ever to ensure schools are inclusive, welcoming places for all students and staff.”

Quick Facts:

- All of B.C.’s 60 school districts and independent schools have codes of conduct or policies in place that align with the BC Human Rights Code to ensure schools remain free of discrimination against a person based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age of that person or class of persons.

- The provincial ERASE (expect respect and a safe education) strategy is a comprehensive prevention and intervention strategy designed to foster school connectedness, address bullying, prevent violence and provide support to school districts during critical incidents. ERASE's online reporting tool has recently expanded to include a category for reporting incidents of racism and discrimination.
- Indigenous knowledge and perspectives are woven into B.C.'s new curriculum.
- Several new Indigenous-focused courses are offered as part of the new B.C. Graduation Program, including Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12, B.C. First Peoples 12, and expanded course options for English First Peoples 10 through 12.
- In 2019, government provided \$3.1 million for Indigenous teacher training programs to ensure B.C. has more teachers trained to bring Indigenous perspectives into classrooms.

Learn More:

To learn more about Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/multiculturalism-anti-racism/anti-racism/resiliencebc>

Students, parents, guardians and teachers can access resources through the ERASE program to help them build safer school communities: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/erase>

Contact:

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

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



BACKGROUND

For Immediate Release
2020EDUC0051-001372
July 24, 2020

Ministry of Education

Community Roundtable on Anti-Racism

Members include:

- Rob Fleming, Minister of Education
- Scott MacDonald, deputy minister of Education
- Anne Kang, Minister of Citizens' Services and responsible for Multiculturalism
- First Nations Education Steering Committee
- First Nations Schools Association of B.C.
- Métis Nation B.C.
- B.C. Association of First Nations
- Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs
- First Nations Summit
- B.C. Black History Awareness Society
- African Descent Society BC
- BC Community Alliance
- Hogan's Alley Society
- University of Victoria (UVic) Equity and Human Rights
- South Asian Studies Institute
- Punjabi Legacy Project Advisory Committee
- Premier's Chinese Canadian Community Advisory Committee
- National Association of Japanese Canadians
- Landscapes of Injustice Curriculum Project
- National Council of Canadian Muslims
- UVic Muslim Students Association
- Jewish Community Centre
- Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs
- Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre
- BC Multicultural Advisory Council
- Hua Foundation
- Resilience BC
- Fresh Voices Youth Advisory
- B.C. Teachers' Federation
- B.C. School Trustees Association
- B.C. School Superintendents Association
- B.C. Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association
- B.C. Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils
- B.C. Association of School Business Officials
- Federation of Independent School Associations
- Canadian Union of Public Employees

JOINT STATEMENT

For Immediate Release
2020EDUC0050-001364
July 24, 2020

Ministry of Education

Minister and K-12 education partners' statement of support for anti-racism

VICTORIA – The following is a statement of support for anti-racism from Rob Fleming, Minister of Education, and the First Nations Education Steering Committee, First Nations Schools Association, BC School Trustees Association, BC Teachers' Federation, CUPE BC, BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils, BC Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association, BC School Superintendents Association, BC Association of School Business Officials and the Federation of Independent School Associations:

“Combating racism must be a co-operative effort between all provincial education partners. Together, we are actively listening to people within and outside of our organizations who have faced prejudice and racism. We all have a role to play in our collective commitment to eradicate systemic racism and overt racism in our education system. What we hear from community members who have lived and observed racism will inform a provincial education action plan and help us understand the steps we need to take within our own organizations to ensure students, teachers, educators, support staff and parents feel safe, respected and welcome in our schools.

“There is no place for racism, discrimination or intolerance in our province, in our communities or in our classrooms. Our province is proudly diverse and our schools and our curriculum must proudly support a deep and broad understanding of culture, race and ancestry. All B.C. public school districts must have codes of conduct and independent school authorities must have policies in place to ensure schools remain free of discrimination against a person based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age of that person or class of persons in alignment with the B.C. Human Rights Code.

“The B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, which requires government to take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of B.C. are consistent with the standards set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, will form a key component of the anti-racism strategy moving forward.

“It is our hope that the work we are beginning now will have a lasting impact for generations to come.”

For Punjabi and Chinese (simplified and traditional) translations, visit:
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EDUC0050-001364#translations>



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2020EDUC0040-001415
July 29, 2020

Ministry of Education

Plan to safely bring K-12 students back to class full time

VICTORIA – Enhanced safety measures and additional resources will enable most students in grades K-12 to return to school on Sept. 8, 2020, with full-time in-class learning as the province moves to Stage 2 of B.C.’s Education Restart Plan.

“The classroom is an essential part of a child’s social, academic and mental development, and that’s why we are working hard to ensure students can safely spend the next school year with their teachers and classmates,” said Rob Fleming, Minister of Education. “We were the only jurisdiction in Canada that brought students back into the classroom provincewide before the end of the school year and this has given us valuable information that we are using to develop our plans, ensuring health and safety at schools remain paramount.”

On the advice of the provincial health officer, students will be organized into learning groups, a consistent group of staff and students. This will reduce the number of people each student or staff member will come into contact with, reducing the risk of transmission and ensuring quicker contact tracing by health authorities.

All boards of education and independent school authorities will continue to be required to implement a suite of health and safety measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, following the recently updated guidelines from the BC Centre for Disease Control.

“We know how important it is for children to be back in school – to both support their emotional and mental health and their ability to socialize and to learn,” said Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.’s provincial health officer. “Being back in school is also crucial to support many parents in being able to work, but we must do it safely. We ask for families and workplaces to continue to be flexible as we come into the fall. We’ve put a lot of thoughtful work and consideration into reopening schools this fall and in making sure we’re supporting children in ways that keep them, the people who teach them and our communities safe.”

To support and ensure the health and safety of students and staff during this pandemic, a one-time investment of \$45.6 million as part of the BC COVID-19 Action Plan will support school districts and independent schools for the start of the school year. This investment will ensure the increased cleaning of high-contact surfaces, increased number of hand-hygiene stations and the availability of masks upon request, among other safety measures.

Staff and students (or their parents/guardians) must also assess themselves daily for symptoms of COVID-19. If any student or staff member has even mild symptoms, arrangements will be made for that person to return home.

The ministry is developing operational guidelines that will further assist school districts and independent schools with their planning for September. An education steering committee

including teachers, parents, Indigenous rightsholders, support staff, principals and vice-principals, school trustees and the public health sector has also been established to identify best practices and find solutions to potential issues.

“B.C. will continue to keep a strong focus on science-based decisions as we learn to adjust the delivery of education during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Stephanie Higginson, president of the B.C. School Trustees Association. “Boards of education across the province will utilize updated health and safety measures, created on the advice of the provincial health officer, to ensure that students can continue to receive the social, emotional and academic supports provided by their community school during this critical time in education.”

Families will hear from their school district or independent school throughout the summer with updated health and safety guidelines for elementary, middle and secondary schools, as well as learning groups, schedules, enrolment and registration information with the final details being submitted to the ministry and posted online by the districts on Aug. 26, 2020.

“The safety of students and staff is paramount and government will continue to make science-based decisions, following the expert advice of Dr. Henry and her public health team,” Fleming said.

Quotes:

Andrea Sinclair, president, BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC) –

“BCCPAC thanks our dedicated board members who have worked on the different restart committees to ensure equity, inclusion, health and safety, and educational programming remain at the forefront in the planning for a return to school in September. Parents should feel assured that as things progress and evolve over the coming weeks, the Ministry of Education will be working directly with BCCPAC and our education partners to ensure student safety remains a top priority.”

Paul Faoro, president, CUPE BC –

“We are pleased to see the provincial government recognize the critical work our members do to keep schools clean, safe and inclusive. The additional investment of resources will help ensure the necessary level of custodians to ensure that schools are properly cleaned and that students and staff are safe in our schools. The June reopening of schools showed that under the guidance of provincial health officer Bonnie Henry, we can safely welcome students and staff back to schools in September. We look forward to continuing to work with the provincial government and all education partners to ensure we’re all ready for September.”

Learn More:

For more information on the K-12 Education Restart Plan, visit:
gov.bc.ca/covid19returntoschool

To find a local school district, visit: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/schools/bcmap.htm>

Two backgrounders follow.



BACKGROUND 1

For Immediate Release
2020EDUC0040-001415
July 29, 2020

Ministry of Education

Keeping students, teachers and staff safe in B.C schools

The June school restart saw almost 200,000 students safely return to the classroom, giving students a chance to acclimatize to new safety protocols and ensuring the Province has important information to plan for the 2020-21 school year.

The Ministry of Education has developed a five-stage approach to operate schools, depending on risk of transmission and direction from health authorities, ensuring school districts can make a quick transition if there is a second wave or a community outbreak. Schools were in Stage 3 in June 2020, with most kids in the classroom part-time. Under enhanced safety protocols, the Province is now moving to Stage 2 of the education plan.

To support and ensure the health and safety of students and staff during this pandemic, a one-time investment of \$45.6 million as part of the BC COVID-19 Action Plan will support school districts and independent schools for the start of the school year.

This investment includes \$23 million for more staff and staff time for cleaning schools, \$9.2 million for improving and increasing access to hand hygiene and \$5.1 million for cleaning supplies and \$3.1 million to independent schools. There will be \$2.2 million to ensure reusable face masks are available to staff if they choose to wear one, and for all students who need to travel on school buses or public transportation outside of their learning group. This funding also includes \$3 million to support remote learning, such as technology loans or software to support students with disabilities or complex needs.

More updated health and safety measures include:

- Increased cleaning of high-contact surfaces like door knobs, keyboards, desks and chairs; increased hand hygiene with all students, staff and visitors being required to clean their hands before boarding school buses and entering school buildings, before and after eating, using the washroom and using playground equipment.
- School districts may also install transparent barriers for people who have more contact with others, such as front desk staff, bus drivers or food services staff, where appropriate.
- Older students and staff may use masks in situations where the person is interacting outside their learning group and cannot maintain physical distance for an extended period of time. This includes riding the bus to school where a student may be sitting next to a person outside of their household or learning group. These masks will be available upon request.
- If students or staff are mixing outside their learning group for electives, extracurricular activities, sports or social clubs, they will need to maintain physical distancing of two metres, while younger students will be encouraged to minimize physical contact.

- If space is available, students should have their own seat or sit with family members on school buses.
- Extracurricular activities in middle and secondary schools, including sports, arts or special interest clubs can occur if physical distance can be maintained between members of different learning groups and reduced physical contact can be practised by those within the same learning group.
- All students and staff who have travelled outside of Canada are required to self-isolate for 14 days under both provincial and federal orders. This includes students who are attending school from abroad.

Contact:

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

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

BACKGROUND 2

For Immediate Release
2020EDUC0040-001415
July 29, 2020

Ministry of Education

Learning groups

To get the most students back in full-time in-class instruction in September, the Office of the Provincial Health Officer recommended creating cohorts (learning groups) to reduce the number of close, in-person interactions.

Learning groups are groups of students and staff who remain together throughout the school year and who primarily interact with each other.

Cohorts (learning groups) will be no more than 60 people in elementary and middle school and no more than 120 people in secondary school. It will not be necessary for students in a learning group to all be in the same class, but they will be able to interact and connect with each other as a consistent group during breaks, in common areas like the gym, library, or at the playground.

Limiting the number of people each student or staff member comes into contact with will reduce the risk of transmission and will ensure quicker contact tracking.

Learning groups are smallest in elementary and middle schools because it is more challenging for younger students to maintain physical distance. Older students are better able to minimize physical contact, practice hand hygiene and recognize if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

Each school district and independent school authority will plan for their local needs based on their school populations and classroom space available.

Elementary schools

- Elementary schools will remain organized into classrooms as students' primary learning environment.
- Most elementary schools in the province can return to full-time in-class instruction with minimal modifications to school bell schedules and timetables.

Middle schools

- Middle schools that follow an elementary school model (for instance, one classroom with one teacher) will be organized like elementary schools, with minimal modifications to school bell schedules and timetables.
- Middle schools that follow a "junior high" model, where students move from class-to-class and take a range of subjects taught by different teachers, may need to be reorganized for full-time, in-class learning.

Secondary schools

Secondary school students will continue to be organized in classrooms, ensuring students still have access to electives and they will be able to reconfigure their learning group for each new semester. Some schools may reorganize how they offer courses, such as allowing students to take two courses at a time every 10 weeks.

Small secondary schools

- There are 96 public secondary schools and 49 independent schools that have fewer than 800 students. These schools will likely require only minor modifications to their bell schedules or timetables to ensure a safe, full-time return to the classroom for all students.

Medium-sized secondary schools

- There are 104 public secondary schools and one independent school with between 800 and 1,500 students. They will need to consider modifications to their bell schedules and timetables to accommodate students in the classroom full-time.

Large secondary schools

- There are 16 public secondary schools with between 1,500 and 2,000 students, located primarily in the Lower Mainland and the Okanagan.
- For these larger secondary schools, school districts are looking at a variety of options to maximize in-class learning and, in rare cases, may need to offer a hybrid approach with a blend of remote online and self-directed learning.
- Students with disabilities, those who need extra support in school and children of essential service workers will continue to receive full-time, in-class learning.

Contact:

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

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



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2020EDUC0054-001506
Aug. 12, 2020

Ministry of Education

Orientation week ensures a safe, ready and welcome return to school

VICTORIA – To ensure schools are ready to welcome students into classrooms for the week of Sept. 8-11, 2020, there will be a gradual restart to allow extra time to orient students and staff on the new health and safety measures in place.

“Schools are going to look different in September,” said Rob Fleming, Minister of Education. “Staff, students and parents need time to get familiar with all the new health and safety procedures that are designed to keep them safe and confident in their school settings.”

Starting Sept. 8, all staff will meet with their school’s joint health and safety committee to receive instructions about how the updated guidelines, co-developed with the BC Centre for Disease Control and provincial health officer, will work in their school. This will also allow time for educators and staff to adjust to their new routines, finalize plans for learning groups, review health and safety protocols, and confirm lesson plans that align with the new normal in schools.

Students will be welcomed back to class for orientation by Sept. 10 and will use their orientation time to get familiar with classrooms that will look different than they did before the pandemic. Students will be assigned to their class, find out who is in their learning group, practise their new routines and familiarize themselves with how to safely move from the class to outdoor and common areas of the school.

On Aug. 10, School districts were provided with readiness checklists to ensure they are updating their health and safety plans and considering, communicating and consulting with their unions, Indigenous rightsholders, staff and families in their local communities. They will also need to ensure their plans address equity and inclusion of children who require additional support in school.

Health and safety of teachers, staff and students is leading the work being done by the K-12 education restart steering committee and working groups with membership from all education partners and health experts. These groups are also working to create detailed operational guidelines, which will be available by Aug. 17 to support school districts with their restart plans, including guidance on:

- implementing the updated health and safety protocols;
- ensuring kids who require extra support are prioritized and have the services they need;
- supporting the mental health and wellness of students who may be experiencing additional challenges because of the pandemic;
- ensuring fewer contacts and a safe workplace for those who interact with more than one learning group – such as specialists, teachers on call, educational assistants, cafeteria staff or bus drivers;

- supporting hybrid instruction with a blend of in-person learning and remote learning for dense urban secondary schools with large student populations;
- minimizing physical contact within learning groups; and
- ensuring before- and after-school child care on school grounds allows kids to stay within their learning groups as much as possible.

“By working collaboratively with leaders in our education system, we are making sure students and staff are safe, ready and welcome when they return to school in September,” Fleming said.

To help guide the transition back to school in the safest way possible, Fleming has also been meeting regularly with the presidents of the BC Teachers' Federation, CUPE, B.C. Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils, the B.C. School Trustees Association, the First Nations Education Steering Committee, Métis Nation BC, the B.C. Principals and Vice Principals Association, BC Association of School Business Officials, BC School Superintendents Association and the Federation of Independent School Associations in British Columbia.

Learn More:

For more information on the K-12 Education Restart Plan, visit: gov.bc.ca/covid19returntoschool

For more information on WorksafeBC's guidelines for K-12 schools, visit: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation/education>

To find a local school district, visit: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/schools/bcmap.htm>

Contact:

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

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



INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release
2020EDUC0045-001542
Aug. 17, 2020

Ministry of Education

K-12 operational guidelines set requirements for masks

VICTORIA – School districts have received updated operational guidelines to help ensure a consistent provincewide approach to keep schools safe for all students, teachers and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the updated health and safety guidelines, masks will be required for staff, middle and secondary students in high traffic areas such as buses and in common areas such as hallways, or anytime outside of their learning group whenever physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Exceptions will be made for students who cannot wear masks for medical reasons. The guidelines also cover the key components of delivering K-12 education during the pandemic, including curriculum, report cards, supports for students with disabilities/diverse abilities, and finance and operations.

Even when wearing a mask, staff and students will still be required to maintain physical distance from people outside of their learning group. Efforts will be put in place to ensure there is not crowding, gathering or congregating of people from different learning groups in a school setting, even if non-medical masks are being worn. Schools will also ensure non-medical masks are available for staff if someone should become ill while at school.

In order to support staff and students to meet this expectation, the ministry is providing additional funding to school districts that will support the purchase of up to 1.5 million masks, enough for every public-school staff member and student to have at least two masks.

Canadian Shield, a manufacturer of personal protective equipment products in Ontario, Canada, recently announced it is donating an additional 54,500 face shields for K-12 schools in B.C., adding to the inventory of personal protective equipment that will be available for students and staff.

Other health and safety guidelines include:

- increased cleaning of high-contact surfaces like doorknobs, keyboards, desks and chairs;
- increased hand hygiene with all students, staff and visitors being required to clean their hands before boarding school buses and entering school buildings, before and after eating, using the washroom and using playground equipment; and
- school districts may also install transparent barriers for people who have more contact with others, such as front-desk staff, bus drivers or food services staff, where appropriate.

Another key health and safety measure is the establishment of learning groups. A learning group includes students and staff who remain together throughout the school quarter,

semester or year, which could be made up of a single class of students or multiple classes of students. Learning groups will sometimes join for activities like physical education or music, or they may be secondary students taking the same courses. More information on learning groups, including examples can be found online: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school>

The Province is providing an additional \$45.6 million to school districts for enhanced cleaning, handwashing stations, reusable masks and other safety measures.

The following expectations are also part of the guidelines for school boards and independent authorities as they finalize their back-to-school plans:

Mental health

- Regular monitoring and assessment will review how changes to the delivery of education impact mental and emotional well-being of students and staff.

Child care

- School districts are to work with on-site before- and after-school child care providers to support learning groups staying together where possible.

Inclusive education

- Students who require more support in school must have full-time, in-class instruction available without any delays.
- Students who need to stay at home because they are immunocompromised should have an at-home learning plan and be provided with an educational program by their school district.
- Education assistants should continue to support students and teachers, including if classes move to remote learning or online.
- Children and youth in care should have priority access to technology, child care, in-class instruction and additional supports.

Blended learning

- In some schools, it may not be possible to have people stay in their learning group or physically distance on a full-time basis.
- For these schools, districts are looking at a variety of options to maximize in-class learning for their students and, in some cases, they may need to offer a hybrid approach for their students with a blend of remote, online and self-directed learning.
- In these situations, schools should prioritize learning that can be effectively done remotely such as key literacy, numeracy and core competencies.
- Vulnerable students and those who require additional support in school should be prioritized for full-time, in-class learning.

Assessments

- Ensure activities, assignments and assessments are accessible to all students and families, as appropriate for any in-class, remote or blended (hybrid) learning.

- School districts must meet the requirements of British Columbia’s Student Reporting Policy, which allows significant flexibility for schools and school districts regarding the content and format of report cards.

Grad program

- In situations where in-class instruction is being supplemented with self-directed or remote learning, the focus should remain on ensuring students are making progress toward completing the graduation requirements.
- This may include further consideration of the flexible options available to students to satisfy graduation requirements, so students who are unable to participate fully in self-directed or remote learning are not disadvantaged.

Indigenous students and families

- Boards must ensure Indigenous rightsholders are engaged in meaningful consultation and school boards will need to work directly with First Nations to develop plans for any Indigenous students living on-reserve and attending public school.
- Boards must also work with Métis Nation for plans for Métis students attending public/independent schools.
- Boards are to identify Indigenous students whose educational outcomes may have been negatively impacted during in-class suspension, with support planned and prioritized.

Food and meal plans for students in need

- Services and supports to continue – including if in-class learning is suspended because of an increased risk of transmission or outbreak.

These guidelines were created in collaboration with all education partners, including teachers, parents, support staff, school leaders, trustees and Indigenous rightsholders.

School districts will communicate further details throughout the summer regarding schedules, learning groups and plans to parents, students and school staff, and will be posted online by the district by Aug. 26, 2020.

Learn More:

For more info on back-to-school plans, learning groups and health and safety guidelines visit: <https://gov.bc.ca/covid19returntoschool>

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**SCHOOL DISTRICT 69 (QUALICUM)
STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS**

Action Item	Responsibility	Status	Proposed Deadline
<p>Climate Action Task Force December 17, 2019 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</p>	<p>Secretary Treasurer/ Operations & Maintenance Manager</p>	<p>In process</p>	
<p>Climate Action Symposium December 17, 2019 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</p>	<p>Climate Action Task Force Members</p>	<p>Has been decided to move timeline from spring 2020 to fall 2020 Will depend on status of pandemic</p>	<p>TBD</p>
<p>Use of Common Space for Artwork March 10, 2020 THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) ask staff to work with Parksville Civic and Technology Centre partners to develop a plan and process to allow the display of wall art from SD69 students, VIU students and community members in the communal areas of the building; and, THAT this process may serve as a vehicle for installation art, be it temporary or permanent.</p>	<p>Senior Staff</p>	<p>Deferred due to COVID</p>	
<p>Motion to Support Inclusiveness and Social Justice June 23, 2020 THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) express support for the Black Lives Matter movement and for the establishment of a socially just community by releasing a public statement of this position; and, further, THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) encourage all members of our community to actively work toward eradication of barriers by learning about the histories, understanding peoples' lived experiences, and examining personal privilege</p>	<p>Board of Education</p>	<p>Press release distributed to local media and posted on District website July 3</p>	<p>Completed</p>



SD69 QUALICUM

Operations & Maintenance Department

2020 Report on Summer Work

Oceanside Elementary

- 2 interior walls added to decrease noise from classrooms
- Exterior cleanup

Errington Elementary

- Playground area restructured to accommodate the new playground
- New playground

French Creek Community School

- Replace playground

Springwood Elementary

- Tech wiring update to school
- Removal of dead trees
- Exterior cleanup
- LED lighting upgrade for the entire school

Qualicum Elementary

- High efficiency boiler replacement
- Removal of 10 foot area of trees around the outside of the playground
- LED lighting upgrade for the entire school

Ballenas Secondary School

- Multiple roofing sections replaced including seismic upgrades
- Removal of all asbestos ceiling tile in rooms 202, 801, 803, 804, 805, 806 and the VP offices, Principal office, main office area, lobby area and PA room
- Ceiling tile replacement after removal for above areas
- Plymo vent system for the metal shop
- Removal of asbestos flooring and replacement in Room 801 and the VP office
- Rebuilding of the 406 wing area at the site to add a special needs cooking area for instruction including cabinets, wiring, plumbing
- Field upgrade
- Exterior cleanup
- LED lighting upgrade for the entire school

Arrowview Elementary

- New high efficiency boiler system including heat on demand hot water system. Removal of the pneumatic system that operates the boiler to a DDC system
- Building of all cabinetry for the new daycare, including desks, storage units, cabinets.

Kwalikum Secondary School

- Completion of exterior painting of building
- Upgrade to the dust collection system to improve performances
- Exterior cleanup
- LED lighting upgrade for the entire school

Bowser Elementary

- Concrete work on playground
- Removal of walls in the gym washroom to make it more accessible

Pass Woodwinds

- Asbestos removal in the ceiling cavity including ceiling tile replacement
- Structure for Roams storage-to start September 2020. All permits in place
- Exterior cleanup

False Bay School

- New security system install and wiring updates for electrical compliancy
- Teacherage 1 roof replacement and repair on teacherage 2

Craig Street Commons

- Electrical disconnect replacement-to be installed on Christmas break 2020
- Upgrade to the new program wing to start October/November 2020
- Painting renewal for the exterior of the building, including door replacement, insets under windows

Although all of the Operations staff are involved with many of the projects listed above, Operations Management would also like to thank our staff for the awesome EXTRA summer maintenance programs at our sites

- Custodial cleaning of all sites including classrooms, hallways, gymnasiums
- Filter changing and maintenance at all sites by the HVAC dept.
- Exterior cleanup
- Maintenance of our fields including fertilizing, seeding mowing and trimming by the grounds crew
- Maintenance to our bus fleet by the transportation mechanics
- Fire Alarm testing by the electrical dept.

Respectfully submitted by:

Chris Dempster, General Manager of Operations