



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2021
6:00 PM
FORUM – PCTC and ZOOM

ATTENDEES

Trustees

Eve Flynn	Chairperson
Julie Austin	Vice-Chairperson
Laura Godfrey	Trustee
Barry Kurland	Trustee (via ZOOM)
Elaine Young	Trustee

Administration

Peter Jory	Superintendent of Schools
Gillian Wilson	Associate Superintendent of Schools
Ron Amos	Secretary Treasurer
Rudy Terpstra	Director of Instruction
Chris Dempster	General Manager of Operations

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 6:02 p.m.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Chair Flynn acknowledged that the Board was meeting on the unceded traditional territory of the Coast Salish people and thanked the Qualicum and Snaw-Naw-As First Nations for allowing the board to live, work and play on their shared territory.

She then welcomed Rudy Terpstra, Director of Instruction, and Peter Jory, Superintendent of Schools, to the district team.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

21-67R

Moved: Trustee Godfrey *Seconded:* Trustee Young

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes: June 22, 2021
- b. Ratification of In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: June 22, 2021
- c. Receipt of Ministry News Releases
 - Education roundtable defines anti-racism action plan
 - Joint Statement on National Summit on Islamophobia
 - Health, Safety remain focus for new school year
- d. Receipt of Reports from Trustee Representatives
 - Oceanside Community Track Steering Committee x 3 - Trustee Young
 - Oceanside Health & Wellness Network – Trustee Young
- e. Status of Action Items – August 2021

21-68R

Moved: Trustee Godfrey *Seconded:* Trustee Austin

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve the consent agenda items of the Regular Board Meeting of August 31, 2021, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

None

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

7. MOUNT ARROWSMITH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (MATA)

Matt Woods, President, commented on the following:

- Welcome back to all staff and acknowledged that for many people it was stressful rather than relaxing due to COVID and wildfires.
- Thoughts sent to all those affected by the wildfires in the province, especially those who had homes lost or damaged.
- Appreciation for growing up, living, working, relaxing, finding adventures and raising children on the island with thanks to the Qualicum and Snaw-Naw-As First Nations for that privilege.
- Appreciated the discussions between the union and management staff regarding school start up.
- Suggested that the district could exceed the ministry guidelines for the district start-up plans by making masks mandatory for all students in K-12 in schools and on the buses. This would add a level of comfort to teaching staff and assure parents who may be hesitant about sending their children back to the school setting.
- Requested that the Plexiglas barriers and hand sanitizer stations stay in place
- Expressed disappointment that funding from the government for additional custodial cleaning will not be provided and that scheduling of daytime custodians will not continue. The past year has proven that additional cleaning and having daytime custodians resulted in reduced sick time of staff and student and were a key deterrent to COVID and other viruses as well as alleviated anxiety of staff and students.
- Requested that the board not open schools to the public until the cases of the COVID variant drop considerably. This would also allow custodial staff to adjust cleaning procedures where there are no daytime custodian; PE teachers could

organize and leave equipment out for proper sanitizing; it would reduce stress; and administrators could ensure tracking of people entering and exiting the buildings.

- Advised that it is a bargaining year at the provincial and local tables and he looks forward to entering into negotiations with the district team in the coming months.
- Requested that the board use the BC School Trustees' Association to advocate for more funding of public education and for more recruitment and retention of teachers.
- Requested that the board not hire uncertified teachers where certification is required.
- Thanked everyone for all their work in getting schools and classrooms ready for the new school year, especially those who gave up their summers to do so.

8. CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES (CUPE) LOCAL 3570

Sherri Brown, President, commented on the following:

- Welcomed Peter Jory as the new superintendent and she is looking forward to working with him.
- Sent love and peace to the families of the children lost on residential school sites.
- Advised that a poll of support staff was undertaken by the union which indicates that workers are feeling safe regarding the return to school at this time. She was certain that it is a result of the hard work by support staff to ensure the safety protocols that were put into place this year. The union will also work to secure daytime custodians for ongoing support to staff and students. She also believes overwhelmingly that daytime custodians were a main contributor to the reduction of colds, flu and covid cases in the community.
- Thanked the Operations & Maintenance department for all its work and she hopes to continue to work together to ensure safe work sites for all.

9. DISTRICT PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (DPAC)

Karri Kitazaki, Springwood PAC Chair, commented on the following:

- Parents are excited to get back to school. The majority of queries from parents are what school will look like as well as for sporting events, ventilation in schools, and whether parents/volunteers will be invited back into the schools
- Should the district not be able to hold a district track meet in 2022, she suggested that perhaps it could be arranged in partnership with another district so students do not go without one for 3 years.
- DPAC elections will be held in October and meetings will still be held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month with zoom links being shared in the near future.
- Succession planning in DPAC is a focus this year.

10. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS)

None

11. ACTION ITEMS

None

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Education Planning Update

Superintendent Jory expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome he has received from the school community. He has been enjoying meeting staff and touring district school and work sites while learning how the district does its business.

i. Foundations for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL)

Superintendent Jory reviewed the progression of the reporting process from the Annual Achievement Contracts to the merging of the Strategic Plan and achievement goals. The overall design of the new FESL seem to be in flux; however, the district has its Strategic Plan in place which puts it in good stead to create the FESL and to be in compliance. Superintendent Jory will build on the template begun by the previous Superintendent, Dr. Elder, which senior staff will review as a team to ensure the document has the most current and accurate information and to reflect on the data contained therein. The next steps will require a lengthy conversation that will take place in a Committee of the Whole environment prior to approval by the Board in September and subsequent submission to the Ministry by the end of September.

ii. School Start Up

Superintendent Jory reported that the preparations and cleaning for school start up is going well. The staffing process is ongoing and will continue through September as per normal practice.

There was some curiosity around enrollment and whether all the students who have indicated their return actually do return and, more specifically, from on-line programs back to bricks and mortar schools. The desire is to have as many students back in standard schools as possible as that is a better educational experience for the students; however, if all students registered online were to return to the district's buildings, there might be some capacity challenges.

The district has also seen some real growth in projections based on in-migration which may result in additional space pressures in some locations. Summer work has included the infilling of space in some sites which often means converting specialized rooms into standard classrooms to increase the capacity of a building. This is a necessary early step in potentially gaining capital funding, in addition to meeting short term capacity needs. All of this will be explored in detail as we move into our Facility Planning Process later this year.

iii. Covid Protocols

Superintendent Jory reported that, in general, expectations will be similar to spring of 2020 with adults and students in grades 4 to 12 wearing masks. There will be sign-in requirements for visitors and an expectation that all staff do a daily health assessment and not come to work if symptomatic. As well, there will be ongoing caution around mixing and gathering that will depend on local or regional guidelines, and general encouragement to create space and increase outside time.

Some changes were no more cohorts, water fountains will be operational, and sports will resume. There will be a gradual and thoughtful re-invitation of parent volunteers and rental groups back into district buildings.

The district will be supporting the Provincial Health Officer and encourage vaccinations as the strongest response to the virus. This includes supporting messaging and hosting pop-up vaccination sites such as the ones scheduled for Kwalikum Secondary on September 13th and Winchelsea Place on September 23rd.

It was also confirmed that an approved motion passed last August, requiring masks on school buses, would still stand.

It is hoped that more measures can potentially be relaxed within the next few months, including the mask mandate.

Superintendent Jory thanked all members of the learning community for their hard work and positive attitudes as the next phase is navigated.

Trustees suggested that the district schedule a Town Hall again with the area Medical Health Officer with questions from stakeholder groups. It was determined that the Superintendent would arrange for a Town Hall to be scheduled shortly after school start up and pending availability of the region's Medical Health Officer.

Trustees then inquired as to whether there were any additional precautions being taken beyond what had already been mentioned such as daytime custodians and/or staggered recess and lunch times.

Superintendent Jory advised that there are guidelines and a number of additional measures coming out of the district safety plan which considered the best way to make the education experience joyful and fruitful while keeping safety top of mind. No additional funding has been provided at this time to cover the expense of daytime custodians and the Superintendent cautioned the board, if it chose to implement daytime custodians, to not base its decision solely on the pandemic as the latest information is that transmission occurs in an aerosol form and the virus does not really travel or survive on surfaces so that money spent would be low yield at best. Should the board wish to allocate additional funding into the system purely because of the pandemic, there are other ways to do so that would be more impactful.

b. Educational Programs Update

Rudy Terpstra, Director of Instruction advised that many teaching staff were engaged in professional development sessions being offered at the Teaching & Learning Centre and Ballenas Secondary School.

He and Association Superintendent Wilson are looking forward to meeting with the new Teaching & Learning Team on September 7th. There is also a training session scheduled for September 10th with keynote speaker Lisa Bosio from Novak Education on the topic of Universal Design for Learning (UDL), which will include participation by student support teachers and counsellors who will be learning how

to support and enhance support for complex learners. School administrators also spent half a day learning about UDL from the District Education Leadership Team.

Associate Superintendent Wilson added that the September 10th session will provide learning support staff with the knowledge to then coach other staff in UDL.

She noted that she is excited to be working with the new members of the senior leadership team: Peter Jory as the new Superintendent and Rudy Terpstra, in his new role as Director of Instruction.

Associate Superintendent Wilson also reported on the following:

- Over 100 international students from 15 countries have arrived in the district over the past four days, the majority of whom have been double vaccinated. Some have not and those students will be working through the quarantine process.
- Alana Whittaker has been hired as part of the Teaching & Learning Team with a focus on supporting the work of equity and reconciliation across the district.

c. Summer Projects Update

Chair Flynn expressed appreciation on behalf of the Board to the Operations & Maintenance staff for all their hard work over the summer.

Chris Dempster, General Manager of Operations & Transportation, then spoke to his report on summer projects, highlighting a number of the completed projects as well as some that are pending completion. He shared some of the challenges experienced with the increased cost of supplies as well as external contractors having difficulty obtaining equipment and sufficient labour. Some of the projects' timelines have been deferred for completion during the winter and spring break periods. Further to a query from Trustee Austin, he also provided an update on the accessibility ramp being planned for the old Ballenas track and the status of the French Creek School building envelope, with only the roof needing attention at some point.

Mr. Dempster also expressed his appreciation for the work done by the Assistant Manager of Operations and the custodial staff to prepare schools for the upcoming school year and to Brant Prunkl, the Assistant Manager of Operations & Safety, for his ongoing work on safety measures with staff to ensure they meet expectations. The trades also joined together to complete a massive amount of work and Mr. Dempster expressed his pride at the quality of the work that has been completed to excellent standards.

d. 2021-2022 Calendar Update

Superintendent Jory referred to the recent discoveries of missing Indigenous children across the country and the federal government's creation of a National Day of Truth and Reconciliation which will fall on September 30th. This was already a non-enrolling day in the district so another date will be determined to replace the District Planning Day originally scheduled. Senior Staff will be in touch with stakeholder representatives and engaging in a calendar process in the coming month. September 30th will be a federal and provincial day off for reflection on truth and reconciliation.

Chair Flynn added that the provincial government has also decreased the instructional time for the 2021-2022 school year so districts will not have to add

instructional minutes to the day to compensate for the new federal and provincial statutory holiday.

13. EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

Next meeting date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.

14. POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

Next meeting date: Monday, September 20, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

15. FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

Next meeting date: Monday, September 20, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

16. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

No Reports

17. TRUSTEE ITEMS

a. **Green House Gas Emissions Study by Prism Engineering**

Trustee Austin inquired as to the status of the study which will be conducted by Prism Engineering.

Mr. Dempster advised that 5 school sites and the Parksville Civic & Technology Centre site have been identified for the study. BC Hydro is funding the study; therefore, Prism Engineering has sent BC Hydro the proposal after which site visits will be arranged. Staff will continue to report on the progress of the study at the Finance and Operations Committee of the Whole.

b. **Update on Primary Learning Community Program**

Trustee Austin inquired as to enrolment for the Primary Learning Community Program at Craig Street Commons in Parksville.

Associate Superintendent Wilson reported that the program has been relocated within the building to a former Kindergarten classroom that was recently vacated by a daycare provider. There are currently 13 students enrolled in the program, which is a good start for the new multi-age/multi-year program. A former teacher from Lasqueti Island was the successful applicant so she has prior experience working in that type of learning environment.

18. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

19. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE AND MEDIA

None

20. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

Trustees and Senior Staff responded to comments/questions on the following topics:

- Clarification that all children on school buses will be required to wear a mask as per the board motion of August 2020.
- Encouragement and support for the Senior District Leadership Team to schedule a Town Hall, preferably with the region's Medical Health Officer.

21. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Godfrey moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

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CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY TREASURER