



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

6:00 PM

FORUM – PCTC and ZOOM

ATTENDEES

Trustees

Eve Flynn	Chairperson
Julie Austin	Vice-Chairperson
Laura Godfrey	Trustee
Barry Kurland	Trustee
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 6:03 p.m.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Chair Flynn acknowledged that the Board was meeting on the traditional unceded 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 acknowledged the upcoming Orange Shirt Day on September 30th which is now also the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. She then asked for a moment of silence to reflect on and think about the children who did not return home from residential schools.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Trustee Item a. was removed from the agenda as a Social Justice Working Group report was provided in the consent agenda.

The following topics were added under Trustee Items: Parksville Development Permit; 5G/TELUS Cell Tower; Reminder of Notice of Motion; and Foundation Skills Assessment.

21-70R

Moved: Trustee Kurland *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: August 31, 2021
- b. Approval of the Special Board Meeting Minutes: August 31, 2021
- c. Ratification of In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: August 31, 2021
- d. Receipt of Ministry News Releases
 - Extra supports for student, staff mental wellness
 - Double the funding and fun for 60 school playgrounds
 - Provincial support helps boost community literacy
- e. Receipt of Reports from Trustee Representatives
 - Oceanside Health & Wellness Network – Trustee Young
 - Early Years Table – Trustee Young
 - Oceanside Community Track – Trustee Young
 - Social Justice Working Group – Trustee Young
- f. Status of Action Items – September 2021

21-71R

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 September 28, 2021, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**a. 2020-2021 Audited Financial Statements**

Leanne Souchuck, partner at the audit firm of McGorman MacLean, which undertook the district's audit, provided a brief summary of the audit findings. More detail can be viewed in the audited financial statements. She noted that the financial statements presented fairly in all respects as at June 30, 2021 and thanked the staff of the finance department for their full cooperation and efforts during the audit.

b. Canadians for Safe Technology (C4ST)

Carole Dowe, community member, expressed concerns regarding the harmful effects of 5G on the physical and mental health in the Qualicum Beach area from a 145-foot TELUS cell tower that has been approved by the Town of Qualicum Beach. She urged the Board to assist in convincing the Town to rescind its permission for TELUS to build the cell tower.

Ms. Dowe then introduced Mr. Frank Clegg, the founder, CEO and Chairman of *Canadians for Safe Technology*. Mr. Clegg provided a history of his career in the field of technology and outlined a series of concerns and studies regarding the negative effects of wireless radiation. He also provided some actions the district could to mitigate the effects of wireless radiation in schools by 90% without having an impact on response time as well as some safety measures for all users of wireless technology. Anyone interested in more information can contact Mr. Clegg at Frank@C4ST.org

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

7. MOUNT ARROWSMITH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (MATA)

Matt Woods, President, commented on the following:

- Acknowledgement of the importance of the Indigenous Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th. Teachers have spent the week reflecting on the importance of the day by creating lessons and activities that support Truth and Reconciliation.
- With the district's support, MATA has delivered Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action posters to each school.
- Recognition and appreciation to the MATA Professional Development Committee members and in-district Chairs for their hard work in developing the in-school sessions being offered on October 1.
- Recognition of the professionalism, compassion, time, hard work and dedication that teachers bring to the education system every day with the announcement that October 5th is World Teachers' Day.
- Appreciation for the consultative environment between the union and the district, from committees to personal one on one meetings.
- Request that meetings which require teacher or union representation not be held on Tuesday wherever possible, and particularly not between 3 pm and 6 pm if union representation is required, as that has historically been the day set aside for the union to carry out its business.
- Shared MATA's concerns with the district's Communicable Disease Plan, particularly the mask mandate and cleaning. He urged the board to reconsider its position on a mask mandate by including the K-3 students and to consider if there would be a way to reschedule custodial manpower to include daytime custodians without an extensive increase to the budget.
- Shared that the BC Teachers' Federation's reasons for opposition to the Foundation Skills Assessment and that the BCTF continues to pressure the government to develop a better system-wide assessment tool.
- MATA will be sending out literature regarding the BCTF's position on the FSAs to the parents of Grade 4 and 7 students within the next week.

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

a. 2020-2021 Audited Financial Statements

i. Internally Restricted Funds

Secretary Treasurer Amos spoke to those items embedded in the operating reserves which are appropriated for other uses, what is remaining and how it is being allocated.

21-72R

Moved: Trustee Young *Seconded:* Trustee Godfrey
THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) accept the Schedule of Internally Restricted Surplus as presented.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ii. Local Capital Reserve Funds

Secretary Treasurer Amos stated that the Local Capital Reserve Funds as expressed in Schedule 4 speaks to funds in reserve for capital purposes. The nature of these funds is derived from sales of property and depending on who contributed, the Ministry or Local District, it is distributed between local and restricted capital. In this case it was allocated to local capital. If the recommendation were to be approved, the remaining balance of \$325,000 would be made up of \$162,000 for the Board's contribution to support the Ballenas Track upgrade and \$163,000 of uncommitted funds. Staff requested that a portion of the balance be applied to the costs of the wiring project incurred in 2020-2021.

21-73R

Moved: Trustee Godfrey *Seconded:* Trustee Kurland
THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) support allocating \$61,371.00 of Uncommitted Local Capital to fund the district's 2020-2021 wiring project.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

iii. 2020-2021 Audited Financial Statements

Secretary Treasurer Amos noted that the statements presented in the agenda package anticipated approval of the prior two motions.

21-74R

Moved: Trustee Kurland *Seconded:* Trustee Young
THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve the 2020-2021 Audited Financial Statements as presented.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Appointment of Auditor

Chair Flynn reported that 3 firms responded to the District's Request for Proposal (RFP) for audit services to the district, which is done every 5 years. She and Vice-Chair Austin, as well as Secretary Treasurer Amos and Assistant Secretary Treasurer Hung, reviewed the submissions and recommended that that Board continue with the current auditors for a 3-year term with an option to renew for an additional 2 years.

21-75R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Kurland

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) appoint McGorman MacLean as the District's auditors for a three-year term beginning with the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. INFORMATION ITEMS**a. Education Planning Update**

Superintendent Jory

i. School Start Up

Superintendent Jory advised that school start up has been going well with minimal disruptions. Enrolment is up slightly from 2 years ago and the number of students in non-standard programs is higher than 2 years ago; however, enrolment may be slightly below projected.

He noted that districts are waiting for direction on COVID communications from the Ministry. For 2021 there has been a return to a strategy to share information only on a need-to-know basis; however, that may revert back to community letters as was done last school year. There has been no news of this officially changing as of yet.

Superintendent Jory noted that September 30th is now a statutory holiday in recognition of Truth and Reconciliation. That date was originally scheduled as the District-Wide Planning day with activities planned which are related to Truth and Reconciliation. Those activities are still occurring in schools this week. He emphasized that staff are committed to deep and meaningful change which requires this important work to occur on a continuing basis until equity of outcome is reached. He then asked everyone to be sensitive and collaborative and especially patient when it comes to approaching our Indigenous communities as they have the right to determine just how they support our work. It is us really that needs to change.

ii. Framework for Enhancing Student Learning

Superintendent Jory referred to the document in the agenda package and noted that he had provided a more fulsome review at the Education Committee of the Whole meeting held on September 21st.

He noted that this is new legislation to which the district is responding and the intention is to tie together the strategic planning process with our achievement process and report out on some key metrics to the Ministry of Education. The Ministry wants the information and wants districts to delve into it, understand it, share it and use it to move the learning agenda forward. He then outlined the key metrics that were asked of districts which were contained in the document, including a comparison to the 2019-20 provincial results, and the province has asked districts to be mindful of where the district stands next to the provincial averages.

Superintendent Jory then provided a high level review of the data contained in the document, noting that participation rate for the FSA in this recent year was low. While not unusual across the province it does call into

question which student did or did not write the assessment and the impact on some of the data. The assessment was also done mid-year rather than at the beginning of the year and that may have caused a bit of an uptick in some of the data.

iii. 2021-2022 School Calendar Update

Superintendent Jory noted that with the creation of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the district will be moving the previously scheduled District-Wide Planning Day to another day in the school year. Monday, February 7th is being proposed and the Board will be sending out the proposed change to the stakeholder groups, staff and families by the end of the week for consultation and comments.

iv. Foundation Skills Assessment

Superintendent Jory acknowledged the collaborative atmosphere between the unions and management staff. He then responded with his position to comments made by the MATA President regarding the Foundations Skills Assessment (FSA).

The Superintendent stated his belief that the FSA process should be seamless and that, while it takes planning and time to prepare, it supports learning, collaboration and critical thinking. The assessment has come a long way in the last several years and there were teams in place to evolve the assessment and ensure it matches the curriculum. He committed to working with staff and the union to investigate the issues raised by the union.

b. Educational Programs Update

• **Enrolment Update**

Associate Superintendent Wilson reported that the current enrolment snapshot indicates that enrolment is less than projected. Staff are working to ensure all students are registered and the head count is where it needs to be and students are registered for all the courses they need to be taking as well as tracking students who are still moving into and out of the district. The timeframe for reporting enrolment was also shorted with the final day for the September 30th count being shifted ahead to September 29th. She acknowledged the work of the school administrators, clerical staff and counsellors to ensure students are where they need to be.

There is outreach also occurring with some students who are registered in the Collaborative Education Alternative Program (CEAP) and have not been engaged in the program for well over a year. Exact numbers will be determined by end of day on September 29th.

• **Truth & Reconciliation**

Associate Superintendent Wilson then shared her curiosity as to how the district can truly acknowledge Truth & Reconciliation and what that means in the system. It is work that is done throughout our system all the time and teachers have worked very hard this week to ensure that there are activities that support that. She has received pictures of some of those activities as well as artwork and quotes students have used in their learning to understand local indigenous nations. A teacher has been hired to the Teaching & Learning Team to address Truth & Reconciliation and Equity

in the district and ensure teachers have the resources they need to be able to weave Indigenous learnings throughout their lesson plans and to complement the great work that the Indigenous Education Department provides.

Associate Superintendent Wilson then challenged attendees to think internally as settlers and to learn about the country's heritage and history. Truth & Reconciliation and healing cannot happen until we acknowledge and understand the truth behind it.

Rudy Terpstra, Director of Instruction, commented on the following:

- Acknowledgement to the MATA for the district-wide and school-based professional development sessions being offered on October 1st at all schools with many sessions focusing on Indigenous Learning, Knowledge and Perspective.
- Learning Grant applications will be going out next week with the main focus to improving student learning through a number of specific areas.
- The Draft Reporting Order K-12 has come out in draft form and public feedback is invited until November 5, 2021 at www.engage.gov.bc.ca. The district assessment groups will be gathering teachers together to provide district feedback as well.
- The District SOGI team and school leads are being organized and the Annual SOGI Summit is being held on Tuesday, October 26th.
- The District has received a \$21,000 Zero Waste Grant from the Regional District of Nanaimo which will be shared between 3 additional schools this year, the 4 mentor schools (last year's pilot schools) and 12 individual student grants.

13. EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

Trustee Godfrey referred to her report as provided in the agenda package. She noted that there may be a change in the process for review of the school codes of conduct by senior staff working with school administrators next year.

a. School Codes of Conduct

21-76R

Moved: Trustee Godfrey *Seconded:* Trustee Austin

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) accept the School Codes of Conduct for the 2021-2022 school year as presented, recognizing that the Province's Ministry of Education's COVID-19 protocols supersede in regards to Health and Safety of all.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Framework for Enhancing Student Learning

21-77R

Moved: Trustee Godfrey *Seconded:* Trustee Austin

THAT the Board of Education approve the School District 69 (Qualicum) Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Report as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14. POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT**a. Board Policy 601: Employee Conflict of Interest****21-78R**

Moved: Trustee Young *Seconded:* Trustee Godfrey

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve first reading to adopt Board Policy 601: *Employee Conflict of Interest* at its Regular Board Meeting of September 28, 2021.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Board Policy 603: Employee Health, Wellness and Attendance Support**21-79R**

Moved: Trustee Young *Seconded:* Trustee Austin

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve first reading to adopt Board Policy 603: *Employee Health, Wellness and Attendance Support* at its Regular Board Meeting of September 28, 2021.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. Board Policy 604: Workplace Bullying and Harassment**21-80R**

Moved: Trustee Young *Seconded:* Trustee Austin

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve first reading to adopt Board Policy 604: *Workplace Bullying and Harassment* at its Regular Board Meeting of September 28, 2021.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. Board Policy 710: Resolution of Complaints

She noted that the section it was in and moved from employee so moved to student.

21-81R

Moved: Trustee Young *Seconded:* Trustee Godfrey

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve first reading to adopt Board Policy 710: *Resolution of Complaints* at its Regular Board Meeting of September 28, 2021.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

e. Board Policy 303: Enhancing Student Learning**21-82R**

Moved: Trustee Young *Seconded:* Trustee Godfrey

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve second reading to adopt Board Policy 303: *Enhancing Student Learning* at its Regular Board Meeting of September 28, 2021.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

f. Board Policy 305: Public Interest Disclosure

21-83R

Moved: Trustee Young *Seconded:* Trustee Godfrey

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve second reading to adopt Board Policy 305: *Public Interest Disclosure* at its Regular Board Meeting of September 28, 2021.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

g. Board Policy 600: Personnel *(Previously a number of Administrative Procedures Only)*

21-84R

Moved: Trustee Young *Seconded:* Trustee Austin

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve third and final reading to adopt Board Policy 600: *Personnel* and its attendant administrative procedures at its Regular Board Meeting of September 28, 2021.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

h. Rescinding of Board Policies

21-85R

Moved: Trustee Young *Seconded:* Trustee Godfrey

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) rescind the following Board Policies now included in Board Policy 600: *Personnel*:

- 6030: Vacation Extensions – Teachers
- 6065: Recognition of Retirement and Long-term Service

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

15. FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

a. 2022-2023 Capital Plan

21-86R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Young

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) support the 2022-2023 capital plan submissions as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. District Staff Flu Vaccinations

21-87R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Godfrey

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve flu vaccinations to be made available each year free of charge to employees in School District 69 (Qualicum) until further notice.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. Letter to Ministry re: Funding for Electric Buses

21-88R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Kurland

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) write a letter to the Ministry of Education to request that, going forward, the level of funding for bus replacement be set at the cost of the purchase price for electric buses.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

No Reports

17. TRUSTEE ITEMS

a. Trustee Committee and Representative Appointments/Liaison Schools

Chair Flynn noted the changes to trustee representative appointments and 2 liaison schools.

b. VISTA Fall Conference (via Zoom) – October 2, 2021

Chair Flynn advised that the Vancouver Island School Trustees Association would be meeting via Zoom on the morning of October 2, 2021 and reviewed the agenda offerings.

c. BC School Trustees Association Meetings

Chair Flynn then noted the following upcoming meetings:

- Board Chair Meeting, October 14, 2021
- Joint Partner Liaison Meeting, October 15, 2021
- Provincial Council, October 23, 2021

d. Parksville Development Permit

Trustee Young referred to a presentation to the Council of the City of Parksville regarding a proposal to build an up to 800-unit development along the Englishman River. A survey is available until September 30th for Parksville residents to provide feedback on the proposal. She suggested that the Board write a letter to the City conveying concerns about resulting potential space pressures of schools in the area.

Trustees and senior staff discussed the proposed project and it was noted that the district receives zoning requests when developments are proposed on land adjacent to school properties. After further deliberations, it was determined that it was too early in the process for the Board to comment as the project is just a proposal at this time and has not been submitted to the City's planning department. Trustees and senior staff will keep watch for any additional information from city reporting and council meetings.

e. Notice of a Motion

Trustee Austin noted that she had not brought forward the motion from the notice she had given in June recommending that the Board join the West Coast Climate Action Network. She advised that she would do so at the October Board Meeting.

f. 5G Presentation

Trustee Austin suggested that the five priorities outlined in the presentation from the Canadians for Safe Technology be forwarded to the Climate Actions Task Force for further discussion. The Board has, in the past, written letters in response to proposed cell towers being erected, citing precautionary principle.

It was noted that the Town of Qualicum Beach had already issued the building permit to TELUS for the most recent cell tower proposal to be located at 2045 Island Highway.

21-89R

Moved: Trustee Austin Seconded: Trustee Kurland

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 Qualicum write a letter to the Town of Qualicum Beach expressing the Board's concerns around the proposed TELUS cell tower based on the precautionary principles.

DEFEATED

Trustees Young, Godfrey and Flynn voted against the motion

The topic of the 5 priorities presented were then forwarded to the CATForce Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 6 at 3:30.

g. Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA)

Further to the MATA President's comments and position of the BCTF regarding the Foundation Skills Assessment. Trustee Austin stated that her understanding was that the FSA was revamped in collaboration with a number of teachers throughout the province. She then inquired of the President of MATA whether the union took issue with the process of administering the assessment or with the assessment itself?

Matt Woods, MATA President, advised that he obtained the issues he outlined were provided to him by teachers who were in a position to have administered the FSA's and that there also seems to be a disconnect between the value of the assessment and where that lands for teachers. He also noted that the data he shared was provided from the position of the BC Teachers Federation as well as data he obtained anecdotally and he plans to preview the assessment and observe how they are administered.

Trustees and the Superintendent discussed the need for meaningful assessment with the Superintendent reiterating that the FSA is part of the curriculum and a valuable assessment tool. Also discussed was the need to identify a way to help teaching staff who administer the assessment to realize the value of the information obtained from data as well as for Board's to continue to encourage the Minister of Education to review how the data is shared so that it is not being used by think tanks to grade schools.

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:

- Policy 603: *Employee Health, Wellness and Attendance Support* and a suggestion to consider the attendance management portion as a separate policy/administrative procedure. The Policy Committee of the Whole Chair requested that the suggestion be presented to the next Policy Committee of the Whole meeting for consideration.
- Timing of the Foundation Skills Assessments after a semi-normal return to school for many students who have not been in a school setting for up to 1.5 years. It was noted that this is not an optional assessment test, it is Ministry mandated and is part of the curriculum. Should there be extenuating circumstances as to why a parent would wish their child to be exempt from the FSA, they can submit a request to their child's school principal.

21. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Godfrey moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Original signed copy on file

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY TREASURER