



SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022

6:00 PM

VIA 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

Qualicum District Principals & Vice Principals Association (QDPVPA)

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 6:00 p.m. and acknowledged that the Board was meeting on the unceded Territories of the Coast Salish peoples and thanked the Qualicum and Snaw-Naw-As First Nations for allowing the Board to live, work and play on this part of Vancouver Island.

The order of the agenda was revised to allow for public comments/questions following the catchment area planning presentation by Superintendent Jory.

2. CATCHMENT AREA PLANNING

Superintendent Jory reviewed the history to date of the facilities review process and noted that this meeting would be focussed on enrolment pressures at Springwood Elementary School and options for responses. Enrolment is stable across the district; however, there has been a surge in one area which has resulted in an increase in population at Springwood Elementary School and the potential for future pressures at Arrowview Elementary and Ballenas Secondary Schools.

He advised that the focus of his presentation and the discussion to follow was to consider a potential Phase One of catchment changes to mitigate capacity pressures across the district, as well as alleviate ongoing concerns with travel distance for students attending Errington Elementary.

He then presented key concepts for the Board's consideration as follows:

- Utilize a two phase approach to catchment changes, with **Phase One** responding to emergent issues and **Phase Two** responding on a more graduated if needed/as needed basis.
- As much as possible, redirect students on a “go-forward” basis, allowing students currently in schools to remain if that is the preference of their family
- Emphasize the cross-boundary process as means to manage capacities across the School District
- “Pull” students to schools with capacity through busing and daycare opportunities

Superintendent Jory then outlined the proposed boundary changes to reduce the Springwood Elementary School catchment and shift students towards École Oceanside Elementary while keeping the French Immersion program at École Oceanside Elementary. He then presented the proposal to realign boundaries between Qualicum Beach and Errington Elementary Schools to reduce the ride times at the west end of the catchment.

Superintendent Jory then reviewed some future considerations if the Phase 1 actions were not enough. It may be that the district would not have to do any of them if Phase 1 alone addressed the enrolment pressures; however, he wanted to share the following considerations:

- i. Adjust Pym Street boundary east to reduce the Springwood Elementary catchment further.
- ii. Move San Pareil neighbourhood to Nanoose Bay Elementary to reduce Springwood Elementary catchment further.
- iii. Adjust the Qualicum Road boundary east to reduce the Arrowview Elementary catchment.
- iv. Move Columbia Beach neighbourhood to École Oceanside Elementary catchment to reduce the Arrowview Elementary catchment.
- v. Move the secondary school boundary to reduce the Ballenas Secondary catchment.

These options could be considered at a later date once the Board had the time to assess the response to, and effectiveness of, Phase 1 to determine whether or not additional adjustments were required.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS I

Trustees and Senior Staff then received comment and responded to questions on the following topics:

- Grandfathering of students already attending Springwood Elementary.

The intent is to grandfather students already attending who have the catchment area adjusted or have been approved for cross boundary to Springwood Elementary.

- Grandfathering of siblings of students already attending Springwood Elementary that were affected by the boundary change or of students who had previously been approved for cross boundary from another catchment area.

Discussions are ongoing regarding the siblings of those students and approval would be dependent on actual capacity. The younger sibling could cross boundary if there is room; however, if enrolment increases from families living in that

catchment, then those requests could not be accommodated. Discussion will also be occurring as to how to prioritize those requests.

- What is the timing of Phase 2 as outlined in the presentation?

Phase 2 would be considered at a later date once the board had the time to assess the response to, and effectiveness of, Phase 1

- There would be a difficulty with the boundary change for families which would result in siblings attending different schools when the desire is not to disrupt the sibling already attending what would now become their out of catchment school.
- How many children would be affected if the French Immersion Program was moved to Qualicum Beach Elementary School?

That would have to be investigated should the Board wish to consider that option. Currently, the intent is for the French Immersion Program to remain at École Oceanside Elementary.

- Would they accept Late French Immersion from the Temple Street neighbourhood?

The district has late immersion in Grade 1. A poll was done a few years back to determine if there was a desire for Late French Immersion for the higher grades and there was little or no uptake.

- Generally speaking, will siblings in the Temple Street neighbourhood be prioritized over out-of-catchment siblings?

i.e. If siblings are coming from Qualicum Beach Elementary to Springwood Elementary and the family has chosen to come all that way for years and now there is another child they wish to cross boundary, that would be different from families that had the boundary lines drawn away from them. The latter should be on the list of families that have priority. This will also be discussed as a new cross boundary process is outlined. It was noted that there are currently seven (7) families that would be affected by the shift in boundary lines.

What happens when a student has been grandfathered into Springwood Elementary School but their catchment feeder school for Springwood Elementary is Kwalikum Secondary. Would they continue to be grandfathered as cross boundary to Ballenas Secondary?

Staff will be determining the cross boundary process and determining enrolment priorities for cross boundary applicants.

Trustees also commented on the following:

- The Board is still talking about facilities and has not yet talked about French Immersion.
- The Board has expressed that it wants exploratories to continue.
- This meeting would not be the end of the Facilities Review; there would still be more discussions which could result in more impacts on schools.

- Want to encourage staff to consider the Board's commitment to climate action and if there are families consistently walking or riding to school, that those families be closely considered as they are taking action against driving a long way.
- Consideration for delaying any decisions on the motions for another week or so, particularly the second one.

Trustees were generally not in disagreement with the merits of the first motion; however, some would have liked an additional week or two to ensure all families were aware of potential charges and how it might affect them now and in the future.

22-32R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Godfrey

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve moving the boundary line on the north side of Island Highway East to Moilliet Street making the Temple Street neighbourhood part of the École Oceanside Elementary catchment, on a go-forward basis.

CARRIED

Trustee Austin voted against the motion

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS II

Further to the information regarding the proposal to realign boundaries between Qualicum Beach and Errington Elementary Schools to reduce the ride times at the west end of the catchment, it was noted that this would essentially make 'official' something that is already being done in terms of students from Whiskey Creek area being given priority to attend Qualicum Beach Elementary School instead of Errington Elementary School.

Trustees commented on the following:

- This may be of concern regarding siblings of students attending Errington Elementary. There is a culture of the Whiskey Creek/Coombs/Errington and it is important that the Board try and honour that.
- There is some uncertainty as to whether or not those families which might be affected by the upcoming motion are aware of this recommendation as most of the conversation has been focussed around Springwood Elementary. If those were going to be hardened boundaries, that may be challenging for some families.

The option would be on a go-forward basis. There is no intention of pulling the bus anytime soon. Errington Elementary does not have enrolment pressures; therefore, if there is a question of whether a younger sibling can also attend Errington Elementary, then the answer would be 'yes'.

The recommendation will simply make the current informal process, more formal. It creates awareness as parents new to the Whiskey Creek area would not see an option to attend Qualicum Beach Elementary School when entering their address on School Locator. This would provide for Qualicum Beach Elementary School to be the catchment school with the option to apply for a cross boundary to Errington Elementary School, which does not have any enrolment pressures and would have space to accommodate those requests.

22-33R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Kurland

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve realigning the boundaries between Qualicum Beach and Errington Elementary Schools with the boundary line being west of McLean Road.

CARRIED

Trustees Young and Austin abstained

Chair Flynn ended the meeting by noting that these were beginning steps to address enrolment pressures in the district and additional options would be considered as the long range facilities review continues to be discussed.

A slide show created by the Springwood Parents Advisory Council will be shared on the Springwood Elementary website which outlined a number of priorities of the PAC for the Board to preserve, i.e. exploratory rooms.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Godfrey moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Original signed copy on file

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY TREASURER