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School District No. 69 (Qualicum)

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 2023
6:00 PM
VIA VIDEO-CONFERENCING

ATTENDEES

Trustees

Eve Flynn	Chairperson
Julie Austin	Vice Chairperson
Carol Kellogg	Trustee
Barry Kurland	Trustee
Elaine Young	Trustee

Administration

Peter Jory	Superintendent of Schools
Ron Amos	Secretary Treasurer
Gillian Wilson	Associate Superintendent of Schools
Rudy Terpstra	Director of Instruction
Phil Munro	Director of Operations
Sheila Morrison	Principal, Errington Elementary School Qualicum District Principals and Vice Principals Association

Education Partners

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Flynn called the video-conferencing meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Chair Flynn acknowledged that the Board was meeting on the shared territory of the Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose) and Qualicum First Nations and she thanked them for their stewardship of these lands where the board lives works and plays.

She then acknowledged the upcoming National Day of Truth & Reconciliation on September 30th and encouraged attendees to wear an orange shirt to honour the survivors of residential schools and to mark the day by reflecting in some way on the history and legacy of residential schools. Many resources are on-line and there are also a number of public activities planned in various municipalities.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

An item was added under *New Business*.

22-75R

Moved: Trustee Kellogg *Seconded:* Trustee Kurland

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 29, 2023
- b. Approval of the Special Board Meeting Minutes: August 29, 2023
- c. Ratification of In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: August 29, 2023
- d. Receipt of Ministry News Releases
 - Child care savings make returning to school more affordable for more B.C. families

23-76R

Moved: Trustee Young *Seconded:* Trustee Kellogg

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve the consent agenda items of the Regular Board Meeting of September 26, 2023, as presented

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**a. 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements**

Leanne Souchuck, of MPS Chartered Accountants, presented a high level summary of the audit completed for the fiscal year end 2022-2023, noting that they present fairly and accurately. She acknowledged the full cooperation of trustees and staff throughout the process.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

7. MOUNT ARROWSMITH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (MATA)

Matt Woods, MATA President, acknowledgement of the Board's commitment to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment for all staff and students and commended the Board for sending a statement of support to staff, parents and caregivers in light of the anti-SOGI demonstrations held on September 20th.

He stated that MATA supports its members' ability to provide SOGI education and resources in schools as they too believe all students, staff and families have the right to safe, inclusive schools. MATA is committed to fighting the disinformation and hate through teaching, learning, and speaking out when they see harm being done.

Mr. Woods also referred to, and quoted from, letters of support from the BC Principals and Vice Principals Association, the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils and Premier Eby who all support the education system and school resources that are designed to ensure all students have the best opportunity to thrive, to learn, to grow, in safety without the threat of intimidation or discrimination.

He then advised the board that MATA would be supporting the BC Teachers' Federation's position on the Foundation Skills Assessment, and will be sending information home to parents of children in Grades 4 and 7, in agreement with protocols set out by the BC Public School Employers Association, asking them to send a letter to their MLA as well as have their child exempt from writing the tests. Mr. Woods asked that principals support the decision of parents

Mr. Woods ended by stating that, aside from routine concerns that are raised each year, generally teachers are feeling supported and excited about this school year. MATA looks forward to the continued collaborative spirit between the board and other educational stakeholders and appreciates when collaborative solutions to concerns are developed.

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

No Report

9. DISTRICT PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (DPAC)

Karri Kitazaki, DPAC President, stated:

- DPAC and PACs will continue to empower and engage parents/guardians to stay connected and informed in their kids' education journey. They will achieve that through guidance from the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC) to promote, support and advance meaningful parent participation, including but not limited to supporting hot lunches and fundraisers, educating themselves on the BC curriculum, participating in parent/teacher conferences and attending parent information sessions on topics such as vaping and mental health.
- PACs are looking forward to seeing how the Feeding Futures Funds will positively impact their school community.
- PACs have heard very positive feedback from families returning to schools and seeing newly painted curbs and bike rack. They appreciate all the work done by district staff over the summer to ready schools for September.
- DPAC appreciates the school district sending out an informative message outlining its dedication to Human Rights to create a safe, caring and inclusive learning environment for all students. DPAC also echoes BCCPAC's statement to ensure children are educated in an unbiased atmosphere regardless of race, colour, religion, politics, family status, gender, sexual orientation, sexual identity or ability.

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

The following was submitted regarding Board Policy 301: Living Wage:

- *If you cannot make a living wage being a school trustee then who gets to be a trustee? Regardless of terminology used to define how a trustee is compensated, trustees should have protected equality to compensation and a living wage for their time. Otherwise I feel it makes being a school trustee in SD69 a privileged position available only to those who can financially afford to. Not necessarily to those who may be best suited to serve our school district. Please consider adding 'school trustee' to Board Policy 301: Living Wage.*

Chair Flynn responded by stating that trustees are members of an elected board and given powers of administration and are not employees of the district. Trustee remuneration is outlined in Section IV of Board Bylaw 2: Board Structure which includes review of trustee remuneration in the final year of the Board's term. This ensures that the current Board does not set its own remuneration but rather for the new Board members post-election.

11. ACTION ITEMS**a. 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements**
i. Internally Restricted Funds**23-77R**

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

ii. 2022-2203 Audited Financial Statements**23-78R**

Moved: Trustee Kellogg *Seconded:* Trustee Kurland
THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve the 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements as presented.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Change in Public Nomenclature to Qualicum School District

Superintendent Jory spoke to his briefing note which outlined the rationale for changing the district's nomenclature as has already been done by several school districts in the province. The Qualicum School Board has also had conversations about the colonial nature of numbering. He noted that, should the recommendation be approved, the corporate title would remain in place for official and legal capacities.

23-79R

Moved: Trustee Kurland *Seconded:* Trustee Young
THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve a change in public nomenclature to 'Qualicum School District'.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. Amended Minor Capital Plan Submission for 2023/24

Secretary Treasurer Amos noted that a Bylaw was now required to confirm the amendment to the 2023-2024 Capital Plan Submission for the additional \$102,000 of capital funding from the Foods Infrastructure Program to support kitchen equipment/upgrades for a number of schools.

23-80R

Moved: Trustee Kurland *Seconded:* Trustee Kellogg
THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve all three readings of the School District No. 69 (Qualicum) Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2023/24-CPSD69-03 at its Regular Board Meeting of September 26, 2023.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

23-81R

Moved: Trustee Young *Seconded:* Trustee Kurland
THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) give first reading to adopt the School District No. 69 (Qualicum) Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2023/24-CPSD69-03 at its Regular Board Meeting of September 26, 2023.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

23-82R

Moved: Trustee Young *Seconded:* Trustee Kellogg

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) give second reading to adopt the School District No. 69 (Qualicum) Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2023/24-CPSD69-03 at its Regular Board Meeting of September 26, 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

23-83R

Moved: Trustee Kellogg *Seconded:* Trustee Young

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) give third and final reading to adopt the School District No. 69 (Qualicum) Capital Project Bylaw No. 2023/24-CPSD69-03 at its Regular Board Meeting of September 26, 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. INFORMATION ITEMS**a. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Jory spoke to the following:

- School start-up has gone well following a high number of projects having been completed by the Operations & Maintenance Department; summer planning and learning sessions attended by administrators, teachers and support staff, and staff in early preparing to receive students.
- Enrolment seems to be up about 1% which counters the prediction of being flat or even down .5%.
- Feeding Futures planning is well underway, and all schools have been sharing their plans to spend this money and get food to students who need it. Some of this funding will need to be spent on additional staffing and some will need to be spent on infrastructure such as stoves and freezers; however, the majority will be spent on groceries which will be turned into nutritious snacks and meals.
- Truth and Reconciliation Week in Canada, and schools will be engaging in additional learning activities in recognition of this time and the important work that needs to be done.
- Strategic Plan rollout is underway. The new brochure is on the website along with the Superintendent's 12-minute video explanation of the plan and the process used to develop it. He looks forward to working sessions in the future where staff get a chance to dig in and consider ways to advance the four goal areas of Learn, Lift, Give, and Grow
- The District's rebranding process is underway with a new logo which is steadily being updated on the district's website, documents, vehicles and buildings, along with a new public facing identity, should that decision go forward later in the meeting.
- The Annual Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) process will begin in a few weeks. The District team strongly supports the FSA, and will be using those results to gauge and to guide practice across the district. Sessions are encouraged to be fun and engaging and low stress for kids. Teachers have been taught how to use the FSA results in their classrooms and continue to be supported with their learning grades to triangulate the District's information and balance the workload, and a digital data repository for local and provincial assessments has been provided so teachers have instant access to every student's learning profile.

Superintendent Jory then made a statement regarding the protests of September 20, 2023, where 100 or so anti-SOGI protesters rallied at the school board office with a smaller number of pro-SOGI counter-protesters also rallying. In a letter to parents and caregivers, showing the district's support for safe and welcoming schools, the Superintendent and Board Chair referred to those speeches as disinformation with discriminatory undertones, as the single theme of the anti-SOGI protesters was basically that the school system is making children gay and it needs to be stopped.

That is neither the mandate nor the area of focus of districts, which barely talk about the issue. Sexual health, if anything is underdone in BC schools. What the Superintendent sees in the system is people doing their jobs, taking care of kids, and being respectful. And they have no idea what those protesters were going on about because they spend less than one tenth of one percent of their time actually talking about that stuff. Teachers are focused on a long, long list of other things. However, creating a safe and welcoming environment for all students (and for staff) is a fundamental responsibility of the system.

Superintendent Jory then questioned where the gap in information was and why that argument not working? He suggested that first, while some of the beliefs of the anti-SOGI group are ridiculous, people need to stop laughing and get serious. As history has shown, the comical can become dangerous very quickly. Second, the issue needs to be addressed from the middle. We all need to do a better job in sharing and bringing parents along. Share the curriculum. Share the resources. Share the books. Make sure everything is transparent and open. It is high time that the thousands of people who live and work and learn in the system and exist in the middle of this issue are able to share what they do and don't do in a typical day, month, year.

b. Enrolment Update

Gillian Wilson, Associate Superintendent, advised that the enrolment 'snapshot' takes place on Friday, September 29th, noting that enrolment is slightly lower than projected at the secondary level and slightly above projected at the elementary level. Enrolment in the Parksville Alternate Secondary School is also lower than projected. There has been an expected significant increase in enrolment at Qualicum Beach Elementary Schools due to the district's own planning as well as the availability of childcare on that site, and also an increase in the English Program at Ecole Oceanside Elementary School with the boundary changes and the move of the Primary Learning Program to that site. However, there are still students entering and exiting the system so the final enrolment count will be shared at the October Board Meeting.

c. Education Update

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

- \$100,000 worth of subsidies will be available for this year's Learning Grants. The application process will open in early October and the projects will be showcased in June at an as yet to be determined location.
- Earlier in the day, Mr. Terpstra participated in the Kindergarten Snapshot at Bowser Elementary School where Kindergarten students rotated through a number of learning stations and provided teachers an opportunity to get to know their new learners.
- The district website is being updated with the new logo and the change in nomenclature as well as being streamlined to provide quicker access to information for staff, parents and students.

- The District has a new partnership with Milner Gardens and Woodlands and 13 teachers have registered to attend on 5 days over the course of the year to learn how to bring meaningful outdoor education to classrooms.

Gillian Wilson, Associate Superintendent, reported on the following:

- Regarding the Kindergarten Snapshot, the district has brought in a TTOC for two weeks to assist the team and have rich conversation around their observations of their new students.
- She also echoed what had already been stated about how good schools feel when senior management have visited schools during the start of the year.
- Trustees can anticipate receiving invitations to the various activities taking place in schools on Friday, September 29th in recognition of the National Day of Truth & Reconciliation.
- Ms. Wilson met with counselling staff earlier in the day, which included three new counsellors to the district who will be great assets to the district. Mental health, anxiety and attendance and how to support students and families earlier in the year was a main topic of discussion.
- One of the initiatives counsellors are working on with the district's social worker is a parent night scheduled for Thursday, October 26th. A number of representatives from community and provincial organizations will be in attendance to share information on issues affecting youth in the area and what supports are available.
- Another concerning fact is that through the community nursing and the youth clinics, the district has been advised that the number of sexually transmitted diseases in youth is on the rise. In the past, ENITY (Empowering New Ideas Towards Youth), a youth involved initiative with support from nursing staff, was part of the sexual health curriculum. With the pandemic redirecting the nursing hours the program was placed on a hiatus; however, it is hoped that it can be reestablished next year. In the meantime, senior staff and counsellors are having conversations with Island Health about how to support teachers with that particular curriculum and the sexual health conversations that need to take place.
- The district is also working with Island Health on ways to redirect youth to healthier choices rather than self-medicating with drugs and alcohol.
- As previously mentioned, the district was able to obtain a license for after school care at Bowser Elementary School and it is hoped that would reduce some of the cross boundary requests to Qualicum Beach Elementary School. The after school program at Errington has been expanded to two spaces and the new after school program at Oceanside Elementary School has a waitlist. The district is considering how it might expand to meet the needs of that site and staff are reaching out to the Ministry to access funding for new after school spaces.
- Ms. Wilson acknowledged the school administrators who are ensuring that the plans for use of the Feeding Futures funds are meaningful and provide nutritious options for students. The Director of Operations has also been applying for capital funds for the purchase of kitchen equipment to support those initiatives. She is meeting with Principals on September 27th to finalize plans and determine how to put staffing in place to organize the work and determine how to provide lunches to a high number of students on a regular basis.

13. FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

Trustee Young referred to information provided in the committee report. It was noted that the motion coming forward from the committee was for the minor capital submission for 2024-2025.

a. 2024-2025 Minor Capital Submission**23-84R**

Moved: Trustee Young *Seconded:* Trustee Kellogg

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) support the 2024-2025 Minor Capital Plan submission as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14. POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT**a. Board Policy 600: Personnel****23-85R**

Moved: Trustee Kellogg *Seconded:* Trustee Young

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve first reading to adopt the revisions to Board Policy 600: Personnel at its Regular Board Meeting of September 26, 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Bylaw 1: Board of Education**23-86R**

Moved: Trustee Kellogg *Seconded:* Trustee Austin

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve second reading to adopt the revisions to Board Bylaw 1: *Board of Education* at its Regular Board Meeting of September 26, 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. Board Policy 100: Sustainable Practices**23-87R**

Moved: Trustee Kellogg *Seconded:* Trustee Young

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve third and final reading to adopt the revisions to Board Policy 100: *Sustainable Practices* and its attendant Administrative Procedures at its Regular Board Meeting of September 26, 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. Board Policy 301: Living Wage**23-88R**

Moved: Trustee Kellogg *Seconded:* Trustee Young

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve third and final reading to adopt the revisions to Board Policy 301: *Living Wage* and its attendant Administrative Procedures at its Regular Board Meeting of September 26, 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

15. EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT**a. School Codes of Conduct**

Superintendent Jory reminded attendees that significant work was done last year with a Code of Conduct Working Group, which created a template every school could apply using a matrix on the forefront for aspirational expectations for the school environment and as a reference point. Some schools were able to submit their codes of conduct using the new template while others were not. The expectation is that all schools will use the new template for the next iteration of the codes of conduct.

23-89R

Moved: Trustee Austin *Seconded:* Trustee Kellogg

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) accept the 2023-2024 School Codes of Conduct as previously presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL)

Superintendent Jory provided an overview of the data contained in the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning, which will be provided to the Ministry by the end of the week as per legislation.

23-90R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Kellogg

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

None

17. TRUSTEE ITEMS**a. Board External and District Committee Representatives/Liaison Schools**

Chair Flynn noted that one change to the representatives from the past year, which was to the Oceanside Building Learning Together Early Years Coalition on which Trustee Young will now be the Board representative and Trustee Flynn will act as the alternate. Liaison schools remain the same as last year and the list of trustees who will attend the DPAC meetings throughout the year was also included. *Coffee with Trustees* will begin occurring each month during the school year with the first one being held on October 4th at École Oceanside Elementary School.

b. Report Out on Webinar on Decarbonization & The Zero Carbon Step Code

Trustees Austin provided highlights from a webinar presented by the Columbia Institute to help educate local elected on the new Zero Carbon Step Code (Z CSC) that allows local governments to limit carbon emissions from new buildings in their communities and on the types of options available for local governments to incentivize and support building retrofits, heat pump installations, clean energy and other products that can support decarbonization. While the content was geared mainly towards new builds in municipalities, Trustee Austin found the information of interest and beneficial for networking purposes and she was confident that the

Director of Operations was well-versed in the programs and opportunities available.

c. Report Out on Board Retreat – August 28/29, 2023

Chair Flynn provided a list of the range of topics trustees discussed at a summer Board Retreat which included student assessment, strategic planning, the Feeding Futures funding, the Accessibility Act and meetings with municipalities and local MLA's, while also being introduced to Microsoft TEAMS. The Board will also be undertaking a self-evaluation with a representative from the BC School Trustees on Thursday, November 9th.

i. Recording of Board Meetings

Chair Flynn noted that another topic of discussion at the Board Retreat was whether the committee of the whole meetings not be recorded and posted, and that only the regular and special public board meetings, such as budget meetings, be recorded and posted.

Trustees then debated that topic further during which it was noted that the practice of recording and posting the committee meetings, with the exception of the Education Committee Meeting, had not been in place very long (February 2023). The Committee of the Whole meetings, while not decision-making meetings, also often provide the bulk of the information supporting recommendations forwarded to the Board from the committees for a decision at its public meetings. It was also noted that the viewership of the recent recordings was low

23-91R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Young

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) rescind Board Motion 23-08:

“THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) hold its monthly Regular Board meetings and its Policy and Finance & Operations Committee of the Whole meetings virtually via Zoom and that they be recorded and posted with sufficient technology provided to mask students identity when appropriate.”

CARRIED

Trustee Austin voted against the motion

23-92R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Kellogg

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) hold its regular public, special public, and Committee of the Whole Meetings via video-conferencing, and that only the regular public and special public meetings be recorded and made public.

CARRIED

Trustee Austin voted against the motion

18. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Disposition of French Creek Elementary School Site

Chair Flynn advised that, at its In Camera Meeting (held earlier on September 26, 2023) the Board approved announcing that it would be considering the disposition of the former French Creek Elementary School and seeking public feedback prior to a decision being made.

Trustee Austin stated that, while she is not opposed to the concept of the Board obtaining feedback from the public as to what might be done with the property, she did not wish to presuppose that the board would dispose of the property. Chair Flynn noted that from previous discussions, she believed that the Board was considering the disposition and therefore the Board should be transparent about that option.

23-93R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Kurland

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) announce at its September Public Board Meeting that it is considering the disposition of property located at 2350 Alberni Highway, Coombs, British Columbia (known as the former French Creek Elementary School). Specific details of the property are Lot A, District Lot 143, Nanoose District, Plan 15661; and,

THAT Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) seek public feedback through a Public Notice to be placed in the local media.

CARRIED

Trustee Austin voted against the motion

19. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE AND MEDIA

None

20. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

None

21. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Kellogg moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Original Signed Copy on File

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY TREASURER