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QUALICUM SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 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
Gaynor Charnock	Vice-Principal, Arrowview Elementary School Qualicum District Principals and Vice Principals Association

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson 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 traditional territory of the Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose) and Qualicum First Nations and she thanked them for allowing the Board to live, work and play on this beautiful part of the island.

She then advised of the passing of former Trustee, Barbara Terry, on December 5th. Ms. Terry and her husband, Ian, who has also passed, were strong community-minded people in the Coombs area. She was a mentor to Chair Flynn and incredibly balanced in thinking. Her love for children and community came through strongly in her work.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The following topics were added to the Agenda under New/Unfinished Business: *Qualicum Woods Residents' Association - AvGas Presentation*

It was also requested that *Public Questions and Comments* be moved ahead in the agenda prior to *Business Arising from the Minutes* in order to give any public as well as partner groups the opportunity to comment on business arising.

23-117R

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: November 28, 2023
- b. Ratification of In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: November 28, 2023

23-118R

Moved: Trustee Kellogg *Seconded:* Trustee Young

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve the consent agenda items of the Regular Board Meeting of December 12, 2023, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**a. Brain Body Fitness**

Bill Preston of the Qualicum Community Education & Wellness Society (QCEWS) and Brain Body Fitness, provided the Board with a report on the status of Phase 1 of the Brain Fitness Pilot initiative and the value and importance of the program to the fifteen users they were able to accommodate during that time. Plans for Phase 2 would be to create a Society which would then run the program. The Society would then move the project into a long-term sustainable program.

The Board was reminded that it had agreed to provide space for the pilot for a period of one year until funding was identified by the organization with which to assist with rental costs. However, a potential grant was not realized and an alternate source of funding has not yet been identified. Also, the pilot, which was to begin in January 2023, was not able to proceed until May 2023. Mr. Preston inquired whether the Board would consider extending the term to utilize Room 12 at the Qualicum Commons at no charge for an additional period of six (6) months. The additional 6 months would allow time for the program to bridge from the Pilot to Phase 2 of the new nonprofit society and then to Phase 3 to build the program for the long term.

Mr. Preston then provided additional details on participation rate for the equipment and ideas on how programming could be expanded within the space and eventually move to a fee for service model. Trustees were also invited to attend a future open house at the site.

The Board thanked Mr. Preston for his presentation and advised that consideration of his request would occur later in the meeting under New/Unfinished Business.

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

None

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a. French Creek Elementary – Public Consultation Results

Secretary Treasurer Amos reviewed the responses received from the public notice of disposition of the former French Creek Elementary School property. Staff heard from 34 individual submissions that included some level of interest from external organizations; however, the majority of the opinions was to keep the site in the public's hands for community use. He advised that the Board had passed a bylaw in 2014 to declare that the facility was closed for schooling; however, now the Board would need to consider the future use and, in order to do so the Board would need to support a motion that the property would no longer be required for future educational needs and also to provide direction to staff to seek Ministry approval to dispose of the property after which the Board would determine what its next steps would be.

Trustee Austin expressed her wish that the motions in support of the actions required as outlined by the Secretary Treasurer had been included on the public agenda so the community was aware of what the next steps might be for that site. She was also not comfortable stating that the Board no longer has any educational use for the property. As there has been population growth in many surrounding areas, the Board may require that site, even 10-15 years in the future. She would have liked to see additional data such as information from the Regional District of Nanaimo's (RDN) Official Community Plan and Baragar projections for the area.

Secretary Treasurer Amos noted that the site has not been used as an educational facility since 2014 and he is not aware of any particular growth in that area. Also, the current condition of the building was such that it was not fit to house students.

23-119R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Kurland

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) confirm that Lot A, District Lot 143, Nanoose District, Plan 15661 (known as the former French Creek Elementary School property) will not be required for future educational purposes by the Board of Education.

CARRIED

Trustee Austin voted against the motion

Trustee Young stated that she had attended French Creek School for the final public consultation in 2014 and, while the possibility of the community taking over the site in some way to create a community hub was exciting, no one has since come forward to take the lead on that idea and the School District is incapable of doing so. She hopes that now that there is some interest that it would be positive for the community to now come together and create a community use for that site. She thanked everyone who provided feedback on the Notice of Disposition.

Secretary Treasurer then spoke to the process of what would occur while awaiting Ministerial approval to dispose of the property. In the interim, the Board has the latitude to ask staff to engage in some of the proposals submitted. The Board also has yet to hear from the First Nations. The engagement can continue; however, until the Board has ministerial approval, nothing can be done other than to look for proposals should the Board continue that discussion once ministerial approval has been granted.

23-120R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Kellogg

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) direct the Secretary Treasurer to seek approval from the Ministry of Education to proceed with the disposition of Lot A, District Lot 143, Nanoose District, Plan 15661 (known as the former French Creek Elementary School property).

CARRIED

Trustee Austin voted against the motion

7. MOUNT ARROWSMITH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (MATA)

No Report

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

No Report

9. DISTRICT PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (DPAC)

No Report

11. ACTION ITEMS

None

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

Superintendent Jory provided information on the following:

- Student Achievement: Provincial completion results were still delayed due to some technical difficulties and it is not possible to see how other districts have done; however, the Qualicum School District's own Ministry data repository had been updated.
- The District's *All Resident Student* and *Indigenous Student Six Year Rates* have moved up slightly at approximately one percent each. After significant gains last year, a result that holds up or even improves should be considered good news. The District did see a slight drop in its *Six-Year Results for Students with Diverse Abilities*, though the actual percentage is still the second highest this district has seen. There were also encouraging results with the district's on-reserve students and children in care, though those numbers will not be shared publicly as the cohorts are small enough to require masking. Overall, the Superintendent saw this as a positive step towards equity, and considers the results to be affirming of the district's ever-evolving practice from Kindergarten right through grade twelve. As discussed throughout the district's Strategic Planning process and through the beginning stages of its rollout, the importance of meaningful graduation has been and will continue to be a primary focus.
- On December 1, senior staff hosted a Ministry Day session at Kwalikum Secondary School where attendees first heard from Chief Michael Recalma of the Qualicum First Nation, then from Superintendent Jory who reviewed the goals of the Strategic Plan and spoke more specifically about the connection with the First People's Principles of Learning. Attendees then heard from Dr. Dustin Louie, Director of NITEP at the University of British Columbia, about reconciliation and bias.

- In recent weeks staff have also been working on a review of the district's Learning Support program. A survey was issued to staff some weeks ago, and the data received, along with the district roles and responsibilities chart, was the topic of focus group discussions with groups of teachers from three schools, a group of education assistants and workers, and a large group of learning resource teachers. Several students were also interviewed, and all that information was shared with principals and vice-principals, who also contributed their feedback. The intention is to use this information to create an operational plan for learning support, which will be fully aligned with the District Strategic Plan, and provide a vision for the program, clarify common language, generate outcomes using the SET model, and give an updated roles and responsibilities matrix for staff, all to be brought to the Board in February or March.
- The Board and Senior Staff will be considering later start times around the District. Noting the research about student learning and engagement, the universal challenges with attendance, the strong district interest in equity, as well as student safety on dark winter mornings, Superintendent Jory felt it was time to have that conversation. The intention will be to launch a webpage in the new year with the rationale for change, links to research, and then a link to a form where staff and parents can offer feedback. This will also provide another opportunity to utilize student voice in the district's schools and ensure all the information needed is obtained to best improve outcomes for students. Further, the District recognizes that peoples' lives often revolve around school start and end times, so it is critical that the issues are understood and the district does what it can to mitigate challenges that might be raised; e.g. around student supervision and childcare, before it makes any further steps.
- Winter concerts are underway and it was hoped that everyone has had or will have a chance to enjoy one or two over the next two weeks. He also reminded staff that, while this is generally seen as a fun and exciting time of the year, not all of the district's families celebrate Christmas, and it is the district's responsibility to provide an inclusive learning environment where everyone feels they belong, and that the district's public facing communications need to respect that diversity. At a recent meeting, Superintendent Jory also raised the possibility of other types of performances, perhaps in entirely other seasons, that could also be found in any of the many other topics and songs at the district's disposal, which others might find refreshing.

b. Educational Programs Update

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

- Learning Updates will all have been sent home by the week of December 18th. The new reporting order now includes student goal setting and core competency reflections. Also, in the former reporting order, there was the change in the language from 'Incomplete' to 'Incomplete evidence of learning' with a plan to give students and families a path to success.
- A Student Assessment and Evaluation Committee meeting was held on December 4 where feedback was received from all schools and teachers about the new reporting platform in MyEdBC and also shared learning how schools are addressing goal setting with their students and recording that to homes.
- The District Technology Committee met on December 11th and one of their larger projects will be to align the technology goals with the new Strategic

Plan and continue the work on technologies not only support the work in the District but also to support learning for students.

- Following a Grade 9 District Literacy Assessment and review of that data, a team of Grade 9 teachers from all four high schools attended Dover Bay High School in Nanaimo on December 4 for Learning Round, working with Leyton Schnellert. The learning focussed on the middle years; recognizing the differences in the middle years and how to make it learning engaging and exciting and offering choice for students. Teachers then went into classrooms and watched a co-taught model which is called a learning round. The day ended with a debrief of what was observed and practices that could be incorporated into the Qualicum School District's classrooms. Ballenas is going to host the next session of learning rounds with two other school districts.

Gillian Wilson, Associate Superintendent, reported on the following:

- A Curriculum Implementation Advisory Committee meeting on December 11th and it was noted that the Committee is short of teaching staff. Associate Superintendent Wilson is in discussions with the MATA President to determine how more teachers could be involved as it is part of the Collective Agreement to have teachers on the committee. The reasons could be due to there being a number of district committees on which teachers participate as well as the teachers' workload. The Committee is looking at the big picture items across the District while ensuring they are aligning everything they are doing with the Strategic Plan.
- Acknowledgement of the hard work schools are doing at this time of year. As mentioned by Dr. Jory, this time of year can be especially challenging for some families and not everyone celebrates in the same way. That can result in staff seeing some behaviours from students who are not sure how to deal with changes in their life and staff are working hard to maintain routines and procedures for the next 2 weeks.
- The school district is working with the District 69 Backpack Program with additional support through the Feeding Futures Funding to support 75 families with gifts and a food hamper for the holiday season and she thanked the many volunteers and staff who assist in making the deliveries to those families.
- January is the time of year the district begins planning for the next school year with Kindergarten registration and applications for programs of choice as well as cross boundary requests while also considering the next year's budget.
- A Kindergarten meeting was held on December 6th with all Kindergarten teachers. Attendees pulled together information from snapshot and provided a learning opportunity for all the Kindergarten teachers around Speech & Language, Occupational Therapy, supports that were the themes shared at the Education Committee.
- The Early Development Instrument (EDI) will take place in January with information going out to schools either just before or after the winter break to let families know that will be taking place.
- Associate Superintendent Wilson and Director of Instruction Terpstra have been considering what staffing could look like to align with the assessment practices in terms of reading, writing and numeracy. They are working with the local union to create postings in terms of staffing that has come from the amended budget to support the strategic priorities around assessment.

c. 2024-2025 Budget Process Schedule

Secretary Treasurer Amos presented the schedule outlining the process to draft the 2024-2025 Annual Budget. He reminded the Board that by the end of February he will be bringing forward the amended budget for the current school year while beginning the 2024/2025 budget process as outlined on the schedule. In order to allow for broader discussion and feedback, many of the budget discussions will occur via video-conferencing and the budget survey will be opened again to which people can also provide input. It was noted that if people are unable to attend any of the meetings as outlined on the schedule, they are also welcome to email their questions and comments to the Secretary Treasurer.

13. FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 15, 2024

14. POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 15, 2024

15. EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024

16. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

None

17. TRUSTEE ITEMS

None

18. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Request from Brain Body Fitness/ Qualicum Community Education & Wellness Society (QCEWS)

Trustees discussed the request from the QCEWS for an extension of use of a room at the Qualicum Commons for an additional 6 months at no charge while considering how it might be received by paying tenants in the building. Staff reported that, to date, nothing has come forward from other tenants, who may not be aware of the arrangement between the QCEWS and the Board.

23-121R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Kurland

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) extend its approval for the Brain Wellness Project by the Qualicum Community Education & Wellness Society (QCEWS) to utilize Room 12 at the Qualicum Commons at no charge for an additional period of six (6) months, from January 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024, after which time the organization will be required to start paying a monthly rental fee as previously agreed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Follow Up to Qualicum Woods Residents' Association Presentation

Trustee Austin suggested that the Board respond to the November 28th request from the Qualicum Woods Residents' Association to support them in their efforts to advocate to the Town of Qualicum Beach and the Minister of Transport to enact changes by switching to offering unleaded fuel at the Qualicum Beach Airport and altering the flight path away from Arrowview Elementary School, when it is safe to do so.

Trustees discussed the request after which it was decided that the request be better directed to the local Medical Health Officer as well as the Town Council and Minister of Transport. The Chair will write a letter to inform the Association that the Board would not be taking any further action at this point. Trustees will, however, consider the mention of possible soil contamination from lead at a future Education Committee meeting under the standing item of Environmental Stewardship and Climate Action.

19. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE AND MEDIA

None

20. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

21. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Kellogg moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Original signed copy on file

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY TREASURER