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QUALICUM SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024
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
Ryan Brennan	Director of Instruction – Human Resources
Phil Munro	Director of Operations
Jesse Witte	Principal, Springwood Elementary School Qualicum District Principals and Vice Principals Association

Education Partners

Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 3570

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 shared traditional territory of the Qualicum and Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose) First Nations. She thanked the First Nations for their stewardship of the land, and for allowing the Board to live, work, play and learn in this beautiful part of Vancouver Island.

She then welcomed Ryan Brennan, Director of Instruction – Human Resources, to the district and extended regrets from the new DPAC President, Ray Woroniak.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

24-79R

Moved: Trustee Kurland *Seconded:* Trustee Austin

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 25, 2024
- b. Ratification of In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: June 25, 2024
- c. Ratification of In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: July 2, 2024
- d. Receipt of Ministry News Releases
 - Inclusivity, transparency improved for child care
 - Francophone families will receive child care resources, supports in French

24-80R

Moved: Trustee Kellogg *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 27, 2024, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

a. **Bill 40 Proposed Amendments to the School Act**

Katie Marren, District Principal of Indigenous Education, provided the Board with an overview of the legislative amendments to the School Act which require all school district to have an Indigenous Education Council (IEC) to advocate for all Indigenous students, advise on integration of Indigenous worldviews, and have local First Nations members advising on their distinct languages, cultures, traditions, practices or histories. It was noted that the IECs are not committees of the Boards of Education. Ms. Maren then outlined the set up and responsibilities of the IECs and the role of Boards of Education in relation to the IECs.

Chief Michael Recalma, Qualicum First Nation, noted that this legislation is new to everyone and anticipated it would be a steep learning curve for all involved. Patti Edwards from Snaw-Naw-As First Nation added that the intention of the IEC is not to exclude but rather to be more inclusive and to ensure the language and culture of this particular area is not forgotten and lost.

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

None

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a. **Review of Board Meeting Schedule**

At this time no changes were made to the meetings schedule; however, consideration will be given to the schedule as well as recordings of any meetings after the election of the Chair and Vice Chair. Trustees would make their preferences known to the Chair as to which board committees they would like to

serve and determine if a different date/time would be more suitable for the designated Chair of any Committees of the Whole as well as whether or not they would be recorded.

The outcome of those discussions will be shared at the September Regular Board Meeting.

b. Update to Administrative Procedure to Board Policy 700: Safe Caring and Inclusive School Communities

Superintendent Jory reviewed the changes as requested by the Ministry regarding use of personal digital devices in schools to ensure that exceptions are also included. The Ministry was provided with the revised document and has confirmed that the Qualicum School District is now in compliance.

8. MOUNT ARROWSMITH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (MATA)

No report

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

Ewen Rycroft, CUPE Local 3570 President, commented that support staff are looking forward to another school year and supporting students towards graduation. Staff are also looking forward to the progress and completion of the community track, with lots of changes occurring in the Operations & Maintenance Department.

10. DISTRICT PARENT COUNCIL (DPAC)

No Report

11. ACTION ITEMS

a. 2025-2026 Major Capital (Child Care) Plan Submission

Secretary Treasurer Amos presented the plans as submitted to the ministry, with staff requesting approval from the Board for stand-alone child care centres at Bowser and Errington Elementary Schools.

24-81R

Moved: Trustee Young *Seconded:* Trustee Kellogg

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve the 2025-2026 Major Capital (Child Care) Plan Submission as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jory reported on the following:

i. Provincial Updates

- 2024 is a Federal election year and the writ will be dropped provincially on September 21st with voting taking place October 10 to 19 with a new government being formed on November 2nd. The message to districts, as with each election year, was to lay low if possible and, if anything controversial happens at the local level, district will be pretty much on their own.

- The impending departure of the Deputy Minister of Education and Child Care, along with one of their key assistants, left attendees at a recent ministry session feeling a bit downcast. Change is inevitable and district staff will prepare for whatever 'different' looks like.
- 2024 is also a bargaining year for both unionized employee groups; therefore, the district will be forming its respective local negotiating teams while the provincial tables negotiate provincial matters. Newcomer, Ryan Brennan, Director of Instruction – Human Resources, will lead the Qualicum School District employer teams.
- One theme from the Provincial sessions revolved around rapid population growth, primarily driven by immigration, and highly impactful in primarily urban areas. Population growth is still fairly quiet on the local front, with some new registrations; however, nothing that suggests growth as of yet.
- The main topic during the second half of the 2023-24 school year was the new provincial cellphone legislation, which is now in force. As previously mentioned in the meeting, new language was added to the administrative procedures to Board Policy 700: *Safe Caring and Inclusive School Communities* and schools will be activating their updated Codes of Conduct to ensure appropriate restrictions are in place and that there are new opportunities for digital literacy and tech hygiene learning.
- The Feeding Futures program will continue to ensure students can focus on learning.
- The District will continue to look at additional child care opportunities to further support the needs of its communities.

ii. **District Updates Regarding Start Up**

- Changes continue to emerge in the Transportation Department. The team has sent numerous communications out to families, describing the new registration system, the benefits of the routing software, and differences to how we will be doing business. Late registrations are now being processed, and seats and stops will still be assigned, as long as space is available. This series of changes is another step along the journey of a significant overhaul which, after a transportation review that will start in January, will eventually result in a better overall system that positively addresses both service delivery and efficiency.
- Summer cleaning and maintenance projects have gone well. The changeroom project at Ballenas Secondary should be completed by mid-September with the track project anticipated to be completed by mid-October. Credit to the Operations & Maintenance team for leading this ambitious work while undertaking their annual work to prepare schools for students.
- Student and staff attendance have been a source of ongoing discussion and a frequent source of concern. Therefore, Principals have been working in elementary and secondary teams to plan aligned responses across the district. This will result in increased communications (letters, phone calls, conversations) in order to support the Give, Grow and Belong aspects of the Strategic Plan, and to really address the barriers that are identified when speaking

to students. It means working on district culture and accessing the possibilities that the new aligned secondary timetables will bring. It means a lot of things, both subtle and profound and district staff are remaining aware and proactive.

- Senior staff were able to do more learning with the district's administrative staff over the summer in regard to the Strategic Plan. Part of this work was a sharing session with colleagues from the Campbell River School District, who have adopted the same Observable Impact Planning Framework that the Qualicum School District has been using for the past two years. Qualicum School District administrators then spent a day working on the district's focus, selecting which areas of the district plans were going to get that heightened attention and getting much more comfortable with evidence: the information that drives them to move, change course, or convinces them that they are finally there.

b. Educational Programs Update

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

- The Board has committed to the BC Learning Pathways, which is a series of resources designed to support teachers in developing students' key literacy and numeracy skills, and maps out what skills students should have as they progress through each level of the school system.
- The District will be continuing work in core competency reflections, highlighting core competencies and students goal setting and students' reflecting on those goals. This initiative is related to the Assessment and Communicating Student Learning Guide, which has been updated for the new school year. The guide will be provided to Trustees as well as posted on the public facing page of the district website.
- The following learning opportunities for educators are being arranged to support schools in moving learning forward and supporting school goals:
 - Director of Instruction, Rudy Terpstra; District Principal of Learning Support, Tandy Gunn; and, Katie Marren, District Principal of Indigenous Education, are working on a learning series that will be titled: *Learning with and from the Local Nations*, developing culturally responsive and inclusive schools and classrooms. This will be a four-part series and reaching out to the local nations in the hopes they will welcome district staff to visit them as sites in this series.
 - There are three Numeracy Learning Series planned for this year, including Learning Rounds.
 - Educators are also planning to do work in the middle years with Leyton Schnellert.

Gillian Wilson, Associate Superintendent, commented on the following:

- Appreciation to the outgoing DPAC executive for the *Everyone Welcome Benches* that were gifted to each school
- The District has hired a Team Lead for the Integrated Child & Youth Team, a collaboration which will bring community support and services for youth in a multidisciplinary team setting.
- A reminder that schools start at the regular time on Tuesday, September 3rd with an early dismissal, with the exception of Kindergarten students who participate in a gradual start.

- Elementary schools have done reconnecting starts which support building culture, connections and familiarity for students to come to a familiar face and to work on core competencies, and also provides teaching staff with the knowledge of who is in attendance and ensures the class configurations in June are the same in September.
- Further to the work being done by the District Principal of Early Learning and Child Care, Sheila Morrison, Bowser, Oceanside, Errington and Springwood Elementary schools now have after school care, with a waitlist at Springwood and Oceanside Elementary. Arrowview Elementary already has a stand along child care building run by the Oceanside Building Learning Together Society and Qualicum Beach Elementary School has a private daycare on site; therefore, all elementary schools have that support in place.

c. 2024 Summer Projects Update

Phil Munro, Director of Operations, presented a PowerPoint with before and after pictures showcasing the many and varied projects undertaken schools throughout the district over the summer as well as some which are still in progress. He expressed his gratitude to the maintenance and custodial staff for all their work and to those who contributed the pictures for the presentation.

Trustees and senior staff expressed their appreciation for all the hard work done.

13. FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 16, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. via TEAMS.

14. POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 16, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. via TEAMS.

15. EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 2:30 p.m. via TEAMS.

16. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

None

17. TRUSTEE ITEMS

Trustee Austin expressed her appreciation to the outgoing DPAC executive for their work in gifting and installing Friendship Benches. Trustee Young added her appreciation to the outgoing DPAC executive, noting that they were also Pride Benches, a welcome addition to all schools to help children feel safe, secure and welcome.

18. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

19. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE AND MEDIA

None

20. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

None

21. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Kellogg moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Original Signed Copy on File

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY TREASURER