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QUALICUM SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024
6:00 PM
VIA VIDEO-CONFERENCING

ATTENDEES

Trustees

Eve Flynn	Chairperson
Carol Kellogg	Vice Chairperson
Julie Austin	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
Lauren Nikirk	Vice Principal, Springwood 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 Council (DPAC)

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, and play in this beautiful part of Vancouver Island.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

24-97R

Moved: Trustee Kellogg *Seconded:* Trustee Young

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: September 24, 2024
- b. Ratification of In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: September 24, 2024
- c. Ratification of Special In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: September 9, 2024
- d. Receipt of Ministry News Releases
- e. Receipt of Report from Trustee Representative
 - Early Years Table – Trustee Young

24-98R

Moved: Trustee Austin *Seconded:* Trustee Kurland

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve the consent agenda items of the Regular Board Meeting of October 22, 2024, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

None

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

None

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**a. Responses from Public Notices re: Craig Street Commons and Qualicum Commons**

Secretary Treasurer Amos referred to his briefing note provided in the agenda package that spoke to the Craig Street and Qualicum Commons sites. He reviewed the types of responses received from the 90-day public notice period requesting input on the future use of both of those sites. Only two proponents have submitted formal requests for consideration: *Save the Commons Community Group* and the *Town of Qualicum Beach*.

Prior to any decision by the Board regarding the future of the two sites and the reconsideration of its deferred motion from June (to close both sites), over the coming month the Board will vet all viable proposals received. Should the Board wish to hear directly from the proponents, that would also be arranged. Staff would engage with those proponents in order to provide a report to the Board at its November meeting.

Trustees added that the response from the community was encouraging and suggested that the commonalities between the proponents might be shared between them. It was also noted that, if needed, the Board would extend the timeline for making a final decision on the properties so as not to rush the process.

8. MOUNT ARROWSMITH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (MATA)

Matt Woods, MATA President, spoke to the following:

- Acknowledgement of all the work that teachers do outside of their regular commitments to support their colleagues with things like professional opportunities. Many teachers have been, will be and are volunteering their time to be part of professional specialist associations (PSA) as well as district professional development committees.

- On Friday, October 25 teachers from across the province will be engaged in province-wide professional development opportunities that support and build their professional learning and growth. Many PSA's hold conferences that are specific to knowledge and content areas so that teachers have an opportunity to connect and learn with colleagues with similar interests. Technology has made these opportunities more accessible with the opportunity to offer hybrid conferences and many teachers will choose this type of engagement.
- The MATA Chair of their Professional Development Committee and committee members are organizing the November 1st Pro-D Day, the first of three this year, featuring keynote speaker Angela Slade who will speak on the power of emotional intelligence and brain integration in education. Teachers will then be given opportunities to learn from a variety of other sessions.
- Brant Prunkl, Manager of Operations – Safety and Transportation, was thanked for organizing and hosting Health & Safety training last week which was specific to the needs of the District. Many members found the training to be helpful and insightful in support of the Joint Occupational Safety & Health (JOSH) committees at each of their sites.
- At the November Policy Committee of the Whole Meeting, MATA will be bringing forward concerns from members, regarding the newly drafted Board Policy 605: *Fiduciary Responsibility*; specifically, how it might impact the constitutional rights of employees as well as to clarify the genesis of the Board creating this policy at this time.
- The apparent significant reduction in the number of oversized classes was appreciated; however, it was noted that there is a concern that the current provincial model of remedy is simply becoming the cost of doing business and more has to be done to meet the class size requirements. Class composition also plays a significant role when creating classes and is just as important as class size. As union's are unable to bargain class composition locally, the MATA President encouraged trustees to make that topic a BC Public School Employers Association (BCPSEA) priority as parties enter into provincial bargaining rounds.

Trustee Young referred attendees to an article in the most recent BCTF Teacher Magazine, which contained many good resources, regarding ways to have courageous discussions and how to include students in leading those discussions.

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

Ewen Rycroft, CUPE Local 3570 President, thanked the Board and all staff for their hard work in supporting the students in the district.

10. **DISTRICT PARENT COUNCIL (DPAC)**

Ray Woroniak, DPAC President, commented on the following:

- The hybrid DPAC meeting held on October 16th was a success. The meeting was recorded and has been uploaded, shared and posted.
- A new DPAC executive was elected and will be working on a communications plan that will be discussed at the November DPAC meeting.
- Thank you to Trustees and MATA for their attendance at the October meeting. Parent appreciated the information provided from the questions provided ahead of the meeting.
- The request for the Board to reverse its decision not to record Committee of the Whole meetings was requested again. DPAC believes that would prevent

misinformation from being shared while improving communication and access to information.

- Mr. Woroniak reiterated DPAC's stance that parents are more interested in the discussion and rationale behind decisions made, rather than the actual decisions, in order to learn and be well-informed and create more trust and less conflict and questioning.
- DPAC will be providing another series of requests for information from parents to be addressed by the attending Board and Union representative at the next DPAC meeting. He asked that those providing the information focus more on the answers than the broad explanations that those answers might involve.

11. ACTION ITEMS

None

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jory reported on the following:

- Board Office staff have been displaced due to a small fire on the roof, related to the roof replacement job and it is uncertain when they will be able to return to the office. It is anticipated that staff will be back in the office on Wednesday, unless a more extensive remediation is required.
- There are 13 new Needs Response Teams (NRTs) meeting across the District this fall, with a number of others soon to launch. The NRTs are a form of short-term professional learning community, where small groups of teachers are provided release time over a period of six weeks to work together with colleagues on specific instructional challenges of their choosing. Topics include specific aspects of literacy and numeracy, differentiation, and outdoor learning. NRT participation is optional; however, participants are required to select topics in support of the District's Strategic Plans/Operations Plans/or School Plans, and they will be expected to follow the meeting protocols and report out to their colleagues regarding the impact of their learning. This model of learning has been shown to be incredibly powerful when done with appropriate structure and intent, and research indicates the impact to be far greater than other types of models that organizations typically use to advance practice and build staff confidence. The inspiration to launch the NRT structure came from the Learning Support Review, where teachers told senior leadership staff they wanted and needed the opportunity to meet and work with colleagues on solutions for the challenges that frequently face them in the classroom. Superintendent Jory stated that it was his sincere hope that this opportunity would catch on and, with continued support, contribute to teacher collective efficacy, which is the premier factor in both student success and job satisfaction.

Trustee Austin added that the Board has requested updates on the District's NRTs, including a full review in the early part of the next year, how it relates to budget and how it is ultimately affecting students in the District.

- The final result of last week's provincial elections will not be clear for another week or so, due to narrow outcomes in several ridings that require recounts and tallying of mail-in ballots. This election is particularly interesting in the education world because one of the political parties has

cited a number of education reforms, including the return to letter grades and secondary subject based exams, among other things. While districts could revert to those practices, the preference is to keep moving forward as a system and champion practice that is effective and supported by the best and most current research.

- Superintendent Jory noted that the notion of education reform does illuminate a concern he has voiced over the last few years. Essentially, a significant portion of the population does crave a higher level of assurance that the school system is doing the work it needs to do, especially given the open-ended nature of the New Curriculum. This concern was revisited many times in many conversations over the past decade, and then through Superintendent Jory's own doctoral study, where it was again made clear that the current assessment program is not well understood by the public, and looks sometimes to be a compromise that is leaving both ends of the political and educational spectrum somewhat wanting.

In the Superintendent's opinion, the solutions were clear: Communicate clearly about what is working well with the New Curriculum whenever an opportunity presents itself. There is much positive to share in regard to modern educational practice and the student successes being seen as a result. Also, a high level of fidelity to the assessment process is critical to generating the positive and accurate results that can help convince the public that school districts are in fact doing their jobs well, and that their children will be literate and numerate and fully capable of thriving in society because of that great work. Progress often requires proof and this is a significant opportunity to provide and keep providing that proof to a public that pays tax dollars and deserves to know that they are being spent well.

- Thank you to all of our staff for their hard work and enthusiasm this October. The atmosphere in the district feels positive and things look and sound to be on track and that is due to everyone working in the system.

b. Preliminary Enrolment Summary

Associate Superintendent Wilson referred to the enrolment summary showing projections in February when staffing is being considered for the upcoming school year compared to actual enrolment as of September 30th. Overall, enrolment is lower than projected by 48 students (Head Count).

It was shared that while staffing may be anticipated to be higher, not all staffing budgeted in the spring is released pending confirmation of enrolment. This avoids having to lay off staff at the beginning of the school year.

It was suggested that a focus be placed on considering how the District could better provide additional supports for neuro-diverse students to avoid parents choosing to enrol their child in a local private educational organization rather than in the Qualicum School District. Staff noted that families make the decision as to where to register their child based on their knowledge and what they desire for their children; however, the district does work hard within its allocated budget to ensure it has inclusive practices for all of its students.

c. Class Size Report

Associate Superintendent Wilson reviewed the Class Size Report, noting that there are less classes with over 30 students than last year. Those that are over are not unusual given that they are music programs (i.e. band, choral) which historically

have more students. The pre-calculus course is one that students choose to take as part of the requirement to attend a university so administrators have made the decision to oversize that class when counsellors are assisting students with timetabling. The photography class is one that is only offered in one semester and, again, in that case administrators decided to oversize that class to allow the additional student to attend.

d. Educational Programs Update

Director of Instruction Terpstra commented on the following:

- Class Reviews are underway in all K-9 classrooms across the district.
- The Kindergarten Snapshot which is led by the Teaching and Learning Team has also been done.
- District assessments in Writing from Grades 3 through 5 and Literacy 9 assessment will take place in November and a Numeracy series planned for teaching staff.
- The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) are underway for students in Grades 4 and 7. As a responsive system, one of the intents, of not only the FSA's but also the assessments across the district, is that assessments should not be a stressful event for students but rather a learning opportunity in as regular a classroom setting as possible. With assistance from Denise Spencer-Dahl of the Teaching & Learning Team, and Vice Principal, Mark McInnes, a one page reference on Universal Supports was created. This was shared with the system to remind people of ways they can support students during assessments and students can expect all the things they normally have in a classroom, even when participating in provincial assessments.
- A Numeracy Learning Round is scheduled on Monday, October 28th at Springwood Elementary School. There is a session for primary teachers and one for intermediate teachers. Thanks to Springwood Elementary teacher, Jordan Elves, who will be hosting the co-taught primary session with Carole Fullerton and to Springwood Elementary teacher, Deanna Pepper, who will be hosting the co-taught intermediate session with Carole Fullerton.
- The provincial professional development sessions have all been well-subscribed by the District's teaching staff. Two conferences of note are the MYPITA Fall Conference (Provincial Intermediate and Middle School Teachers' Association) and the BC School Counsellors Association (BCSCA) Fall Conference, which are both being hosted in Victoria, with the latter also offering in-person, on-line and hybrid options.
- The District will be hosting viewing parties for the four free *Engaging All Learners in the Middle Years* webinar series hosted by Dr. Leyton Schnellert and Tammy Renyard, featuring special guest speakers every session. Two District staff, Katie Marren, the District's Principal of Indigenous Education, and Sarah Elson-Haugan, District Indigenous Support, will be the two featured educators for the December 3rd session. This four-part series is offered through the Edith Lando Virtual Learning Centre at UBC. Interested trustees are also welcome to participate.

Associate Superintendent Wilson commented on the following events/initiatives:

- The Oceanside Building Learning Together Society is hosting Spooktacular, a small fundraising event, at Storybook Village on October 24th Thursday beginning at 4:00.

- One of the community tables, on which the Associate Superintendent sits, is reviewing a report containing data on the needs of youth in the community and, with support from Island Health and the United Way, determining how to support the gaps identified and meet those needs. Progress will be reported to the Board through the Education Committee of the Whole. That also speaks to the work being done by the Integrated Child & Youth Team. The Team lead has been hired and the hiring of a clinical counsellor is currently underway.
- The Preventure training went well. Parents of secondary students will be receiving information with a consent form in the next two months to allow their child to participate in a survey to determine what type of personality tendencies youth have. This will help guide staff in identifying ways to prevent drug and alcohol abuse.
- Collaborative conversations with the District's stakeholders begin this month to determine the calendar for the upcoming school year. A survey of some sort will be circulated for parents and staff to complete.
- Teachers, with support from the District's Integration Team and Learning Support staff are working on developing Individual Education Plans (IEP) for those students where IEPs are needed in order to support their learning. The Teaching and Learning Team has been supporting that work by going into schools to work with teachers to determine the needs of the classroom and ensure that teachers are getting that space and time to do that collaboration.

Further to a query from Trustee Young, as to what programs are available to youth ages 19-25, Associate Superintendent Wilson advised that the Integrated Child and Youth Team will be expanding their work to include that age group. She also noted that, through a Braveheart Grant through Island Health, the District has added additional hours to Child and Youth Worker to do outreach to students ages 17-19 who may not be engaged in school. There is no data as yet; however, Ms. Wilson has heard it is working well to reconnect those youth to their learning.

13. FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

a. 2024-2027 Financial Plan

Trustee Kellogg referred to her report as provided in the agenda package.

Trustee Austin shared that, while the original discussion regarding the Qualicum and Craig Street Commons suggested that the Board make a final decision on the two sites by its November meeting, the Board may extend that timeline depending on the proponents being considered.

Trustee Young also added, since the new track at Ballenas would not be ready until spring 2025, that a suggestion was made by Trustee Austin to hold the official opening of the Oceanside Community Track during the Elementary Track Meet held in the spring.

Secretary Treasurer Amos then referred to the Multi-Year Financial Plan provided in the agenda package, noting that the document complements the budget cycle discussions to provide information as to how the district funding is spent and how it aligns with the District Strategic Plan. The document outlines a three-year

outlook, aligning projections with known funding, long-term planning, capital reserves, and capital planning. It serves as one of several reports to provide the Board with a clear understanding of the areas it needs to focus on and make decisions about.

Trustee Young noted that the report is highly readable and something the Board may wish to discuss as to how it can advocate for the government to understand the Board's financial situation and advocate for additional funding to the government.

24-99R

Moved: Trustee Kellogg *Seconded:* Trustee Kurland

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) receive the 2024-2027 Financial Plan as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14. POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

a. Administrative Procedure to Board Policy 700: Safe, Caring and Inclusive School Communities.

For Information – The Administrative Procedure was revised to adjust the timeline for receipt of the School Codes of Conduct by the Board from September to August and to articulate the requirements in an aspirational way.

b. Board Policy 605: Fiduciary Responsibility

Trustee Flynn noted that this policy has been considered by the Policy Committee of the Whole for some time and the committee felt it would be best to bring the draft forward for first reading to open up the conversation for more staff/public input, including addressing the questions and comments shared by the MATA President.

24-100R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Kellogg

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) first reading to adopt Board Policy 605: *Fiduciary Responsibility*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. Board Bylaw 1: Board of Education

24-101R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Kellogg

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) third and final reading to adopt the revisions to Board Bylaw 1: *Board of Education*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. **Board Policy 107: Use of Educational Property for Child Care**

24-102R

Moved: Trustee Flynn

Seconded: Trustee Kellogg

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve third and final reading to adopt the revisions to Board Policy 107: *Use of Educational Property for Child Care* and its attendant Administrative Procedures.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

15. **EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT**

Trustee Young referred to her report as provided in the agenda package. She recommended that people view the three presentations as provided through the links in the report for the details of the activities underway in the District. She also highlighted the following upcoming events:

- Spooktacular at Storybook Village, Thursday, October 24th
- Annual Coombs Candy Walk on Thursday, October 31st.
- Coffee with Trustees will be held at Nanoose Bay Elementary on Wednesday, November 6th.

She also shared that the Kindergarten Snapshot and Inclusive Education will be on the November agenda and encouraged staff, parents and students to participate on the call if able.

16. **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS**

None

17. **TRUSTEE ITEMS**

a. **Vancouver Island School Trustees Association (VISTA) Fall Meeting Report**

Trustee Kellogg reviewed the information from her report provided in the agenda package, highlighting the opportunity to view artwork by former residential school students. The artwork, which had been saved by their former art teacher, Canadian artist, Robert Aller, who taught extracurricular art classes at two residential schools during the 50' and 60's, and returned to many of those residential school survivors.

Trustee Flynn reported that the VISTA business meeting on the Saturday included an extensive and informative presentation on the ERASE program and its resources provided through *Safer Schools Together*. She mentioned she was also moved by the artwork, hearing the survivors stories, and honoured to have had the opportunity to meet and speak with them.

Trustee Austin noted that the presentation from the Alberni Arts Survivors Group reminded her how proud she is of the Qualicum School District for valuing art and artistic expression. The presentation was a testament to the power of art, how it is a part of everyone's lives, how it influences and continues to influence those survivors lives as they tour their artwork in museums across the country and beyond.

18. **NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

19. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE AND MEDIA

None

20. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

Trustees and Senior Staff responded to comment(s)/question(s) on the following topic(s):

- District Learning Grants and whether or not they would be offered again this year. *Associate Superintendent Wilson responded that the Learning Grants were similar in nature to what is now occurring with the Needs Response Teams, to ask teachers to come together during instructional time to support some inquiry. At this time, staff are considering how to showcase that learning across the system. There is also still lots to plan as the district comes out of its budget conversations to consider what is similar to the Learning Grants and what might be missing and what can be done to share and celebrate the learning.*

Director of Instruction Terpstra added that last year resources were pooled with Zero Waste and Indigenous Education Funding. The Zero Waste Grant is still out there to apply for and there are still monies being offered to schools through initiatives of the Indigenous Education Department which teaching staff can apply for.

21. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Kellogg moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Original Signed Document on File

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY TREASURER