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QUALICUM SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 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 |
| Paisley Hendricks | Vice Principal, Kwalikum Secondary 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

24-103R

Moved: Trustee Kellogg *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: October 22, 2024
- b. Ratification of In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: October 22, 2024
- c. Ratification of Special In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: October 3, 2024
- d. Receipt of Ministry News Releases
 - New cabinet ready to deliver on the priorities of British Columbians
- e. Receipt of Report from Trustee Representative
 - Early Years/OBLT Coalition – Trustee Young

24-104R

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 November 26, 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. Craig Street Commons and Qualicum Commons Closure**

Trustees deliberated on the recommendation to close both Commons sites and it was determined that the Board preferred to allow more time to consider the proposals that have come forward to date, some of which are to keep the sites open to the public. Depending on which proposal the Board might accept, and in consideration of the current tenants at both sites so that they are not inadvertently evicted when it may not be necessary, Trustees concurred that it would be best to consider each site separately and to defer a final decision on each of the Commons sites to the January Regular Board Meeting.

24-69R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Kellogg

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) support the closure of both Qualicum Commons and Craig Street Commons to public and business use effective July 1, 2025.

DEFEATED

24-105R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Kellogg

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) supports deferring a decision on the closure of the Craig Street Commons to public and business use effective July 1, 2025 to its January 28, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

24-106R*Moved:* Trustee Flynn*Seconded:*

Trustee Young

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) supports deferring a decision on the closure of the Qualicum Commons to public and business use effective July 1, 2025 to its January 28, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. MOUNT ARROWSMITH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (MATA)

Matt Woods, MATA President, expressed appreciation to the Board on behalf MATA members for the employee long service recognitions (10-20-30 years) that are planned for November 29th. It is important to acknowledge the work of employees who help create the great education system we have and to value the work each of the employees. He hopes the Board continues this practice and also looks for other avenues to acknowledge employees.

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

No Report

10. DISTRICT PARENT COUNCIL (DPAC)

Ray Woroniak, submitted a comment on behalf of DPAC, stating that DPAC does not support the proposed Board Policy 605: *Duty of Fidelity to the Employer*.

Trustee Young suggested that such statements should also include a rationale.

11. ACTION ITEMS

None

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

- November is a busy conference season in the education sector. Exempt staff attended events hosted by various organizations, including BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA), Vancouver Island Chapter of the BC School Superintendents' Association (VISSA), BC School Superintendents' Association (BCSSA), and more. Trustees and Superintendent Jory engaged in learning sessions at the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) Fall Academy, met the new Minister of Education and Childcare, Lisa Beare, and Deputy Minister Kathryn Krishna.
- Jodie Wicker has been appointed Minister of State for Childcare and Youth, a new position. With mandate letters expected in January, there is a sense of optimism about this government's term. Superintendents also participated in Ministry-led roundtable discussions on key campaign promises.
- Locally, sports have shifted from volleyball and football to basketball. Remembrance Day events are complete, and Winter Concert preparations are underway.
- The Foundation Skills Assessments (FSAs) for Grades 4 and 7 have been completed and marked.

- Staff have participated in a number of professional learning opportunities, including a recent session with Shelley Moore.
- On the November 29th Ministry Day, there will be school planning activities, a virtual session with Carolyn Roberts, and staff recognition lunches.
- Looking ahead, Superintendent Jory will engage the Board in informal discussions about the next steps in the District's Transportation Review. Initiatives like electronic registration, earlier registration dates, and bus routing software have already reduced ride times and fuel costs while improving service for families. The focus will now shift to identifying further efficiencies and determining how to pursue additional improvements.
- Superintendent Jory expressed his gratitude to district staff for their hard work and enthusiasm. It is inspiring to hear positive stories of teamwork and dedication to student growth and learning in the Qualicum School District.

Trustee Austin shared that she had attended two Remembrance Day ceremonies. She acknowledged the work of the staff and students in organizing the events and noted that she was most moved by the students - how attentive they were, how they recognized the importance of that day, and how it should be remembered year long.

Trustee Kellogg reported that she had attended the Remembrance Day ceremony at Ballenas Secondary School, which was also attended by Chief Recalma of the Qualicum First Nations. She was also very touched by the exceptional ceremony, which was created by the students.

b. Educational Programs Update

Associate Superintendent Wilson commented on the following events/initiatives:

- Further to the Shelly Moore session held on November 25th, in the afternoon Shelly Moore worked with the Learning Support teachers with an engaging and dynamic presentation around why the district creates Individual Education Plans for students.

That same evening, 100 employees from many of the district's employee groups attended a dinner session with the focus being on the topic of inclusive education and what that means in classrooms to ensure staff are working well with all our learners. Of note was the inclusion by Shelly Moore of the District Framework for Learning which helped make the session that much more specific to the Qualicum School District community.

- Teachers are currently busy working on reporting to parents and she acknowledged their work during this busy time of year.
- A clinical counsellor has been hired for the Integrated Child & Youth Team (ICY) and will be a valuable addition to the team to support the needs of youth in the community.

Director of Instruction Terpstra shared the following district learning events:

- Culturally Responsive and Inclusive Schools: Classrooms Using Circles – this is a 3-part series (originally 4-part; however, the November 21st session was cancelled due to time constraints)
- Engaging all Learners in the Middle Years–this is a 4-part webinar series hosted by Dr. Leyton Schnellert and Tammy Renyard, featuring special guests at each session, for educators to explore the engagement of middle years learners in multi-age and multi-grade classrooms. The December 3rd

session will feature the district's own Katie Marren, District Principal of Indigenous Education, and Sarah Elson-Haugan, District Indigenous Support. Educators can register individually or for a viewing party hosted at the Winchelsea Learning Centre.

- Numeracy Learning Rounds with Carole Fullerton took place in October and the next one is scheduled for April 2nd. Teachers attended colleagues' classrooms and worked with students using Math manipulatives. Educators also attended a Numeracy Dinner Series with Carol Fullerton and Mr. Terpstra expressed his appreciation for educators being willing to learn together over a meal on any given day.
- The Island Leadership Coalition (ILC), supported by the BCSSA Island Chapter in conjunction with the Principal and Vice Principals Association, hosted 75 teaching staff from across the island on Monday, November 25th. Attendees learned about leading from where they stand and received a glimpse of leadership opportunities. The District's data was also explored through the District's current School Plans and Strategic Plan, which provided participants with an understanding of data and how data informs the work of a school district.

Superintendent Jory also attended part of the ILC session and he shared that he had observed robust conversation by participants. He also shared that it was recognized that the way students come into the system is often as quite vulnerable, and one of the pieces of data that was noticed immediately by the team was what a good job the Qualicum School District does in regard to literacy and numeracy skills, especially early on, to move students forward and prepare them for whatever challenges come in the future.

- The Foundation Skills Assessments (FSA) are officially over and were scored by a team on November 16th with the results expected to be released near the winter break.
- District assessments are also winding up and groups of teachers will review those and the Board can expect to receive a fulsome report in January on what was learned about the students from this most recent round of the fall assessments across the District and Province.

13. **FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT**

a. **Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) Report**

Secretary Treasurer Amos stated that this is a report that is filed annually with an obligation to make it public by December 30th. Embedded in the document are informational requirements that the report must contain and it also includes the audited financial statements that have already been submitted to the Ministry. The Ministry will eventually post the SOFI reports on its website for all BC districts.

24-107R

Moved: Trustee Kellogg *Seconded:* Trustee Kurland

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) receive the Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) Report for the year ended June 30, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14. POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

Chair Flynn referred to the discussion of the proposed policy 605: *Duty of Fidelity to the Employer*, noting that the policy discussion on 605, that it is not moving forward as it will be reworked and will outline the type of concerns raised at the table.

- a. **For Information – Attachment to Board Policy 305: Public Interest Disclosure**
- b. **For Information – Attachment to Administrative Procedure to Board Policy 900: Privacy Management and Accountability**
- c. **Board Policies Reviewed and Confirmed as Written**

24-108R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Kellogg

THAT, the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) accepts the recommendation of the Policy Committee of the Whole that the following Board Policies have been reviewed and confirmed as written:

- Policy 503 – *Animals in Schools*
- Policy 505 – *Fundraising in Schools*
- Policy 506 – *Conduct of Coaches*
- Policy 508 – *Career Education*
- Policy 509 – *Educational Change due to Emergencies*
- Policy 510 – *Learning Resources*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee Austin noted that she had requested Bylaw 3 be considered again to clarify some language that may be too open for interpretation and may result in reconsideration of recording some of the Committee of the Whole meetings.

15. EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT**a. Board Authority/Authorized (BAA) Course**

Trustee Young highlighted the thoughtful presentation of the proposed BAA Course: *Cultural Connections with Community and Elders* by Sarah Elson-Haugan, Indigenous Support.

24-109R

Moved: Trustee Young *Seconded:* Trustee Kellogg

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve the Board/Authority Authorized Course: *Cultural Connections with Community and Elders*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

None

17. TRUSTEE ITEMS**a. Report on BC School Trustees Association Fall Academy**

Trustee Kellogg read the conclusion to her report as provided in the agenda package highlighting the “Inclusion, Empowerment and Justice” session offered at

the Academy. During that session, Natalie Raedwulf Pogue, a teacher from the Campbell River School District who also has autism, shared her experience working as a learning support teacher for students with autism and multiple disabilities. Trustee Kellogg suggested that a session with Natalie Raedwulf Pogue be organized for the staff of the Learning Support Department, as she believed everyone could benefit from the topic that was shared with trustees.

Trustee Young added that the other thing that particular presentation showed was the power of story and the highlight for her was that we need to be listening. She noted that, aside from the quantitative data, we need to be listening to people's lived experience, especially the lived experience of students who may be having some with difficulties in school. Trustee Young shared that she had some ideas about how the District can access that information. She believes that the Board's role in governance is to remove the barriers that exist for all of the District's students to be totally engaged and fulfil their potential. If the Board could start the work to remove some of those barriers it would have a positive effect.

Trustee Austin, who was unable to attend the Academy, suggested that *Student Voice and How it Affects Culture* could be included as a topic on the agenda of a future Education Committee of the Whole. Trustee Young noted that the presentation at the Academy may have had a different slant on student voice than what Trustee Austin might be thinking; however, a report on what "Street Data" is might be an agenda item as a starting point to those discussions.

Superintendent Jory reminded the Board that focus groups had been held in each school, each school had meetings where Principals worked with students individually, and a Student Voice session was held, prior to moving the district's Strategic Plan forward. Indigenous youth were engaged through the Equity Scan and a group of senior staff ran a project last year where they interviewed students in the margins about their experiences as part of the District's Street Data learning and that data has informed district practice. As far as us being stuck on the quantitative side we have and we will endeavour to continue to do that and the key for us is to actually do something about it and move that information forward. Conversations with students have occurred and will continue.

Trustee Kellogg acknowledged that schools are having dialogue with the students and the District was moving in the right direction; however, she wished to reiterate that those workshops were being offered as all school districts are dealing with the same issue. Trustees learned a lot and there may be some things that could be done better.

Trustee Young clarified that she had not meant to be critical of what the District was doing; however, it is disempowering to hear peoples voices and then not act. The Board's role is to constantly move with those voices.

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 7:00 p.m.

Original signed copy on file

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY TREASURER