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**QUALICUM SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026
6:00 p.m.
VIA VIDEO-CONFERENCING**

ATTENDEES

Trustees

Eve Flynn	Board Chairperson
Carol Kellogg	Vice Chairperson
Barry Kurland	Trustee
Elaine Young	Trustee
Julie Austin	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
Ryan Hung	Assistant Secretary Treasurer
Sarah Elson-Haugan	Vice Principal of Kwalikum Secondary School Qualicum District Principal and Vice Principals Association
Phil Munro	Director of Operations

Education Partners

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Flynn called the virtual meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and advised that the meeting was being recorded.

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, and she thanked them for allowing the Board to live, work, play and learn in this part of the island.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

26-01R

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: December 9, 2025
- b. Ratification of In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: November 25, 2025
- c. Receipt of Ministry News Releases
 - Protecting parents from extra daily childcare fees
- d. Receipt of Reports from Trustee Representatives
 - Early Years Table – Trustee Young

26-02R

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 January 27, 2026, 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. Letter of Response from Minister Beare re Funding of Private Schools

Chair Flynn drew attendees' attention to the response from Minister Beare. She advised that the Board is furthering the motion (regarding reallocating independent school funding to public schools) through the meeting of the Vancouver Island School Trustees Association in March to the Annual General Meeting of the BC School Trustees Association in April.

b. Responses to QSD Letter to Community Partners re: Joint Safety Review

Chair Flynn reported that the Board has received responses from most of the organizations invited to meet regarding traffic and student safety in the areas of Springwood and Oceanside Elementary Schools. The first meeting of the partners is scheduled for Wednesday, February 4th and the discussions will be led by Trustees Kellogg and Austin.

c. Catchment Boundary Adjustments – Phase Two Update

Superintendent Jory referred to his briefing note as provided in the agenda package, which included the history and rationale to the proposal before the board to shift some school boundaries in the Parksville area to relieve capacity pressure on Springwood Elementary and École Ballenas Secondary Schools. While overall enrolment is declining, Springwood Elementary (SES) and École Ballenas Secondary (BSS) remain at or above capacity. Without changes, these schools risk further overcrowding and potential loss of specialized learning spaces.

The boundary changes being proposed were as follows:

- To move the boundary line south of Old Highway 19A between Pym and Renz into the École Oceanside Elementary School catchment
- To move the boundary line east of the Englishman (Quatluth) River, including San Paniel, into the Nanoose Bay Elementary School catchment; and,

- To move the boundary line west of Lowry's and the Arena, north of Highway 19, into the Kwalikum Secondary School catchment.

Dr. Jory then suggested to the Board that, rather than approving the boundary changes in a 'batch', it deal with each one separately for the elementary schools and consider deferring a decision on the secondary schools to a later date. His rationale for the latter was that the pressures being felt at Springwood Elementary required more immediate attention. Although École Ballenas was experiencing capacity pressures, Dr. Jory felt that the coverage, sharing and dissemination of information was more focused on the elementary changes and not as much on the secondary. Given that discrepancy, and in regard to providing the opportunity for people affected to be involved in the decision, deferring that change was his recommendation.

Trustee considered the suggested adjustment to the motions. There was another suggestion to defer any decision to the February meeting to provide people additional time to review the information posted and provide input.

26-03R

Moved: Trustee Kellogg

Seconded: Trustee Austin

THAT the Board of Education of the Qualicum School District approve the Phase Two catchment boundary changes as presented.

DEFEATED

26-04R

Moved: Trustee Flynn

Seconded: Trustee Young

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve moving the boundary line south of the Old Hwy (19A) between Pym and Renz Roads to be part of the École Oceanside Elementary catchment, to take effect the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year.

CARRIED

26-05R

Moved: Trustee Kellogg

Seconded: Trustee Young

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve moving the boundary line East of the Englishman (Quatluth) River including San Paniel to be part of Nanoose Bay Elementary catchment, to be in effect beginning in the 2026-2027 school year.

CARRIED

Trustees then debated whether or not to defer a decision on the proposal to shift the boundary between Kwalikum Secondary School and Ballenas Secondary School.

26-06R

Moved: Trustee Flynn

Seconded: Trustee Kurland

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) to defer consideration of the proposed boundary line shift to west of Lowry's and the Oceanside Arena north of the New Highway (19) to be part of the Kwalikum Secondary School catchment to the January 2027 Regular Board Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. MOUNT ARROWSMITH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (MATA)

Matt Woods, MATA Vice President, thanked the Board for addressing school capacity, noting it is essential to maintaining strong learning conditions and avoiding overcrowding.

He thanked the Board for taking the initiative to write to Minister Beare on the issue of public funding for independent schools. While her response was expectedly political and non-committal, it may also serve as a first step toward a more detailed, DPAC-supported letter. Mr. Woods shared that he had taken a deeper look into independent school funding which showed how complex the comparisons are—whether one examines per-student amounts, operating grants, one-time allocations, or total budgets—and for clarity he compared total Ministry budget proportions from 2005 to 2026. His data showed that over the same period funding to independent schools increased by nearly 50% while funding to public schools increased by approximately 3%. This raised the question of whether high tuition, or even lower tuition, schools require current funding levels or whether adjustments should be considered to better support public-school needs. He stated that, ultimately, public education must be protected, independent-school funding requires review, and the government must continue to be pressed to prioritize adequate funding for public schools.

Mr. Woods acknowledged the appreciated \$200,000 in reallocated funds for school resources but noted that school wish lists exceeded the allocation. He recommended considering additional targeted funding in the upcoming budget and added that the Curriculum Implementation Advisory Committee (CIAC) would likely bring forward budget-sensitive recommendations related to classroom supplies and resources.

Mr. Woods reported that provincial bargaining between the BCTF and BCPSEA had previously reached an impasse, as teachers would not accept a contract without improved classroom conditions. Both parties have since returned to the table. Teachers are advocating for changes that immediately enhance students' daily experience—better classroom conditions, more counsellor access, reasonable class sizes, and additional preparation time. The government has introduced new funding commitments in these areas. Teachers will continue to seek an agreement that strengthens classroom conditions for students and supports working conditions for educators.

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

Ewen Rycroft, President of CUPE Local 3570, shared that members are proud to work in QSD, supporting student learning, safety, and well-being every day. Often working quietly behind the scenes, they bring professionalism, care, and deep commitment to the school community.

He noted that CUPE members in all employee groups are essential to the functioning of the district's schools. He stated that the Union recognized the district's ongoing pressures—declining enrolment, rising operational costs, and uncertainty around funding and bargaining—and appreciated staff's transparency in sharing these realities and acknowledged the complexity of the decisions before the board. At the same time, he also emphasized that staffing decisions, workload expectations and compensations are line items that directly affect the people who keep schools running and the students the Union collectively serves. Many members are facing increased workloads, shortages, and higher living costs. As the Board plans budgets and policies, he urged Trustees to prioritize worker well-being alongside fiscal responsibility, noting that stable staffing, fair wages, and respectful working conditions are foundational to safe, inclusive, effective learning environments.

The Union also acknowledged the Board's commitment to equity, inclusion, and belonging, noting these values must extend to staff as well as students. When workers feel supported and respected, schools are stronger. Mr. Rycroft reaffirmed the Union's commitment to collaboration built on open communication, respect, and problem-solving—especially in challenging times.

With provincial bargaining now resuming, CUPE Local 3570 expressed solidarity with MATA and all public-sector unions working toward fair agreements. Mr. Rycroft highlighted that recent rallies and workplace actions show the importance of unions working together for better schools, a strong public system, and respect for all education workers.

CUPE's provincial bargaining committee is also preparing to return to negotiations with BC Public School Employers' Associations (BCPSEA), with a focus on securing a fair agreement that recognizes the essential role of K–12 support staff. Priority issues include wages, resources, and supports that allow members to continue to serve students while supporting their own families.

Mr. Rycroft closed by sharing that CUPE members were also looking forward to the upcoming CUPE professional development day on February 13th – this day will provide an important opportunity for members to strengthen their skills, share knowledge and continue supporting students in schools with professionalism and care.

9. DISTRICT PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (DPAC)

Marina Gardiner, DPAC President, stated that the budget remains a major focus for the CPAC executive. DPAC recognized that budget decisions were the responsibility of the Board, informed by district leadership and operational realities, while DPAC's role was to bring forward the district-wide parent and caregiver perspective on how these decisions affected students and families. DPAC encouraged the district to communicate the budget in clear, plain language through the channels families already used, with a strong focus on what mattered most to them—classroom learning conditions and the supports children needed to succeed.

The DPAC President also shared parent and caregiver concerns about the rollout of the boundary catchment review. Parent/caregivers across multiple PAC tables reported that the process had felt rushed and difficult to navigate. For many families, the January 14th Town Hall had been the first time they heard details about proposed changes beyond San Paniel, leaving limited time for information to reach families with pre-K and elementary-aged children who might be affected. From a parent perspective, discussing walk limits and busing only after catchment decisions had been made felt backwards and contributed to uncertainty and stress. The overlap with Kindergarten registration and Grade 8 orientation—already stressful transition periods—has also been challenging for parents and they are concerned that the timing and communication had not fully considered the impact on families. The DPAC President stated that, as a phased catchment process, this work would have benefited from a clear communication plan established from the beginning.

11. ACTION ITEMS

None

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Superintendent's Report

- Senior staff are concurrently managing the current school year while beginning planning for 2026–27, including kindergarten registration, enrolment projections, staffing, and budget development.
- Secondary schools began second semester on this date, marking the mid-point of the school year.
- Provincial bargaining continues, though little information is publicly visible at this time.
- With relatively mild winter conditions so far, Superintendent Jory reminded schools and families of the Inclement Weather Procedures, including sidewalk clearing priorities and alternate bus stop locations, should conditions change.
- An update on student attendance was provided. While attendance improvements seen last year varied by school and did not sustain uniformly, mid-year data for 2025–26 shows a modest overall increase, aligning favourably with broader provincial and global trends. The Superintendent noted that positive phone calls home appear more effective than form letters, and that later secondary start times and improved transportation routing may be contributing to improved attendance, particularly for bus-dependent students.
- Some achievement data updates remain pending, including graduation results, which are later than typical this year. Graduation assessment data has been partially updated on the Student Success website.
- Updated average field-trip cost allocations will be finalized following the upcoming District Administrators' Meeting. These changes are intended to improve equity of access for more remote schools and may encourage additional co-curricular and extracurricular opportunities. The Superintendent also noted that school supply budgets were increased this year despite overall budget reductions.
- The Local Indigenous Education Council met with the Superintendent and Secretary Treasurer earlier in the day and received updates on district budget processes and timelines. Further projections and next steps are anticipated at a future meeting, and additional discussion items will be brought forward to the Board at the upcoming breakout session.
- Thank you to all staff for their contributions in supporting students and schools across the district.

b. Educational Programs Updates

Director of Instruction Terpstra reported on the following:

- Parents of Grade 4 and 7 students should have received, or will soon receive, their child's Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) Booklets containing a report. The District continues to post strong FSA results.
- Secondary Semester 2 began that day (January 27th)
- Secondary student Learning Updates will be sent home during the first week of February
- A Numeracy Learning Round was held for teachers at École Oceanside Elementary School "en français" on January 22nd. It was unique to have a facilitator who also spoke French.
- Grade 7 students are preparing to transition to secondary school. Open houses will be held at the secondary schools during the first two weeks of February. Information on the Open Houses will be shared with elementary schools and the Grade 7's will begin course selection. Parents are also

invited and encouraged to attend to hear the career education opportunities that the District offers.

Associate Superintendent Wilson reported on the following:

- The IEP Learning Support meeting originally scheduled on February 5 has been rescheduled to February 19 to accommodate the scheduling of the Open House at Ballenas Secondary School.
- Acknowledgement of the Food Programs Working Group. A survey will be distributed by mid-February to obtain parents' perspective on meals in schools.
- January 25 to February 1 is Literacy Week and the work of Oceanside Building Learning Together (OBLT) was acknowledged. OBLT held a pre-Kindergarten event at Storybook Village on January 26th for Literacy week. Staff have been reading about how districts can start to get back to making literacy a social event. One of the articles referred to Buddy Reading Programs, where higher grade students read to students in the lower grades. There are also volunteers that have always been in schools as well as guests to read to students. The Ministry of Education and Child Care has provided a Literacy Grant to support teachers in building their Literacy skill sets.
- Denise Spencer-Dahl presented the first in-service training for Kindergarten teachers to screen Kindergarten students as required by the Ministry.
- Grad assessments for literacy and numeracy took place last week at both secondary schools.
- To date, there have been 150 new Kindergarten registrations which is lower than anticipated and parents were encouraged to register their Kindergarten child as soon as possible to assist the district in planning staffing and cohorts.
- The Pre-Kindergarten Program will be offered again this year and is scheduled to begin at the end of April for 2 hours a day, 2 times per week, for five weeks. This will be offered to those Kindergarten children registered by March 12th.
- The deadline to apply for the elementary Programs of Choice is January 30th.
- The Cross Boundary Application process will open on Monday, February 2 and will close on Thursday, March 12. Associate Superintendent Wilson and school administrators will review all submissions and issue the first round of decisions by the end of April. Additional meetings will be held until the end of the school year to determine whether or not additional cross boundary requests can be accommodated.
- The Brain and Belonging Group continues to work around support for teachers with education around social emotional learning and how the brain works.
- The district is continuing with the Youth Development Instrument (YDI) this year in February for the Grade 11s, which provides good information about what our students are talking about in terms of their social emotional health and wellness.
- The district is in its second year of the PreVenture Program (*an evidence-based prevention program that uses brief, personality-focused workshops to promote mental health and delay substance use among youth*) with the district's grade 8s students. The screening has happened and the groups start to take place in February. The program supports students

understanding drugs and alcohol, understanding their tendencies and having some strategies to be able to have some refusal skills.

- The Board and DPAC were acknowledged for their support for the Integrated Child & Youth (ICY) Team, which is in its first year in the Parksville/Qualicum Beach community. Although the Minister of Health had directed Island Health to reinstate the program lead positions across the island, none have yet been reinstated locally. Associate Superintendent Wilson and her colleagues continue to work with the Ministry of Education and Child Care to seek clarification from Island Health on the status of these positions.

13. EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

Trustee Young referred to the report as provided in the agenda package and encouraged viewing of the PowerPoint presentations as they provide more details information. She shared some upcoming topics planned for the committee and encouraged people to also view the recording of the committee meetings. She reminded attendees that student presentations were always welcome at the committee meeting and encouraged anyone who knew of a student or students who may wish to highlight their work or initiatives to contact her or Director of Instruction Terpstra.

14. FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

a. 2025-2026 Amended Annual Budget

26-07R

Moved: Trustee Kellogg *Seconded:* Trustee Young

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve all three readings of the School District No. 69 (Qualicum) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for the 2025-2026 fiscal year at its Regular Board Meeting of January 27, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

26-08R

Moved: Trustee Kellogg *Seconded:* Trustee Young

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) give first reading to adopt the School District No. 69 (Qualicum) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw in the amount of \$73,895,412 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

26-09R

Moved: Trustee Kellogg *Seconded:* Trustee Young

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) give second reading to adopt the School District No. 69 (Qualicum) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw in the amount of \$73,895,412 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

26-10R

Moved: Trustee Kellogg *Seconded:* Trustee Austin

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) give third and final reading to adopt the School District No. 69 (Qualicum) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw in the amount of \$73,895,412 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

15. POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

Chair Flynn reported that there would be a shift to review all the policies over the next 8-10 months to move toward more concise, accessible policy documents beginning with the 300's (Governance series). The plan is to do so over the next 8-10 month with a streamlined process of a separate first reading and combined second and third/final reading, where possible.

a. Policy 301: Living Wage**26-11R**

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Young

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve first reading to adopt the revisions to Board Policy 301: *Living Wage*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Policy 302: Community and Volunteer Involvement**26-12R**

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Kellogg

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve first reading to adopt the revisions to Board Policy 302: *Community and Volunteer Involvement*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. Policy 303: Enhancing Student Learning**26-13R**

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Kellogg

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve first reading to adopt the revisions to Board Policy 303: *Enhancing Student Learning*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. Policy 304: School Closure, Consolidation or Reconfiguration**26-14R**

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Young

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve first reading to adopt the revisions to Board Policy 304: *School Closure, Consolidation or Reconfiguration*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

e. Policy 305: Public Interest Disclosure**26-15R**

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Kellogg

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve first reading to adopt the revisions to Board Policy 305: *Public Interest Disclosure*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

f. Policy 701: Student Discipline

Chair Flynn noted that the next policies being considered reverted to the previous process for review and will be captured again in their new format. Policy 701 will be based on discussions and collaboration between the Superintendent and the school administrators.

26-16R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Kellogg
THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve second reading to adopt the revisions to Board Policy 701: *Student Discipline*.
 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- g. Policy 710: Resolution of Student and Parent/Caregiver Complaints**
 Chair Flynn noted that DPAC had provided input and the Board appreciated their flow chart included as an attachment to the policy.

26-17R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Young
THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve second reading to adopt the revisions to Board Policy 710: *Resolution of Student and Parent/Caregiver Complaints*.
 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- h. Board Policy 700: Safe, Caring and Inclusive School Communities**

26-18R

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 700: *Safe Caring and Inclusive School Communities* and its attendant administrative procedures.
 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- i. Board Policy 709: Board of Education Bursary**

26-19R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *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 709: *Board of Education Bursary* and its attendant administrative procedures.
 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

- a. Centre for Civic Governance/Women Transforming Cities - Workshop: Designing For Equity: Tools for Local Leaders**
 Trustee Young referred to the report in the agenda package and explained that links she had originally included to more detailed information had not worked so they had been removed. Should she obtain the additional documents, she will share those in another form. She reported that the workshop provided good information and the sign posts to ensure full and complete equity offered a way of the Qualicum School District to review its policies and practices with more of a critical eye.

17. TRUSTEE ITEMS

- a. Indigenous Education Council Invitation to the Board**
 Chair Flynn shared that the Board had been invited to meet with the members of the Indigenous Education Council on Tuesday, February 10th. The terms of reference have been established and the meeting will provide an opportunity for everyone to meet and share the Council's ideas and plans to support the Board to

provide comprehensive and equitable education and support services for Indigenous students and improve Indigenous student outcomes. Chair Flynn advised that a report on the meeting will be provided at the February Public Board Meeting.

18. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

19. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE AND MEDIA

20. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

Trustees and Senior Staff heard comments/questions regarding the following topics:

- Data available that could be shared with the Town of Qualicum Beach to encourage development that would increase the amount of families in the area and, therefore, increase student enrolment in that area. Superintendent Jory will share the presentation and invited the attendee to contact him directly for more information.

The Board also mentioned that they and senior staff communicate with the Town, City and Regional District to obtain information on planned developments and demographics of who might be moving into those developments.

- A request that the information regarding the approved boundary changes at the elementary school be shared with families who were not able to participate on the Meeting Call.

21. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Kellogg moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Original Signed Copy on File

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY TREASURER