



Yath cisum
Always growing
Grandissons ensemble

QUALICUM SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 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
Lesley Rowan	Principal of IT Services
	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 (Nanose) First Nations for their stewardship of this land, 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

Kwalikum Secondary School Healing Garden was added under Trustee Items

26-30R

Moved: Trustee Kellogg *Seconded:* Trustee Young

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: February 24, 2026
- b. Ratification of In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: February 25, 2026
- c. Ratification of the Special In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: February 17, 2026
- d. Receipt of Ministry News
 - BC Teachers' Federation ratifies agreement

26-31R

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 March 10, 2026, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

None

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

Chair Flynn responded to written questions submitted by the District Parent Advisory Council regarding the sale of the French Creek site prior to the meeting as follows:

1. What is the total anticipated value of the sale, and how will the proceeds be allocated between Local Capital Funds and Minister-Restricted Capital Funds?

Gross sale price of \$1.3 million less legal fees of \$1,985.86 for net proceeds of \$1,298,014.14. As this property was purchased by the SD over one hundred years ago, 100% of proceeds are to be placed in Local Capital reserve account.

2. What does this allocation mean for the district's overall financial position and long-term financial sustainability?

These funds will help to replenish our local Capital Reserve Funds and re-establish reserve funds to support ongoing capital needs that are not otherwise funded through either Ministry Capital programs or other operating/special purpose type funding sources.

3. It has been mentioned that the funds may be invested and that only interest income would be used. Can the Board confirm whether this is the current plan and explain how any investment income would be governed and allocated, given the restrictions outlined in Section 100 of the School Act?

All funds that the School District holds are invested prudently in varying financial instruments in order to preserve value, assure liquidity and achieve higher returns when available. Currently funds are invested in short-term lower yield bank accounts and medium term higher interest GICs, and some Ministry term accounts.

From the Board's Policy 106, specifically administrative procedures section, Accumulated Operating Surpluses, local capital includes "...proceeds from the disposition of capital assets, transfers from operating funds and interest earned..."

1-5 year local capital plans have been shared within the Qualicum School District's Multi-Year Financial Plan and recent budget development conversations and planning is ongoing.

4. What implications does this sale have for the district's current and future capital plan, including planned capital projects and priorities?

This property sale, and the proceeds it has provided, will allow for more fulsome conversations regarding the Districts local capital planning (Page 19-20 in the Financial Plan) and provides the means to address the ongoing needs and priorities of the District. No decisions have been made regarding these monies at this time.

7. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

a. **Qualicum School District Communications Plan**

Superintendent Jory reported that the Communications Working Group has been developing a Draft QSD Communications Plan. The latest version, which has taken significant feedback into consideration, was provided in the agenda package. Superintendent Jory stated that the Working Group had come to where it needed the Board's guidance to determine next steps.

Trustees discussed the benefits of a Communications Plan and of having a dedicated Communications position. They further stated the need for clarity on whether a communication position (either part-time or full-time) would be pursued and, if so, what the scope of the position would be. They also noted the importance of outlining deliverables, timelines, staffing needs, the costs associated, how that would be funded and what other budget line items might be affected.

Superintendent Jory noted that an earlier draft included the scope of work and expected outcomes with or without a dedicated communications position. He emphasized the value a part-time role could add and appreciated the Board's openness to considering such a position. He also mentioned the possibility of shared-service contracting with a neighbouring district and said he would explore that option further based on the Board's feedback.

The Working Group will take the Board's feedback and come back with a proposal that would efficiently meet the potential needs of the school district.

8. **MOUNT ARROWSMITH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (MATA)**

No Report

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

Ewen Rycroft, CUPE President, extended his appreciation to all staff who work with and support students to help them succeed.

He then noted that there have been substantial reductions to library worker hours. These staff play a key role in providing students with safe, inclusive access to books and fostering a love of reading, and their loss negatively impacts academic support in schools. He also noted that Education Assistants are currently stretched extremely thin, limiting their ability to provide proactive support in classrooms. He urged the Board to improve these staffing

levels to ensure parents feel confident in the public education system rather than considering private alternatives for their children.

Mr. Rycroft advised that this year is a bargaining year and a provincial framework is anticipated to be in place within the next few months. Bargaining dates are scheduled for March 25–26, with follow-up sessions planned for early April. Once provincial work concludes, local bargaining with the employer will begin and the Union's hope is that it will be collaborative and productive.

He then shared that the February 13 professional development day was a tremendous experience and the Union greatly appreciated the collaboration with the employer and the resources shared by various administrators. He stated that these types of open communication help the District grow as a successful education system. The Union looked forward to building on this collaboration, reviewing what worked well and identifying future opportunities to enhance learning. Mr. Rycroft expressed sincere thanks to Jennifer Fuhrmann, District Principal of Learning Support for her invaluable contributions, to Janine Chartrand for coordinating the professional development opportunities on behalf of CUPE Local 3570, and to the entire CUPE Local 3570 Professional Development Committee for the countless hours that they volunteer.

As spring break approached, he encouraged staff to rest, recharge, and spend time with loved ones after a fast-paced year, while also acknowledging those who continue working through the break. The pause provides a needed opportunity for staff and students to recover and prepare for the months ahead. He closed by thanking everyone for their ongoing dedication to students and the district.

9. DISTRICT PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (DPAC)

Marina Gardiner, DPAC President, reported that the Springwood and Ecole Oceanside Elementary School PACS were appreciative of the collaborative conversations taking place with the district and community partners to identify solutions and improve safe routes to schools. It is encouraging that these groups are working together to address concerns and DPAC is pleased with the progress being made. DPAC supports the idea of assessing the safest walking, biking, and driving routes to all schools across the district and looks forward to seeing this work continue.

DPAC also appreciated the Trustees reviewing and updating district policies and recognizes the significant effort involved in undertaking this work and noted that the goal of reviewing and modernizing the whole policy set before the October election was an ambitious one. Ms. Gardiner stated that, as a volunteer run organization, DPAC operates on limited capacity and reviewing a large number of policies within a short timeframe is challenging. They want to contribute meaningful parent perspective to the process and wonder whether there might be opportunities to pace the work in a way that allows for more discussion, reflection, and thoughtful feedback.

Ms. Gardiner noted that DPAC also enjoyed hearing the conversation around communications and was happy to hear that the Communications Plan is a priority for Trustees and the District. DPAC believed that a well-designed communication plan can strengthen understanding across the district while also creating efficiencies, reducing confusion, improving clarity, and supporting more effective use of staff time and district resources over the long term. A clear communication strategy can also help strengthen public confidence in the district and support a positive reputation for the district within the broader community. DPAC also agreed it would be helpful for the next version of the plan

to outline proposed strategy, estimated costs, implementation timeline, and deliverables the District intends to achieve.

Further to the Province moving toward permanent daylight savings time, she raised concerns from parents about visibility and safety for students who walk, bike, or wait for buses during the darker morning hours during the darker winter mornings. She anticipated that conversations on the subject will occur locally as well as at the provincial level.

(Trustee Austin advised that the topic will be raised at the April Finance & Operations Committee of the Whole.)

DPAC then thanked the Board of Education and District Staff for creating opportunities for the parent voice through the Communications Working Group, for inviting them to join agency meetings, and for welcoming parent questions and suggestions at the Committee of the Whole meetings. These opportunities for dialogue help strengthen understanding between the district and the families it serves and they value the chance to contribute to conversations that support students and families.

Trustee Young thanked DPAC for the Inclusive Education presentation held on Sunday, March 8th, noting that the information provided was informative and aligned with what has been occurring in the District, with opportunities being provided over the past many years for staff to attend sessions with Dr. Shelley Moore. Ms. Gardiner noted that a recording of that session will be shared as well.

11. ACTION ITEMS

None

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jory reported that the ongoing budget discussions remain a key focus. He noted that the difficult decisions made during last year's budget process have helped the district manage current cost pressures more effectively. While the District continues to have challenges remain, the projected shortfall is significantly smaller than it might otherwise have been.

The Superintendent also reinforced the district's strong provincial assessment and graduation results. These outcomes were not accidental but reflect deliberate practices across the district, including strong school leadership in schools, consistent use of assessment evidence to guide instruction, consistent monitoring of student progress, and ongoing professional learning for staff. These practices are now captured in Administrative Procedure to Board Policy 303: Enhancing Student Learning (FESL), and continued support for leadership and learning structures will remain important during budget season deliberations.

The Joint Traffic Safety Committee met on March 4 with representatives from the Qualicum School District, Ministry of Transportation, Regional District of Nanaimo, BC Transit, the City of Parksville, Oceanside RCMP, and school community partners. Discussion included the potential development of a "Best Routes to School" planning process, beginning with Springwood Elementary before moving onto École Oceanside Elementary School and potentially expanding to other schools over time.

Additional items reviewed during the Committee Meeting included a possible grant application for a pedestrian pathway along Otters Way, completion of pathway clearing to Sanika Close, a planned traffic circulation study of the school parking lot planned for May, discussions with BC Transit regarding buses entering school sites, and potential deployment of Ministry traffic monitoring equipment. Opportunities for safety improvements such as Rapid Flashing Beacons and at crosswalks and infrastructure grants were also discussed. The Joint Traffic Safety Committee will meet again on April 29th after which he anticipates having some proposals for board support to present at the May Board Meeting.

The Superintendent then referred to the provincial announcement regarding a permanent shift to Pacific Time and the potential implications for student transportation and morning travel conditions. This change reinforces the importance of continued work on safe routes and transportation planning, particularly during darker winter mornings.

The Superintendent concluded by thanking staff across the district for their contributions and wished everyone a safe and restful Spring Break.

Trustee Young inquired whether there had been any extra cleaning scheduled in response to recent high absenteeism due to illness in schools.

Superintendent Jory stated that extra cleaning protocols have not been initiated as of yet. Staff are continually monitoring any 'hot spots' and where there are instances of non-replacement of staff. The Director of Operations would advise Senior Staff if additional protocol would need to be triggered.

b. Educational Programs Updates

Associate Superintendent Wilson acknowledged the calibre of work the members of the school teams have been doing in preparation for and during the school review process meetings with her and the District Principal of Learning Support to reflect on the progress students are making and how supports are being provided. A shared template outlines what supports are being provided and school teams are able to use the data tool for other purposes as well. The data will also guide senior staff throughout the next staffing process.

Director of Instruction Terpstra reported on the following:

- QSD is one of five districts that will share a \$400,000 Dual Credit Enhancement Grant. QSD, Port Alberni, Comox Valley, Campbell River and qathet (Powell River) school districts will collaborate with North Island College and hire a coordinator to provide opportunities for students through dual credit programs.
- QSD is hosting the Vancouver Island Career Education Conference on May 7 and 8, 2026 at the Quality Bayside Resort, which will focus on Health and Community Connections. More details will be shared at the Education Committee of the Whole Meeting in April.

13. EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

The next virtual Finance & Operations Committee of the Whole Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14 at 2:00 via videoconferencing.

14. FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

The next virtual Finance & Operations Committee of the Whole Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21 at 10:30 via videoconferencing.

15. POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

The next virtual Finance & Operations Committee of the Whole Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21 at 1:00 via videoconferencing.

16. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

None

17. TRUSTEE ITEMS**a. Vancouver Island School Trustees Association (VISTA) - Spring Conference Report**

Trustees shared highlights of the VISTA conference and business meeting held on March 6/7, 2026 and hosted by the Cowichan Valley School District, noting that all the sessions and presentations were well received. One particular highlight was on a tour they participated in to Nourish Cowichan (a charitable organization devoted to nourishing and supporting youth in the Cowichan Valley School District with nutritious lunches and snacks each day throughout the school year). The organization's kitchen manager, Alyson McKenzie was also given special mention.

Another highlight mentioned was the informal circle held after the business meeting portion where trustees shared one of the main things they learned in the past 4 years of their term.

b. Ratification BC Public School Employers Association (BCPSEA)

Chair Flynn announced that on Friday, March 6th, the Trustee Representatives to the BC Public School Employers Association (BCPSEA) voted 99.4% in favour of ratification of the Memorandum of Agreement with the BC Teachers' Federation.

Trustee Young added that Chair Flynn also has a provincial and regional role on as the current President of BCPSEA, which is the bargaining agent.

b. KSS Healing Garden

Trustee Young reminded attendees that she was the Trustee liaison to Kwalikum Secondary School and reported that the KSS PAC have taken on the creation of a Healing Garden as was shared at a past Education Committee of the Whole Meeting. Terms of Reference have been created, which includes creation of a committee, of which she hopes to be a part as they move towards drafting a proposal. Her hope was that the healing garden comes to fruition and is long lasting while not relying on support from senior staff or the district's budget at this point. As the project progresses Trustee Young will provide updates to the Board.

18. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

19. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE AND MEDIA

None

20. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

Trustees and Senior Staff received comments/questions regarding the following:

- None

21. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Kellogg moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Original Signed Copy on File

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY TREASURER