



**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020  
6:00 PM  
VIA ZOOM

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**ATTENDEES**

**Trustees**

Eve Flynn	Chairperson
Julie Austin	Vice-Chairperson
Laura Godfrey	Trustee
Barry Kurland	Trustee
Elaine Young	Trustee

**Administration**

Keven Elder	Superintendent of Schools
Gillian Wilson	Associate Superintendent of Schools
Ron Amos	Secretary Treasurer
Vivian Collyer	Director of Instruction
Chris Dempster	General Manager of Operations
Lesley Rowan	Principal, IT Services
	Qualicum District Principals/Vice Principals' Association

**Education Partners**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Flynn called the zoom meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted that the meeting would be recorded.

**2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY**

Chair Flynn acknowledged that the Board was meeting via zoom on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples and thanked the Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose) and Qualicum First Nations for allowing the district to live, work and play on their lands.

**3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

A Ballenas Track Renewal Steering Committee Update was added under Trustee Items

**20-137R**

*Moved:* Trustee Young      *Seconded:* Trustee Godfrey

**THAT** the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) adopt the agenda as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### 4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee Young requested that one of the topics on the status of action items document, Social Justice Working Group, be discussed under Action Items.

- a. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes: November 24, 2020
- b. Ratification of In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: November 24, 2020
- c. Receipt of Reports from Trustee Representatives
  - French Language Advisory Committee – Trustee Young
  - Oceanside Building Learning Together – Trustee Young
  - BCSTA Trustee Academy – Trustee Young
- d. Receipt of Status of Action Items – December 2020

#### 20-138R

*Moved:* Trustee Godfrey *Seconded:* Trustee

**THAT** the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve the consent agenda items of the Regular Board Meeting of December 15, 2020, as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### 5. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

#### 6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

##### a. Exploration of Community Schools Concept

Trustee Austin thanked the delegation who spoke at the October meeting regarding Community Schools and stated that she believed it is a concept worth re-exploring in the district due to school reconfiguration, changes to local populations, and evolving levels of community services over the past few years.

#### 20-139R

*Moved:* Trustee Austin *Seconded:* Trustee Godfrey

**THAT** the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) requests staff to further explore the community school concept and to bring a report back to the Board through the Finance & Operations Committee before the end of this school year.

CARRIED

Trustee Kurland voted against the motion

#### 7. MOUNT ARROWSMITH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (MATA)

Deb Comer, President, commented on the following:

- Appreciation for trustees attendance at the MATA Executive Committee/Rep Assembly Meeting
- Appreciation for the upcoming motion to request the Ministry cancel the Foundation Skills Assessment for 2020/201
- Appreciation to senior staff, with input from MATA, for providing voice systems to some teaching staff to use with masks. This was well-received and she anticipates that more requests for voice systems will follow.
- She thanked everyone who has worked together to support the education of students within our school district during a global pandemic.

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

Sherrie Brown, President, also thanked everyone in the system for their work this year and for the support by management, MATA, the community and the DPAC. She looks forward to continuing that collaboration to identify ways to assist colleagues, students and the community.

**9. DISTRICT PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (DPAC)**

No Report

**10. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS)**

The Vice Chair of the Parent Advisory Council of Springwood Elementary School and parents with children attending shared their concerns regarding the safety of students walking/biking to and from school due to a high volume of building projects in the area, construction vehicles parking on sidewalks, motorists disobeying traffic rules and the lack of safety precautions such as signage and crossing lights. They stated that, while they appreciated the district for being pro-active in training and providing crossing guards at one of the dangerous crossings following an accident where a student was hit by a vehicle, they believe the burden lies with the City of Parksville to ensure safe routes to school. The PAC is willing to work with the City to ensure this occurs and has been petitioning the City to come to the table to discuss safe routes to school. The parents have been advocating to the City as has the board and it was recommended that a high level meeting be arranged with the Mayor and Council of the City of Parksville, the School Board and the PAC and Principal of the Springwood Elementary School to discuss a way forward.

**11. ACTION ITEMS****a. Social Justice Working Group Follow Up**

Trustee Young referred to the motion passed at the November meeting to establish a working group to develop a collaborative action plan to move toward socially just schools and community. She requested that the co-chairs from the board be identified as well as the management representative to the working group.

Chair Flynn advised that Trustee Young had expressed interest in co-chairing the working group and offered to co-chair with her if trustees were in agreement. There was no objection. Chair Flynn will discuss management representation to the working group with the Superintendent of Schools.

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

Superintendent Elder reported on the following:

- Appreciation to those attending the meeting and for the increased attendance at board meetings when they are held via zoom.
- Appreciation to everyone for their work from the fall start up to the winter break and he credited all staff, parents, students, and community partners as well as the government for its steady 'hand on the rudder' for the work done to successfully and safely have schools in session.
- While the new year will be different as people begin to feel differently due to the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine, there will still continue to be conversations taking place to identify additional safety protocols.

- He noted that he was missing the December events that are normally held this time of year and was feeling for the students who would have been participating in them. He is looking forward to when those are back and he was pleased that whatever can be done in this environment is still being done. While these are tough times there are still many successes being realized within the scope of limitations.
- Appreciation to everyone and their commitment to staying the course in keeping student and staff safe and healthy and tending to those things that matter most in education.

Trustees Young and Austin then spoke to some issues shared at the MATA Executive Committee/Rep Assembly Meeting as follows:

- Reporting of attendance when it decreases by more than 10%
- Parents switching from in-class learning to distributed learning/home support and then back again which places a strain on teachers and suggestion to send a communication to all parents so they understand the difference.
- Protocol in the event that HVAC systems stop working during a power outage and the ventilation system goes down, which would be contrary to public health orders.
- While not mandatory, why are there not more posters at the elementary schools to promote mask use for children 10 years and older as well as graphics showing the proper way to wear a mask.

Superintendent Elder responded as follows:

- All the comments/concerns the board hears from MATA members also come directly to the regularly held liaison meetings, where issues such as these are discussed consistently throughout the school year. The issues shared have been fully canvassed with the teachers union.
- School and Board Office Staff are reviewing attendance on a daily basis and reporting to the ministry and health authority. He stated that moving forward he would ensure that trustees receive regular attendance reports.
- It is expected that attendance will vary. The board approved a motion that would allow parents to keep their child at home. If it is for a short period of time, teachers are supported in providing work for the student as they normally would for short absences i.e. sickness or vacation during the school year. Some parents choose to have their child at home for longer periods and have been given the option to move to home support. As the students come and go, there is a balance between support from the classroom teacher and from the home support teacher. The benefit at elementary level is that there are triads of teachers working with 2 classes of children to provide more time for the home supported child so there is less pressure on teacher to create a hybrid.
- The District is following the Provincial Health Officer's directives with respect to masks, when they are worn, and when they are not required. The question of masks for younger grades and posting of flyers that may be allowed in a primary setting is something senior staff are currently in deliberation with MATA as it runs contrary to the provincial health officer's requirements and what the board has required. A request by a teacher to have students wear a mask puts additional pressure on the students.

Trustee Austin suggested that matters such as these are of interest to the broader school community and that it be included in the next communication out to the system.

**b. Education Update**

Gillian Wilson, Associate Superintendent, reported on the following:

- She requested assistance from the community in continuing to talk to youth about the importance of having respect for health orders, to practice physical distancing and not to congregate in large groups, both in and out of schools i.e. evenings and weekends. Some things that surface during those instances have spilled back into the school system and resulted in staff working with community agencies as well as the RCMP.
- She was pleased to report that the district has hired a group of new Teachers Teaching on Call (TTOCs) and more interviews will be taking place later this week.
- Acknowledgement of the contribution from individuals and organizations/businesses in the community to support the District 69 backpack program lead by Virginia Worcester of Borealis Hair Salon and Sheila Morrison, Principal of Errington Elementary School with clerical support of board office staff. The program provides weekly backpacks of food to families who are struggling in the community. The program will also be providing holiday hampers with food and gifts for those families. Thanks to the work that all staff have done this year and thank you to the local unions for acknowledging the work they do together.
- The district has been selected by the Ministry of Education as 1 of 3 districts to provide a pilot project for a seamless childcare program within district schools. This fits well with work the district is already doing in the area of early learning and through the Oceanside Building Learning Together Centre. The plan is to start the pilot in January or February and staff are working with early childhood educators and with local organizations to see how that will look in our system.

Vivian Collyer, Director of Instruction, reported on the following:

- The Ministry is beginning the process to align assessment with the new BC Curriculum and the BC performance standards. A new proficiency benchmark system for K-5 is being developed for Literacy and Numeracy with assistance from a Literacy and Numeracy consultant by the new year. There will be an opportunity in the spring for teachers to field test the benchmarks and early in the new year the benchmarks for grades 6-9 will begin to be developed for teachers to field test later in the spring followed by benchmarks for grades 10-12.
- Gratitude to the board, community and all staff and colleagues for all their work in what has been a very different year.

**c. DRAFT 2021-2022 Budget Process Schedule**

Secretary Treasurer Amos provided an overview of the proposed budget process schedule in terms of discussion with partner groups, administrators, the board and then in public. All meetings will be held via zoom.

13. **EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT**  
No meeting was held in December. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> via zoom.
14. **POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT**  
No meeting was held in December. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> via zoom.
15. **FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT**  
No meeting was held in December. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> via zoom.
16. **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS**  
No Reports
17. **TRUSTEE ITEMS**
  - a. **Cancellation of 2020/2021 Foundation Skills Assessment**  
Trustee Kurland recommended that the board continue its work from the fall when it wrote to the Ministry to request that the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) be cancelled for the 2020/2021 school year. It is even more relevant given the continued and increased presence of COVID in the community and the challenges being experienced by teachers as well as the decision of some families to have students moving back and forth from in-class to at home instruction. Districts do not need the added stress of administering an assessment that will result in skewed data and therefore, would have no validity.  
  
**20-140R**  
*Moved:* Trustee Kurland                      *Seconded:* Trustee Austin  
**THAT** the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) write a letter to the Minister of Education reiterating its original motion to cancel the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) testing for 2020/21, as the conditions under which the assessment is given have not changed and the results will be skewed and have no value, and to request a timely response.  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
  - b. **Board of Education Scholarships**  
Trustees discussed the allocation of funds for the Board of Education Scholarships and it was suggested that all secondary school/programs receive the same amount.  
  
**20-141R**  
*Moved:* Trustee Flynn                      *Seconded:* Trustee Godfrey  
**THAT** the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) allocate \$8000.00 for the Board of Education Scholarships with \$2000.00 going to each of Ballenas Secondary, Kwalikum Secondary, Parksville Alternate Secondary (PASS) and the Collaborative Education Alternative Program (CEAP).  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
  - c. **Pedestrian Safety at Moilliet and Despard**

Further to the comments by parents of Springwood Elementary School and the accident which took place in November, Chair Flynn advised that the district would like to see the City of Parksville take responsibility for safe routes to schools for students in the Parksville area. The board is willing to work with the City in terms of planning and to begin that collaboration process by writing a letter to the City to attend to pedestrian safety around Springwood Elementary School.

Trustees requested that, should the letter be written, that it reflect the current work that has been done by the school's parents in their letter writing campaign.

**20-142R**

*Moved:* Trustee Flynn                      *Seconded:* Trustee Young

**THAT** The Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approach the City of Parksville with a request that the City attend to pedestrian safety at the intersection of Moilliet Street and Despard Avenue.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**d. Oceanside Track at Ballenas Steering Committee Update**

Trustee Young reported on the following topics discussed at a meeting of the Oceanside Track at Ballenas Steering Committee held earlier in the day:

- The Town of Qualicum Beach is currently going through its budget process and attempting to keep money in reserve that would have gone to the track renewal through RDN for potential future use for the Oceanside Track.
- The City of Parksville has unanimously passed a motion to support the track renewal and are considering how it might provide funding.
- It was suggested that the committee may wish to resubmit a request to make a presentation to the Oceanside Services Committee
- The committee also discussed fundraising and obtaining letters of support and endorsement for the track project.

Rudy Terpstra, Chair of the Committee introduced Juliette Desvaux, recent Ballenas graduate and member of the UBC track team who trained on the Ballenas track, who spoke to the need to renew the track. She noted that a petition is circulating which currently has over 2300 signatures which shows that there is a lot of community support behind the project.

Michael Garland, committee member, then provided an overview of the fundraising campaign through promotional materials and social media being created. He anticipated having the financing in place by the end of 2021 and to begin construction in 2022. He thanked everyone who has stepped forward to promote upgrading the track and 'planted the seeds' in the past and to the leadership in generating the current momentum.

**20-143R**

*Moved:* Trustee Young                      *Seconded:* Trustee Austin

**THAT** the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) provide a letter of support to be posted alongside other testimonials as part of the promotional materials being developed by the Oceanside Track at Ballenas Steering Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**18. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**19. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE AND MEDIA**

- a. Letter from Oceanside Health & Wellness Network  
Further to the request from the OHWN, Trustee Young volunteered to be the board's representative to that group.
- b. Letter to Parliamentary Secretary – New Economy re Track Renewal
- c. Letter to Minister of Education re International Student Program
- d. Letter to Minister of Education, Minister of Children & Family Development, and Minister of State for Child Care re Support for Seamless Child Care

**20. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**

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

- Maintenance plans for the Oceanside Track at Ballenas upon completion.
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**21. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Godfrey moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

*Original signed copy on file*

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CHAIRPERSON

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SECRETARY TREASURER