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QUALICUM SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025
6:00 PM
VIA VIDEO-CONFERENCING

ATTENDEES

Trustees

Carol Kellogg	Acting Chairperson
Julie Austin	Trustee
Barry Kurland	Trustee
Elaine Young	Trustee

Regrets:

Eve Flynn	Board Chair
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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
Jennifer Nichols	Vice Principal, Oceanside 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

Acting Chair Kellogg called the virtual meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Acting Chair Kellogg acknowledged that the Board was meeting on the shared traditional territory of the Qualicum and Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose) First Nations Peoples.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

25-30R

Moved: Trustee Austin *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: February 25, 2025
- b. Ratification of In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: February 25, 2025
- c. Ratification of the Special In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: February 28, 2025

25-31R

Moved: Trustee Austin *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 March 11, 2025, 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. Closure of Qualicum Commons**

Secretary Treasurer Amos referred to the briefing notes in the agenda package, noting that the motion being brought forward for the Board's consideration was to preserve transparency of the process the Board needs to follow. He shared that the Town of Qualicum Beach continues to seek information and has not yet made a decision about the site. The Board has the option to move forward with the motion to close the site to public and business use, as it has a duty to provide the tenants with three months' notice, or it could defer a decision to a later date, which would also adjust the date of any notice period. Currently there are no other options for the facility.

Trustees clarified that the Board hoped not to shutter the building and, should another entity have a viable proposal to lease the site, the Board would report out from an In Camera Meeting conversation that the Board had considered a long term lease.

Trustees shared that they had a desire to provide some more time for the staff at the Town of Qualicum Beach to complete their analysis of the site to decide if they would like to take on the managing of it.

25-32R

Moved: Trustee Austin *Seconded:* Trustee Young

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

25-33R

Moved: Trustee Kellogg *Seconded:* Trustee Young

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) postpone consideration of the main motion to the April 22nd Regular Board meeting:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. MOUNT ARROWSMITH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (MATA)

Matt Woods, MATA President, expressed appreciation to MATA member, Julie Cloutier, and the MATA Professional Development team for their work in organizing and providing interesting topics for the March 7th professional development day.

He then referred to a promise made by the NDP to provide the funding to bring more education assistants into classrooms and to bring counsellors in to every school, which MATA supports. He thanked Norberta Heinrichs, Counsellor at Ballenas Secondary, who took the initiative to meet with the Minister to discuss what that would look like moving forward.

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

Ewen Rycroft, CUPE Local 3570 President, reported that the March 7th professional development day sessions for support staff were also well received.

CUPE is concerned about the budget for the upcoming school year with decreasing enrolment. CUPE hopes the Board would work with the Town of Qualicum Beach, should it decide to take over the management of the Qualicum Commons, so CUPE staff can still do the work on that site so more employees are not laid off.

Mr. Rycroft closed by noting that it was a bargaining year and CUPE also hoped that the NDP lived up to its promise to have more education assistants in classrooms so the District does not lose more students to private schools.

10. DISTRICT PARENT COUNCIL (DPAC)

No Report

11. ACTION ITEMS

None

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

- Superintendent Jory reported that he had taken what was collected from parents and caregivers at Nanoose Bay and Errington Elementary Schools, and Ballenas, and Kwalikum Secondary Schools, sorted by school, and then by preference, and has shared it with the Board, as well as a summary of discussions that took place with Student Voice groups at the two secondary schools. The Transportation Department has been working on scenarios and has submitted a potential start time draft, which has been shared with each school's principal so they can work with their staff committees and share any questions that may arise. The potential start time draft has also been shared with the Board. This will allow time for the changes to be considered prior to a recommendation for approval by the Board at its April Board meeting.
- As part of the next iteration of the bus schedule, the Transportation Department is also reviewing its registration and routing processes, fees and impacts that courtesy riders have on roster sizes. Therefore, additional efficiencies may come to light that could shorten routes and delay pick up times, and potentially even allow for minor changes to the schedule
- This latest draft version has Nanoose Bay Elementary and Errington Elementary Schools starting at 8:30 next school year, with the rest of our

schools starting between 8:50 and 9:00 am. This means the two high schools would not shift a full 20 minutes, but would still move somewhat, and some of the other elementary schools might also need to move a few minutes so that the bus schedule will continue to interlock. The interlocking schedules have been the challenge all along and the latest version makes a significant step forward so staff can come back to the Board with proposed start times for next year that are no later than 9:00 am.

- Superintendent Jory, Chair Flynn and Secretary Treasurer Amos attended meetings with the Ministry of Education and Child Care on March 6 and 7th. Topics included bargaining, recruitment, provincial budget pressures, the Ombudsperson's investigation of exclusionary practices, Bill 40, K-12 Literacy, Student Safety, the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning. In regard to district budgets, all districts mentioned grappling with the post-pandemic reality in some version or another. Everyone who has been engaged in the public conversations around budget will be aware in general terms of the situation in the Qualicum School District. He advised attendees that staff will be coming forward with some recommendations that are bit starker than the district is used to seeing. His hope was that, despite all the inevitable reductions, the District would be able to preserve many of the professional learning opportunities it has been able to provide. While staff certainly need to consider more efficient models of delivery, it is incredibly important that the District's workforce is able to access a multitude of ways to continue to grow their skills and expand their toolboxes. Superintendent Jory acknowledged his other boss for holding the line on spending. While the District could always use more funding, it was appreciated that the district would not be receiving any less.

b. Educational Programs Update

Director of Instruction Terpstra shared the following:

- Elementary parents will be receiving, or have received, their learning updates prior to spring break. Parents/caregivers should ensure they review feedback from their child's teachers and think about their child's learning for rest of school year.
- Secondary students are in the course selection process. This is an important process for secondary schools to plan the timetables. The better the data, the better they can plan to ensure students get the courses they want.
- Acknowledgement to the Grade 7 parents/caregivers of students transitioning to high school. Both the schools had well-attended open houses and Grade 7 parents/caregivers and students are encouraged to submit their course selection forms as soon as possible to assist schools with Grade 8 course planning.
- The District has created an AI Working Group, which is a sub-committee of the Curriculum Implementation Advisory Committee (CIAC). The two working sessions held to date have been very engaging and the Committee will be coming out with guidelines to be presented for review by CIAC and then recommended to the Board.
- The District will be hosting its third Learning Round Sessions with Carole Fullerton on Numeracy on April 14th. The Intermediate/Middle Classroom session will be held in the morning at Kwalikum Secondary School and the Primary session will be held in the afternoon and hosted by Qualicum Beach Elementary School.

Associate Superintendent Wilson commented on the following events/initiatives:

- Reminder to register Kindergarten students as the District is not yet at its projected enrolment. This will assist with classroom planning and staffing allocations.
- The District has been on a journey of professional learning with Cale Birk for the last couple of years and senior staff have had the privilege of listening to school teams talk about the work they have been doing with their staff. Senior staff are hearing lots of positive stories around the work being done, how it is aligning with classroom, school and district goals as well as the district's strategic planning.
- The District's Integrated Child and Youth Team (ICY), which is part of the community, is bringing in additional resources to the community. There is a clinical counsellor on the team who now has a caseload, and an ad has been placed through Family Start to hire a family support person. Ideally this would be a person in the community that has gone through needing some supports in some way and who can be a peer support person for other families to help them navigate some of the supports available from different agencies.

There is a clinical counsellor dealing with substance use that is out in the community and is part of the ICY Team, and a peer support person who is part of the school district staffing that is completely funded through the ICY grant. That team is up and running to provide support for children and youth who have mental health concerns and reduce the waitlist from some of the community agencies where children and families cannot get in for 6 to 12 months.

A request has been made for the ICY Team Lead to attend one of the Education Committee of the Whole Meetings to share details about the integration and how the Team provides wrap-around support for children, youth, and families.

- Last year at this time the District applied for, and was successful in receiving, a Braveheart Grant through Island Health. While it was not a significant amount of money, it was significant enough to allow the District to add extra hours to many of the Child and Youth Care Workers (CYCW) with which to do outreach to children and youth who are not connected to school for a variety of reasons. That program is being supported by Iain Hay, District Social Worker, and the CYCW Team in the District. The District is coming to the end of the funding \and has applied to continue the program as it has seen some great success.

13. FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

The next virtual Finance & Operations Committee of the Whole Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 14, 2025.

14. POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

The next virtual Policy Committee of the Whole Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 14, 2025.

15. EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

The next virtual Education Committee of the Whole Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2025.

16. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

None

17. TRUSTEE ITEMS

a. Vancouver Island School Trustees Association (VISTA) - Spring Conference Report

Trustees provided their highlights from the recent VISTA Spring Conference, hosted by the Saanich School District on March 6 & 7, 2025 as follows:

Trustee Kellogg found the presentation by Beacon Community Services of interest. Beacon Community Services is a non-profit organization which provides students and families with a wide range of community-based care and support. They aim to offer services and cater to the well-being and development of children, youth and families working collaboratively with the Saanich School District. These include services for StrongStart Programs, day services, youth services as well as some housing supports. Beacon Community Services operates out of multiple school areas, which provides access of the services to families and children in various locations. Trustee Kellogg also noted that each school district spoke to the initiatives and programs underway in their schools, what might be possible, and how those are working for them, which is the benefits of island school districts being able to gather and share their experiences.

Trustee Austin shared that Saanich students in grades 3 to 5 were mounting a major musical production of Beauty and the Beast. A number of the students presented a portion of their production to attendees, which was phenomenal. Also of particular interest to Trustee Austin was the Flourish Food School Society. The idea of the Society, that the Sooke School District is part of, is that local farmers support them and they also work through the food bank to arrange for food to be delivered directly to a school. It is more of an overarching district approach to the food program. One of the challenges the Board has heard from staff in the Qualicum School District is that it is hard to get something up and running on your own and hard to know where to start from a stopped position. Should there be an interest in having the Flourish School Food Society share their knowledge, contact could be made. <https://flourishschoolfood.ca/>

Trustee Young's highlight was the presentation on Cyber Security which is a major issue for school districts. Focused Education Resources provides services to all school boards to help mitigate risks, better protect their data, ensure compliance and create a safer digital environment for students and staff. A big 'takeaway' for Trustee Young was to monitor one's emails and ensure passwords are at least 20 characters long. Trustee Young also enjoyed the tour of the newly renovated Victoria High School, which is the oldest public high school west of Winnipeg and North of San Francisco. They have a real appreciation for their history and the Nations on whose land they exist and have a dedicated well-organized space that is archival. It was an incredible building to go through.

18. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

19. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE AND MEDIA

None

20. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

Trustees and Senior Staff received comments and answered questions on the following topics:

- Information was shared by Diane Moran regarding the *Mindfulness in May – Have Your Say exhibit with a* call for submissions from students in grades 5 to 12. The exhibition will be held at the Qualicum Beach branch of the Vancouver Island Regional Library from May 1 to 11, 2025, to celebrate Youth Week and Mental Health Week. The official opening reception for the exhibit will be held on May 1st from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Qualicum Beach Library. Trustees and Senior Staff were invited and encouraged to attend.

21. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Young moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

Original signed copy on file

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY TREASURER