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**QUALICUM SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2025**  
**6:00 PM**  
**VIA VIDEO-CONFERENCING**

**ATTENDEES**

**Trustees**

Eve Flynn	Board 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
John Williams	Principal, Nanoose Bay 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**

Chair Flynn called the virtual 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 Peoples and she thanked them for the stewardship of this land and allowing the Board to live, work, learn and play on these lands.

**3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**25-49R**

*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: April 22, 2025
- b. Ratification of In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: April 22, 2025
- c. Ratification of Special In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: April 28, 2025
- d. Receipt of Reports from Trustee Representatives
  - BC School Trustees Association AGM – Trustee Young
  - Early Years Table/OBLT Coalition – Trustee Young

**25-50R**

*Moved:* Trustee Kellogg *Seconded:* Trustee Kurland

**THAT** the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve the consent agenda items of the Regular Board Meeting of May 27, 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. Communications Working Group**

Superintendent Jory spoke to his briefing note as provided in the agenda package regarding the need for a new Communications Plan that would reflect and support the current context and directions of the 2023-2028 District Strategic Plan. Staff suggested the formation of a Communications Working Group to operate for one year beginning in June 2025, which would be responsible for gathering and reviewing plan examples, develop a Qualicum School District Communications Plan to be approved by the Board.

He then presented the DRAFT Terms of Reference for the Communications Working Group for the Board's consideration.

It was noted that the incorrect draft was included in the agenda package as the current version includes Indigenous participation. Should the Board approve the Terms of Reference as amended, Dr. Jory will ensure that the final version of the Terms of Reference be the one including Indigenous participation.

Trustees expressed some concern in the event the working group would have financial implications should a dedicated communications person be recommended and, if so, it was requested that any recommendations should come before the Board in time for the 26/27 budget discussions. However, the Board was generally in agreement that making the wider community aware of how the Board does business would be beneficial. Trustee Austin was nominated by her fellow trustees to Chair the Working Group, which would be confirmed at a later date.

**25-51R**

*Moved:* Trustee Young      *Seconded:* Trustee Kellogg  
**THAT** the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve the draft Qualicum School District Communications Working Group Terms of Reference as amended to include Indigenous participation.  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Chair Flynn congratulated Mr. Woods on his re-election as President of MATA.

Matt Woods, MATA President, stated that he, too, hoped that the recommendations by the Communications Working Group does not result in extra costs and looks forward to seeing how that work rolls out.

He then reported that MATA held its Annual General Meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup>, which had a great turnout of members where they shared Union developments, celebrated retired and retiring teachers and held elections. The following members were re-elected:

- Katie Tickell, Vice President
- Kerri Faa, Second Vice President/Secretary
- Dennis Mousseau, Local Representative
- Kaz Tomiyama, Treasurer

The following members were newly elected:

- Greg Lewis, In-district Pro-D Chair
- Taylor Wilson, Bargaining Chair
- Danny Hall, Political Action Contact
- Lauren Mitchell, Social Justice chair
- Melanie Switzer, TTOC Chair
- Josephine Granneman, New teacher/ Member at Large

Mr. Woods thanked all members for their commitment and support of MATA and wished all the best to those members not returning to the MATA executive next year. MATA appreciates these members volunteering their time to share their expertise and ideas to support members and strengthen union solidarity

Mr. Woods then referred to the recent demonstration at the Legislature, which highlighted the government's lack of funding for public education. This issue is reflected in the District's budget and funding model, which he had previously described as "Functional Budget Dystopia" which forces Boards to create unrealistic budgets that fail to support all students, and relies heavily on parents, Parent Advisory Councils, school vending contracts, and community donations to bring money into schools to pay fees for such things as bussing, school supplies and field trip experiences. Teachers are also often required to purchase resources, run programs with minimal budgets, and/or take teaching positions that are less than full time. Districts also rely on teachers taking less sick (health) days, all while the Boards face increased pressures to maintain balanced budgets.

He added that, despite efforts by Trustees to address underfunding, the situation remains dire. The loss of 100 students equates to a significant financial shortfall, exacerbated by inflationary pressures. Minister Beare's promise of funding protection for districts with declining enrollment comes with restrictive rules and thresholds, leading to inevitable cuts. The proposed budget includes the reduction of 11 FTE teachers, which will result in that work being downloaded onto other teachers or incorporated into processes that require additional work to be added. It will increase class sizes and reduce supports for the

remaining teachers. Consequently, for those reasons, MATA could not support the budget as presented.

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

Ewen Rycroft, CUPE Local 3570 President, acknowledged the hard work and dedication of everyone involved in the District's education community.

He noted that as the District navigates the challenges posed by the budget constraints, it is essential to remember the real impact of the decisions being made.

Mr. Rycroft then stated that the upcoming reductions to all support staff have raised significant concerns among CUPE 3570 member. Clerical staff play an indispensable role in keeping schools running smoothly; they are the backbone of administrative functions to ensure that everything from daily operations to student support services run efficiency. Similarly, library clerks not only manage books, they provide vital access to educational resources and create inclusive spaces where all students can thrive. Losing these positions can negatively affect not only staff but also the children who rely on these essential services. It is important to consider that CUPE members are committed to their roles and often go above and beyond working additional hours without compensation. This commitment underscores their dedication but also reveals their troubling reality. Many are struggling to make ends meet as the District looks to streamline operations. He believed the District must prioritize equitable approaches that do not compromise the quality of education for our students.

While he understood that the Board faces difficult choices, he urged the Board to consider alternatives before finalizing cuts that impact frontline services. A hiring freeze and discussions with stakeholders could lead to more sustainable solutions and conversations about potential efficiencies might reveal ways to maintain essential programs without sacrificing support staff.

Additionally, cuts to educational assistants will have a cascading effect on our classrooms. Reducing the support will lead to increased behavioural challenges and decreased learning time for all students. Educational assistants' roles have evolved significantly and now encompass more than academic support. They are crucial in managing behaviours that can disrupt learning environments.

Mr. Rycroft stated, as the District strives for educational excellence, it must place its students' needs at the forefront of its decision-making process. When it makes choices that prioritize the wealth of a few over the needs of students, the District may find itself failing in its mission to provide quality education. He was standing on behalf of CUPE 3570 advocating for students, staff and the community. CUPE 3570 wishes to work collaboratively with the Board to explore alternatives and raise its collective concerns. He urged the Board to work together with stakeholder to strive to find some solutions that ensure th Qualicum School District schools remain a nurturing environment where every student can succeed. CUPE 3570 did not support the budget as it stood.

#### **10. DISTRICT PARENT COUNCIL (DPAC)**

Maleah Bajich, DPAC representative, reported on the following:

- DPAC held its Annual General Meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup>. No nominations were received for the executive roles. Therefore, instead of dissolving DPAC, an Interim Committee was formed to maintain DPAC operations through to the fall to give

PACs across the District time to consider participation and, hopefully, recruit members for a DPAC executive and school PAC representatives. The PAC members of the interim DPAC Committee are Maleah Bajich from Winchelsea Learning Centre, Jason Howardis from Qualicum Beach Elementary, Erin West from Errington Elementary, and Raani Desia from École Oceanside Elementary.

- Parents/Caregivers in the District were asked to communicate to others the need for PAC and DPAC volunteers who care deeply about education and value working together to improve schools.
- Appreciation was expressed to all the volunteers who have taken on leadership roles this year and to those offering their time and energy to support schools next year as DPAC and PACs are an important part of the education system and are run entirely through the work of volunteers. DPAC also serves as the legislated voice of parents at the District level and it was hoped that there continues to be a strong parent/caregiver presence.
- Parents/caregivers have expressed concerns regarding budget constraints that they believe will compromise learning supports when more are needed and vital. They strongly believe that any budget solutions should prioritize keeping resources in the classroom and not increase the burden on families or PACs to fill in the gaps.
- DPAC values the District teachers, education assistants, counsellors and support staff and would like to see learning supports, mental health, and inclusive education continue to be a priority for the District and district leaders were urged to continue working with parents/caregivers to protect a strong, inclusive education for every student.

## 11. ACTION ITEMS

None

## 12. INFORMATION ITEMS

### a. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jory reported on the following:

- School Plans were presented by Principal and Vice Principal Teams to Trustees on May 13<sup>th</sup> and were structured to give each Board member a clear look at one goal from every school—why it was chosen, how it was being addressed, what impact it had, and the next steps - showcasing focused, meaningful progress. The learning shared was powerful, thoughtful, and a strong reflection of the Strategic Plan in action.
- The Transportation Review process is ongoing. The District has shared a survey with the San Pareil parents/caregivers to check in on the residents' intentions about school preference and see how transportation changes might potentially impact student attendance out of that neighbourhood, which is divided between three elementary schools: Springwood, Nanoose Bay, and Oceanside for French Immersion. So far, the information has been inconclusive, and any recommendations for Phase 2 boundary changes are on hold for now. He noted that even though Springwood Elementary is hovering around its maximum capacity for 2025/2026, revised projections have those numbers softening considerably over the next several years, as they are across the district, so concern about finding new learning spaces is dampened for the time being.
- Director of Instruction Terpstra has been working with a group of the District's educators on some classroom guidelines to support the District's students and educators with their use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). This is

an emerging issue and the District is following in the footsteps of those districts who have the capacity to take the lead. The District will need to use AI with intention in its classrooms, and teachers will need to work with it rather than against it, in order to remain relevant, as will senior staff.

- On Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, a group of staff will be visiting False Bay School where Director of Operations Munro, with the help of a consultant, will be presenting the draft floor plans and build timelines for the newly approved building with the local community, and setting up a system to collect feedback.
- Further to the District's improved Numeracy outcomes on the Foundation Skills Assessments (FSA), especially at Grade 4, Superintendent Jory shared that the District has had a big uptake on its Carol Fullerton sessions, paid greater attention to triangulation through EdPlan Insight, had lots of in-school collaborative groups toiling away on numeracy strategies, and there has been a big push on assessment fidelity. He noted that in post-COVID times, the District's improvements are especially notable. The province has seen a recent slide in these outcomes, and the Ministry is concerned. Superintendent Jory has stated that Literacy and Numeracy matter, that parents and caregivers take notice of these results, and that the perceived effectiveness of the system and the confidence it generates is impacted in large part by this work.
- The District's current budget situation is similar to trends across the province and globally, driven by inflation, rising costs, and the end of COVID-related funding. With declining enrollment, the Qualicum School District is entering funding protection and will need to make reductions.
- Superintendent Jory reiterated how well the District's schools and departments have been staffed, and how the District intends to continue to do so, though with some necessary restraint. He had also spoken to the need of maintaining funding for adult learning, supplies, and infrastructure, and he believed that the District can do business successfully with what it is spending.

Superintendent Jory also acknowledged the disruptions and anxieties facing the workforce and complimented those who are handling these conversations for their thoughtfulness and sensitivity, and how displaced staff will be able to find their way through in time. He stated his belief that the District can not only function but continue to grow its practice, support its strategic plan, and provide a great learning environment for its students as he has great faith in the District's personnel, its leadership, and its emerging structures.

#### **b. Educational Programs Update**

Director of Instruction Terpstra shared the following:

- The FSA district and school results can be viewed on the [Student Success Website](#). He acknowledged the work done by administrators and teachers as well as the hard work of the students who are focusing on their literacy and numeracy skills. A Literacy Initiative will be funded by the Ministry of Education and Child Care in 2025/26, and the district will focus on continuing the development and growth of students' Literacy skills amongst their learnings, along with Numeracy.
- The last month of school means summarizing and closing out the learning for the year as well as reflecting on that growth of learning and that will

culminate in Summaries of Learning being sent home by the end of June to all students across the system.

- There have been a lot of students doing *Work in Trades* and *Training in Trades* Programs through the Vancouver Island University as well as dual credit programs. Many of those students will be graduating and telling stories about their experiences in those programs at the Graduation Ceremonies in June.
- A highlight of the year is the Cardboard Boat Challenge, which will take place on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, where students create boats with the goal to paddle them the full way across the swimming pool.
- Mr. Terpstra acknowledged and thanked administrators and teachers with whom he has the pleasure of working, whether as the Chair or as a participant on the Curriculum Implementation Advisory Committee (CIAC), the Assessment Working Group, or the Technology Working Group that is focusing on Artificial Intelligence (AI) . He wished to recognize the hard work of people who are interested in furthering student learning through these avenues and he appreciated everyone's participation and involvement in those groups.
- Mr. Terpstra looked forward to seeing everyone at graduation, which is the culmination not only of the school year but a big symbol of the goal of graduating the District's students with dignity, purpose and options so they can transition into fulsome lives.

Associate Superintendent Wilson shared the following:

- Recognition and acknowledgement that May is Mental Health Month and the District has done a few things around mental health. One tradition in the District for 8 years is the Grade 7 Health and Wellness Conference to promote what services are available in the community to support students and families as well helping them transition to high school.
- Thank you to the members of the Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) Team as well as the Crisis Centre, who, with support from District counsellors and Child and Youth Care Workers, have finished sessions at both high schools talking about making mental health a conversation, and the key frame was "stronger together" with conversations about mental health and suicide prevention. Focus was placed on the Grade 10's, knowing that is a critical year with lots going on in terms of the course requirements, and on the Grade 12's as that is one of their bigger transitions moving from Grade 12 public education to public to work or post-secondary school or a gap year. Feedback from the students was that they were grateful for the presentation despite the difficult topics and conversations.
- In regard to Kindergarten students, an introduction to Kindergarten began with the *Pete the Cat, First Steps to School* event, followed by the *Pre-Kindergarten Program*, which has just completed, and now the *Welcome to Kindergarten* events are being held at each elementary school to welcome the new students to their registered school and meet their teachers. She acknowledged Denise Spencer-Dahl who, rather than purchasing ready-made Kindergarten bags from Learning Forward, has created the District's own at a reduced cost for the past three years. The bags are decorated by students currently in the system and contain equipment and supplies, from tools for oral story-telling to books on the Hul'qumi'num language.

- On Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> the Grad walks will be held. Grade 12s choose which school to go back to for their walk and the younger students get to observe that closure to what the goal of school is all about.
- Ms. Wilson had the privilege of attending an event on May 27<sup>th</sup> at Family Place for the rehanging of the reconditioned of the red shoes display, originally mounted to honour the 215 unmarked graves discovered at the Kamloops Residential School. The shoes had fallen into disrepair as well as having been vandalized. Val Levins, an Indigenous advocate within the community, repaired and repainted the shoes, and students from Ballenas Secondary were involved with repainting some of them. The ceremony, held to rehang the red shoes, was led by Val Levins and Chief Michael Recalma from the Qualicum First Nation.

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

#### a. Transportation Fees

Trustee Austin expressed her agreement with the MATA president's comments regarding parents bearing the brunt of so many fees. While in isolation the transportation fees may be reasonable, and the proposed fees not out of line and somewhat lower when compared to fees in other districts, when one adds student fees and school supplies to that, it can become substantial.

She emphasized that the Board is committed to ensuring that parents experiencing financial hardship are aware of financial assistance available through their school principals. She proposed that the Board review transportation fees throughout the year by considering software data, whether the fee structure resulted in early sign-ups, and other ways of reducing the burden on families.

Chair Flynn noted that Board Policy 704 does state that the Board review the need for transportation fees and the cost of fees for courtesy riders during its budget deliberations in the spring of each year. An ongoing analysis against the Transportation software would stand the Board in good stead to back up any Board decision related to the fees and routes.

Secretary Treasurer Amos added that the intention from last year, when the question of fees was first raised, was that the Transportation Committee would review related policies, the work done on routing and stops, and monitor how the fee structure is rolling out.

Superintendent Jory noted that the District has a fairly extensive busing system and is currently transporting courtesy riders through additional routing above necessary routing which has increased the costs; therefore, the District is working to get some efficiency back to the Transportation system.

#### 25-52R

*Moved:* Trustee Kellogg      *Seconded:* Trustee Kurland

**THAT** the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve the 2025/26 Transportation Fees as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**b. 2025/2026 Annual Facility Grant (AFG) Spending Plan**

Trustee Young stated that her questions regarding a hallway crack and science wall assessment were addressed at the Finance and Operations Committee by the Director of Operations, who advised that the assessments are done as a matter of due diligence, some of the cracks needed further investigation and all was determined to be ok.

Trustee Austin reminded people who may not have had the opportunity to attend the committee meetings where attendees take a deeper dive into some of the information that the AFG is just one of a few capital grants that the District receives, and there have been other grants through other programs that are used to address some of the other issues in the District's schools. Therefore, what is listed does not indicate all of the work being done.

Director of Operations Munro mentioned that the projects are fairly fluid in the AFG as some unanticipated projects that are not in the AFG plan (i.e. water system break) may need to be addressed with the AFG as the operating budget does not have the ability to pick-up those sorts of repairs; therefore, this is one of those capital budgets that is managed throughout the whole year, not just during the summer.

**25-53R**

*Moved:* Trustee Kellogg *Seconded:* Trustee Young

**THAT** the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) receive and support the 2025/2026 Annual Facility Grant Spending Plan as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**c. 2024 Climate Change Accountability Report**

Secretary Treasurer Amos reminded Trustees that the Climate Change Action Report (CCAR) is part of a provincial initiative aimed at reducing British Columbia's carbon footprint by 2030. Over the past four years, the initiative has evolved to include broader climate risks beyond just reducing greenhouse gases. Surveys have highlighted the need to plan for heat domes, water management, flooding, and other climate-related perils occurring in BC. Despite the District's size and limited resources and expertise, those risks are incorporated into its planning, with a fund created by the Director of Operations through the AFG or Operating funds to provide some consulting by a BC Hydro Energy Manager to assist the District in staying ahead of some of these risks.

The report showed the GHG emissions by source over a four year period and last year it was pointed out that the District had reduced by a fair amount; however, it does not become a trend until there is more data. It does appear as though the District is making headway in large part due to the work by the Director of Operations and the staff in the Operations department through managing the buildings emissions which are the primary source of GHG, approximately 70%. Therefore, if the District can make an impact in that area, it can substantially reduce its emissions and this will factor into the value that it has to buy as an offset investment.

Trustee Austin reported that this topic was discussed at length at the Committee meeting and she is concerned that, because of some very pressing challenges that are affecting governments around the world, climate change seems to have

receded in importance. Despite the other challenges, she believes it is still one of the most devastating things facing the planet. She reported that the BC government has proposed Bills 14 and 15, which would give it more sweeping powers and raises concerns about what happens with our environment and it steps on a lot of First Nations rights. A number of years ago the District had created the Climate Action Task Force (CATF) and joined the West Coast Climate Action Network (WCCAN) as an organization. WCCAN recently sent a letter to the government urging it not to pass Bills 14 and 15, noting that it is not supported by the First Nations Leadership Council or the Union of BC Municipalities because it bypasses a lot of measures currently in place for some of these environmental projects. She assured the public that Trustees are still involved with that issue and continue to look for solutions towards climate change.

Trustee Young added that, from data provided by the BC School Trustees' Association, the District did not seem to be doing as well in comparison to other districts and had sought clarity on the District's next steps, which was provided by the Director of Operations at the Finance and Operations Committee. She acknowledged Trustees Austin and Kurland for their work on the CATF and suggested that the Board continue to have robust discussions at the Finance and Operations Committee around environmental sustainability.

#### **25-54R**

*Moved:* Trustee Kellogg      *Seconded:* Trustee Kurland  
**THAT** the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) receive the 2024 Climate Change Accountability Report as presented.  
 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### **d. 2025/2026 Preliminary Annual Budget Bylaw**

Secretary Treasurer Amos presented the 2025-2026 Preliminary Annual Budget for the Board's consideration, noting that the recommendations contained therein are being put forward to close the funding gap. Staff have done their best to provide a balanced and fair approach to the recommendations and he acknowledged the difficult decision the Board had to make that evening.

He spoke to his briefing note as contained in the agenda package, which outlined the budget requirements and the processes undertaken to create the 2025-2026 Annual Budget. He then reviewed the 2025/2026 Projected operating grant, which included a funding protection grant, versus the 2024/2025 amended annual budget. He also outlined the budgeted revenue shortfalls and cost pressures, and described the staff's response to the budget deficit, noting that the resulting staffing reductions were done to minimize the impact on students.

Trustees acknowledged the difficult decisions the Board was required to make in order to balance the budget while keeping as much funding as possible to support students and regretted that process has resulted in layoffs. They also agreed with earlier comments made about the lack of sufficient funding for public education, that all districts were experiencing challenges with their budgets, and that the Board would continue to advocate for fully funded public education.

Secretary Treasurer Amos then provided clarity on efficiencies identified in the areas of replacement costs, custodial workforce planning, monitoring utilities and reviewing bus routes' start and stop time for gains on fuel use, noting that supplies and services make up 10% of the operating budget while 90% relates to staffing and benefits costs. He further clarified that, while the District has used reserves in

the past to address budget shortfalls, he was not recommending that the Board do so this year as its reserves are currently below the recommended threshold of 2 to 4% of its operating budget.

Associate Superintendent Wilson provided additional details to the teaching and education assistant reductions. The elimination of the Needs Response Team (NRT) and the Teaching and Learning Team, French Immersion has two less classrooms, and low enrolment have resulted in reductions having the least amount of direct impact on students. In regard to meeting student needs in classrooms, as new learners arrive in the district, staff determine what supports might be needed and distribute those accordingly. Learning supports for the most vulnerable students were not affected, nor were they for the LEAP program.

Superintendent Jory stated that the District is at a critical point and must handle the ongoing decline in enrollment. It would not be beneficial to have this conversation annually; instead, the system would benefit from a decisive approach and a more optimistic perspective. Staff have proposed a solution to navigate this fiscal year responsibly, understanding that future reductions may be necessary but ideally less severe. Staff are asking the Board for responsible decision-making now to stabilize the system and move forward, which is why they have opted for the budget as presented.

#### **25-55R**

*Moved:* Trustee Kellogg      *Seconded:* Trustee Kurland

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

MOTION DEFEATED

Secretary Treasurer Amos then provided information on wages that are set by bargaining tables and the Presidents' Council. Once those are bargained, it becomes the responsibility of the school districts to support those increases. Until they are announced, districts cannot budget for them. Based on past history, the true costs of the wage benefits have not been fully funded.

Trustees agreed that the budget presented was the best option given the circumstances. They also expressed their hope that enrolment would increase by September and/or that other funding would be provided by the province at which time some of the reductions could, perhaps, be revisited in the Fall.

#### **25-56R**

*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) Annual Budget Bylaw in the amount of \$72,124,658 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### **25-57R**

*Moved:* Trustee Kellogg      *Seconded:* Trustee Kurland

**THAT** the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) give second reading to adopt the School District No. 69 (Qualicum) Annual Budget Bylaw in the amount of \$72,124,658 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

It was noted that the third reading of the budget bylaw will be done at the June 24<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting.

**14. POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT**

**a. Board Policy 702: Provision of Menstrual Products**

**25-58R**

*Moved:* Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Kellogg

**THAT** the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve Board Policy 702: *Provision of Menstrual Products* as currently written.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**b. Board Policy 704: Student Catchment Areas/Cross Boundary Transfers/  
District Bus Transportation**

**25-59R**

*Moved:* Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Kellogg

**THAT** the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve Board Policy 704: *Student Catchment Areas/Cross Boundary Transfers/District Bus Transportation* as currently written.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**c. Board Policy 705: Corporate/Community Sponsorships, Partnerships  
and Advertising in Schools**

**25-60R**

*Moved:* Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Kellogg

**THAT** the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve Board Policy 705: *Corporate/Community Sponsorships, Partnerships and Advertising in Schools* as currently written.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**d. Board Policy 703: Student Fees and Subsidies**

**25-61R**

*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 703: *Student Fees and Subsidies*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**e. Board Policy 600: Personnel**

**25-62R**

*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 600: *Personnel*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

f. **Board Policy 602: Exempt Staff Supplementary Employment Benefits**

**25-63R**

*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 602: *Exempt Staff Supplementary Employment Benefits*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

15. **EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT**

Trustee Young drew attendees attention to the photos from the Mindfulness in May exhibit and noted that other presentations made would be posted on the district website with the notes of May's committee meeting.

a. **School Fees**

It was requested that, prior to being posted, the School Fees Schedule include a reference to direct any parent/caregiver facing financial hardship to contact their school principal.

**25-64R**

*Moved:* Trustee Young      *Seconded:* Trustee Kellogg

**THAT** the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve the 2025/2026 School Fees as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16. **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS**

None

17. **TRUSTEE ITEMS**

a. **Board of Education 2025/2026 Meeting Schedule**

The proposed dates and times for the 2025/2026 Meetings was presented for information and will remain as a DRAFT until further discussion by the Board at its August meeting.

b. **Trustee Comments**

- Trustee Young encouraged her fellow trustees to attend the student Cardboard Boat Challenge at Ravensong Pool on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Trustee Young reported that the learning round for the School Plan Presentations was excellent, where Trustees were given good examples of how each school's goals were developed and what the right inquiry questions were to ask.
- Trustees Young, Kellogg and Flynn attended the Try a Trade event at Ballenas Secondary, which provides an opportunity for Grade 8 and 9 students to try various trades and equipment used in trades.
- Trustee Kellogg attended the Moose Hide Campaign Walk at Ballenas Secondary on May 15<sup>th</sup>, which she found to be a very moving event.
- Capstone presentations are scheduled in June.

**18. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**19. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE AND MEDIA**

None

**20. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**

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

- Appreciation to the parents who stepped forward as members of the interim DPAC and to those who have stepped down. Hope was expressed that DPAC would continue next year as it is an important member of the school district.
- The misperception by some staff that parent volunteers are doing the work of education assistants, which they are not. Also, in the past, having parent volunteers was about helping students, not about bringing money and it seems as if that is now becoming the norm. Communication at the school level (possibly from the district level) regarding parent volunteers was recommended to avoid conflicts and misunderstandings about each role.

**21. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Kellogg moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

*Original Signed Copy on File*

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CHAIRPERSON

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SECRETARY TREASURER