



SD69 QUALICUM

EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022

2:30 p.m.

VIA ZOOM

Mandate:

To discuss and make recommendations to the board on the general directions for education in the district, and to serve as a vehicle for regular reports to the board on educational programs and services.

Facilitator: Chair Eve Flynn

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://sd69-bc-ca.zoom.us/j/3546156423>

1. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES**
2. **OPENING COMMENTS**
3. **SHARED LEARNING**
 - a. Indigenous Education
 - b. Qualicum Beach Elementary – Music/Theatre
 - c. Update from Director of Instruction
4. **INFORMATION**
 - a. Kindergarten Registration Update
5. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**
 - a. District Program Presentations: Hockey, Global ROAMS, and ROAMS
 - b. Request for Endorsement of Coalition for Healthy School Food (attachments)
6. **QUESTION PERIOD**
7. **FUTURE TOPICS**
8. **NEXT MEETING DATE:**
 - Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 2:30 p.m. (via Zoom until further notice)
9. **ADJOURNMENT**

January 27, 2022

School District 69 Board of Education, c/o Eve Flynn
100 East Jensen Avenue, Parksville, BC, V9P 2G5

Re: Requesting School District 69's endorsement of a Universal School Food Program

Dear SD69 Board of Education,

On behalf of the membership of the [BC Chapter of the Coalition for Healthy School Food](#) (BC-CHSF), I am writing to request that Qualicum School District add its voice to the growing number of school districts and divisions, boards of education and other educational authorities across Canada who are in favour of a universal, cost-shared healthy school food program.

The BC-CHSF is a provincial chapter of the [Coalition for Healthy School Food](#), a growing network of 180+ non-profit member organizations from every province and territory. We are advocating for public investment in, and federal standards for, a universal cost-shared school food program that would see all children having daily access to healthy food at school. Building on existing programs across the country, we hope that all students will eventually eat a healthy meal or snack at school daily in programs that will include food education and that will serve culturally appropriate, local, sustainable food to the fullest extent possible. The BC-CHSF includes member organizations from all corners of the province, including non-profits working with schools to deliver breakfast, lunch, snack, or other nutrition or food literacy programming.

Healthy school food programs are [known](#) to improve students' diets, mental and physical health, school performance, attendance, and social cohesion. [Canadian research shows](#) that school food programs improve health and education outcomes in children from all socio-economic backgrounds. Yet, Canada is the only G7 country without a National School Food Program and [UNICEF](#) has ranked Canada 37th of 41 wealthy countries when it comes to children's food security and nutrition. Covid-19 has demonstrated that school food programs are an essential service; with food insecurity rates increasing across the country, universal, healthy school food programs are needed more than ever.

In 2021, the re-elected federal Liberal party included a commitment of \$1 billion over 5 years towards the creation of a national school food program in their election platform. December 16, 2021 was a historic moment for school food in Canada as the federal government released the mandate letters to members of the cabinet, marking the first-ever inclusion of a commitment "to develop a National School Food Policy and work towards a national school nutritious meal program". [Momentum](#) towards a universal school food program is also building in BC, and the BC Chapter is seeking endorsements from supporting organizations, agencies, school boards and local governments. There is a timely opportunity for SD69 to join other school districts in BC and across the country in taking a position on the need for a Canada-wide school food program that meets strong [guiding principles](#) including universality, health promotion, cultural relevance and respect for local conditions.

Supporting provincial and national advocacy for public investment in school food programs would allow SD69 to build on, expand and enrich existing school food programs such a growing program at Ballenas Secondary School, the BC Fruit and Vegetable Program at most schools,

various take-out meal or snack programs, as well as garden programs that provide fresh vegetables and food literacy education. There is a rich community of teachers, parents, students, school administration and staff, non-profits, and local food providers in Qualicum, Parksville and surrounding communities who are already engaging with school food and would greatly benefit from increased support for local, universal school meal programs in the district.

To demonstrate SD69's support for a universal school food program, we request that you bring forward a motion to the Qualicum Board of Education with the following recommendations:

1. That SD69 [endorse](#) the efforts of the Coalition for Healthy School Food to advocate for a universal, cost-shared healthy school food program. This support is based on a shared belief that all children and youth in BC should have daily access to healthy food at school.
2. That SD69 call on the federal government to begin to implement a universal, cost-shared, healthy school food program for all K-12 students in the country and to sign onto the global School Meals Coalition Declaration, as per the [Coalition's 2022 Pre-Budget Consultation Submission](#).
3. That the SD69 call on the provincial government to invest in a universal, cost-shared, healthy school food program for all K-12 students in the province, as per the [BC-CHSF's 2022 Pre-Budget Consultation Submission recommendations](#).

Motions to endorse the Coalition have been passed by the [Vancouver School Board](#) (page 5) and SD71 in Comox, SD63 in Saanich, SD52 in Prince Rupert, as well as the Vancouver DPAC, [BC School Trustees Association](#) (page 16) and BC Teachers' Federation, and municipalities such as [Toronto](#), [Victoria](#), Courtenay, and [Vancouver](#) (also see this [letter to the federal government](#) sent by the City of Vancouver).

Thank you for your leadership and support in building momentum for a federally supported healthy school food program for K-12 students in Canada.

Warmly,



Samantha Gambling
Provincial Coordinator, BC Chapter of the Coalition for Healthy School Food
Bcschoolfood@phabc.org

To help children grow and learn, BC should serve healthy food at school every day

Vision

All schools in BC will serve a healthy, local and environmentally responsible meal and/or snack to students at little or no cost through a comprehensive and integrated school food program that includes food education.

Guiding principles



Health-Promoting



Universal



Cost-shared



Flexible and Locally Adapted



Committed to Indigenous Control over Programs for Indigenous Students



A Driver of Community Economic Development



Promoting of Food Literacy



Supported by Guidance and Accountability Measures



The **BC-CHSF** is a provincial chapter of the [Coalition for Healthy School Food](#), a growing network of [180+ organizations](#) from every province and territory. We are seeking public investment in a universal, cost-shared school food program that would see all children having daily access to healthy food at school, to support the health, well-being and education of all K-12 students in BC. Building on existing programs across the country, we hope that all students will eventually eat a healthy meal or snack at school daily in programs that will include food education and that will serve culturally appropriate, local, sustainable food to the fullest extent possible. Our members, endorsers and supporters include professionals from health, education and agriculture and food sectors, as well as local governments, school districts, professional associations, and school community members across the province – many of whom deliver breakfast, lunch, snack or other nutrition and food literacy programs. The BC-CHSF conducts outreach, member engagement, advocacy to provincial, federal and local governments, research partnerships and projects, and more.



Why School Food?

Healthy school food programs are [known](#) to improve students' diets, mental and physical health, school performance, attendance, and social cohesion. [Canadian research](#) shows that school food programs improve health and education outcomes in children from all socio-economic backgrounds. Yet, Canada is the only G7 country without a National School Food Program and [UNICEF](#) has ranked Canada 37th of 41 wealthy countries when it comes to children's food security and nutrition. The current patchwork of school food programs only reaches a small percentage of BC's 500,000 students and does not meet the need of hungry or undernourished students. The COVID-19 crisis has reinforced our understanding that school food is an essential public good, just like education and healthcare, students need access to nutritious food to be healthy and ready to learn.

Momentum is building

The momentum towards a universal school food program is building. In 2021, the re-elected federal Liberal party included a commitment of \$1 billion over 5 years towards the creation of a national school food program in their election platform. December 16, 2021 was a [historic moment](#) for school food in Canada as the federal government released the mandate letters to members of the cabinet, marking the first-ever inclusion of a commitment “to develop a National School Food Policy and work towards a national school nutritious meal program”. In BC, there is bipartisan support for school food and BC Ministers of Education and Agriculture, Food and Fisheries [have also been directed](#) to “create more local school meal programs in partnership with school districts”. There is a timely opportunity for stakeholders across BC to take a position on the need for a Canada-wide school food program that meets strong guiding principles including universality, health promotion, cultural relevance and respect for local conditions.

The BC Chapter urges the BC Government to invest in School Food

In our [2022 Pre-budget Consultation Submission](#), the BC Chapter of the Coalition for Healthy School Food urged the Government of British Columbia to build on existing commitments and allocate funding and resources to create more local school meal programs for K-12 students in BC. In particular, we recommend that the BC:

1. Commit to securing \$50 million/year for three years, to design, implement and evaluate research-based school program pilots in a minimum of six school districts across the province;
2. Allocate an additional \$3 million funding so that every school district in BC can hire a dedicated School Meal Program Coordinator, to build capacity for school food programs, and;
3. Assemble internal and external provincial school food task forces to advise and support the development of universal, healthy school meal programs for all BC students.

This investment would advance multiple provincial priorities including improving the health, well-being and education of BC children, strengthening and stimulating local agriculture and food sectors, and building a low carbon economy. The investment would also support families experiencing food insecurity, advance economic recovery, and significantly reduce the \$3.3 billion in costs of the treatment and productivity losses due to nutrition-related chronic disease in BC ([BCCDC, 2018](#)).