



Education Committee of the Whole Report
Tuesday, January 19, 2021
VIA ZOOM
2:30 p.m.

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.*

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES

2. OPENING COMMENTS

Excited to start this year and hopeful that it will be drastically different than the previous year. An additional placeholder on the agenda will be 'Lessons Learned' and will give us the opportunity to look at some changes in our process of teaching and engaging students and see what is working and may continue and what is not working.

3. SHARED LEARNING:

a. PAC Initiatives at Springwood Elementary

- Welcome Back Chalk Messages
- SES Rocks
- Welcome to SES Video

b. Mental Health & Wellbeing

- impact of COVID-19
- long waitlists in our communities with social services
- new families needing supports
- recognizing gaps
- referrals around suicide preventions
- local action team combined with Oceanside Wellness, a collaborative response committee.

4. INFORMATION

a. Foundation Skills Assessment

- Dates have changed to February 15th to March 12th
- More information will be shared out to schools in February

b. Update on Attendance Since Return January 2021

- Attendance levels are similar to last year at this time.
- We have fewer students accessing our home support model after the winter break.

c. Kindergarten Registration

- Online! MyEdBC has created a program for parents to register on-line
- Video on our website created to help new parents with the process of registering.

d. Programs of Choice

- French Immersion K registration is happening
- all our programs of choice are highlighted on our SD website.

e. Alternative Education Review

- placeholder on our agenda
- this school year was to be the 'implantation year' of the recommendations from the review. A 'soft alt' is being looked at; staffing and location.
- mentioned by a trustee about the use of the word 'alternative' and the stigma around being different.

f. Social Justice

- Trustees Elaine and Eve will co-chair this committee. More to come

5. DISCUSSION

- Discussion on the merits of FSA's during a pandemic (recommendation below)

6. RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) write to the Minister of Education questioning the merits of completing the Foundation Skills Assessment in our schools during this time of a pandemic.

7. QUESTION PERIOD

8. LESSONS LEARNED

- Grad. Recognizing that schools can plan for a different Grad this year, they are going into it with a 'lets plan a great celebration during a pandemic' mindset.
- Online transition from Grade 7-8 has been well received and is ongoing. Existing Grade 8's missed this last year.

9. FUTURE TOPICS

- High school presentation about course selection, suggested by a trustee.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

- Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 2:30 via Zoom