



Education Committee of the Whole Report
Tuesday, June 20, 2023
VIA ZOOM
2:30 p.m.

SD69 QUALICUM

Facilitator: Trustee Austin

We would like to give thanks and acknowledge that the lands on which we work and learn are on the shared traditional territory of the Qualicum and Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose) First Nations People.

MANDATE:

To discuss and make recommendations to the Board on aspects of teaching, learning and educational equity. We will strive to have all students receive whatever they need to develop to their full academic and social potential and to thrive every day.

SCHOOLS AND/OR PROGRAMS

a. Pre- Kindergarten Pilot

Gillian Wilson and Kenna Macleod provided observations and feedback from the pre-kindergarten pilot program that operated at Errington and Nanoose elementary school sites this past April/May. Using funding from the diversity grant, pre-kindergarten kids who were enrolled to start kindergarten this coming September, came over a period of six weeks, 2hours a day on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The kids explored games, crafts and Indigenous teachings. The response was overwhelmingly positive. To offer this transitional opportunity in all our other elementary school sites would cost the district about \$50,000.

"Great program, especially wonderful for my child who had not participated in group care or preschool."

"The indigenous teachings were a highlight for my son! This program was awesome!! My son benefited and I am very grateful :)"

b. RDN – Zero Waste



Rudy Terpstra happily reported on district schools' environmental stewardship projects thank to the RDN's commitment of Zero Waste grants of \$25,000/yr for the next 5 years.

Springhill Elementary School and PASS applied for the grant for the first time this year meaning all our schools had participation.

"Our program began on a hot lunch day in April, we diverted 60 pounds of pizza boxes, 9 pounds of paper towel and 6 pounds of food waste from the. In one day, Springwood Elementary School lowered their greenhouse gas emissions by 112 pounds (Cool It! Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator - BC Sustainable Energy Association) "

Some of the initiatives included: tree planting, zero waste meals, 'Naked lunches' to reduce plastic, composting and recycling at all school sites, vermicomposting (worms), Youth Climate symposium, edible scavenger hunt and more!

Thanks to all the teachers, students and schools for their commitment to environmental stewardship!

Resources:

Student video "Zero Waste" <https://youtu.be/wg9Y9Rd4gfw>

BC Sustainable Energy Association -Cool It! Resources for teachers and kids <https://bcsea.org/cool-it-resources/>

c. International Student Program - Update

Ross Pepper, District Principal, reviewed the challenges and opportunities within the International Student Program. The 2022/23 school year had 220 international students. Of those 165 were FTE (Full time enrolled) mostly at Kwalikum and Ballenas Secondary Schools. This year 80% of students were from Europe, 15% from Latin America and the remainder from Asia. Homestays were at full capacity.

Next year, home stay capacity will allow about 170-180 students; of those, 130-140 will be FTE. This summer some International students will be here for 5 weeks. The program will host 48 students, mostly from Japan and some from Taiwan. The focus will be on academics and helping to fulfill BC graduation requirements with the students studying Socials 10.

Next year will look to revitalizing existing students and looking at student exchanges to enhance language acquisition.



Resources: SD 69 International Student Program <https://schoolincanada.ca/>

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND CLIMATE ACTION

We had this conversation under the RDN grants discussion. Again, thanks to everyone for their commitment.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

a. PRIDE Month



b. National Indigenous History Month and Indigenous Peoples Day June 21st

Comments and recommendations for events was discussed. Please take some time to reflect and act on how best we can learn from history as we move forward in celebration and consider what inclusion, diversity, and identity mean for our communities and our futures.

June is National Indigenous History Month in Canada, an opportunity to learn about the unique cultures, traditions and experiences of First Nations, Inuit and Métis. It is a time to honour the stories, achievements and resilience of Indigenous Peoples who have lived on this land since time immemorial and whose presence continues to impact the evolving Canada.

SHARED LEARNING

a. Learning Grants Update from June 19th

Thanks to Gillian Wilson, Associate Superintendent, and Rudy Terpstra, Director of Instruction, for organizing a new and (the consensus seems to be) improved format for sharing our learning grant stories.

Every year, teachers, often in collaboration with teachers in their own schools or other schools, apply for a learning grant from the district. In June, we all gather to share some of the learning that has occurred throughout the year, both for students and teachers.

Universal design for learning (UDL) is a teaching approach that works to accommodate the needs and abilities of all learners and eliminates unnecessary hurdles in the learning process

This year the showcase of projects was held at the Bayside in Parksville. Teachers set up at tables and brought in resources that they purchased with the grant monies. Each group was given 5 minutes to summarize their inquiry question and process. The event allowed time at the end to visit the project tables and further discuss some of the learning.

Some of the ideas included; play-based learning, vertical learning, the UDL (Universal Design for Learning), outdoor learning and more.

Thank you to all who participated and we look forward to new and continuing areas of wonder.

INFORMATION

- a. **Update on Community Panel for Parents (June 1st)**
Parents had an opportunity to listen to and ask questions of our district social worker and a forensic nurse on issues such as vaping, drugs, date rape drug and more. The panel style discussion was very well received and there is hope the district will host more panels of this format in the upcoming school year.

- b. **Recording of Education Committee Meetings**
At February 2023's Regular Board meeting the board passed a motion to allow some of the district meetings via zoom to be recorded. These include Finance & Operations COW (Committee of the Whole), Policy COW and the Regular Board meeting. The board felt further discussion was needed to allow recording the Education COW. Concerns had been raised about potential privacy breaches, particularly for students, Trustees, district administration and DPAC all spoke to the question. The Education meeting, more than any other regular meeting of the board has the most student participation and engagement. Concerns around the ever increasing digital footprint and Internet Safety was often spoken to. A recommendation to the board was developed.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION TO MOVE TO THE BOARD MEETING

That the Board of Qualicum School District (69) continue, for now, the Education Committee of Whole meetings via Zoom and that these meetings will not be recorded.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, September 19 at 2:30 p.m. via zoom

ADJOURNMENT – 3:50 PM