



**Qualicum School District
Education Committee of the Whole Report
Tuesday, June 18, 2024
Via Video Conferencing
10:30 a.m.**

Facilitator: Trustee Julie Austin

Mandate:

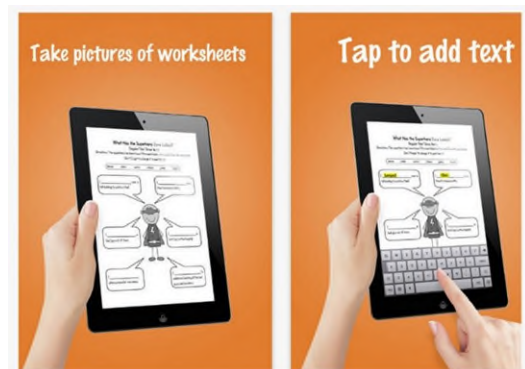
To discuss and make recommendations to the Board on aspects of teaching, learning and educational equity. We will strive to have all students receive whatever they need to develop to their full academic and social potential and to thrive every day.

SCHOOLS AND/OR PROGRAMS

Tech Project to Student Learning

Jill Brown, Tandy Gunn

Jill presented an initiative involving 10 applications from different teams to support 10 students using iPads or laptops. The goal was to trial technology tools to enhance learning, working closely with teachers to ensure students became proficient with the technology. Success stories emerged, leading to broader adoption in classrooms and changing teaching approaches. The initiative aimed to overcome barriers like access to dedicated technology, emphasizing the confidence-building impact on students. The students for the program were selected purposefully and not at random.



Snap Type Pro 2

The approach has seen significant improvements in students' ability to be independent learners, describing it as a game changer. Specifically, Jill mention that attendance has improved, mental health concerns have decreased, and challenging behavior has reduced because students feel empowered to succeed in school without constant adult guidance.

Jill and Tandy discussed auditory processing challenges and working memory issues in students. Auditory processing involves receiving and manipulating information heard, which is crucial for both lesson comprehension and reading tasks. They highlight that many students struggle with these cognitive functions, as identified through psychoeducational assessments. Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is proposed as a framework to address these challenges, emphasizing the need for educators to plan lessons that cater to diverse learning needs. Practical strategies like chunking information and providing visual aids are recommended to support students who struggle with auditory processing and working memory.

We look forward to hearing more challenges that are being addressed through technology to help out students.

Board Authority/Authorized (BAA) Course Proposal – Careers Department

Martin Jedlik and Greg Muirhead

Martin and Greg introduced a Summer Explore Trades program that has been running for several years. Initially focused on providing work experience to students typically in grades 9 and 10, the program has expanded to include other career options beyond traditional trades, such as roles in Health and Human Services. The program includes a three to four-week curriculum featuring certifications like first aid, site tours of post-secondary institutions, and visits to local employers for practical work experience. Students also receive guidance on resume building, job skills, and safety regulations from community partners like WorkSafe. The goal is to prepare students for future career paths, potentially influencing their post-secondary planning and bridging into dual credit or head start programs. The program's evolution reflects a commitment to offering meaningful learning experiences outside the regular school year, enhancing students' career readiness and educational pathways.



The goals and rationale behind the course focus on providing students with a comprehensive understanding of the Oceanside labor market and beyond. Through the program, students gain insights into high-demand careers, distinguishing between available job opportunities and those that may be more suitable upon graduation. They develop clarity on different career pathways such as apprenticeships versus traditional academic routes, empowering them to make informed decisions about their future education and career choices. This understanding extends beyond local contexts to encompass broader perspectives across Vancouver Island and beyond, influencing their course selections during critical high school years. Ultimately, the program equips students not only with practical skills but also with a clearer vision of their career goals and preferences, helping them navigate their academic and professional journeys with confidence.

Please see the Regular Board meeting agenda package for details regarding this proposed Board/Authority Authorized course.

Resources: Qualicum School District Career programs

[https://www.sd69.bc.ca/Programs/CE/Pages/Career-Ed.aspx#/=](https://www.sd69.bc.ca/Programs/CE/Pages/Career-Ed.aspx#/)

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND CLIMATE ACTION

Zero Waste Report to the Regional District of Nanaimo - Rudy Terpstra, Director of Instruction

The discussion revolved around acknowledging various zero waste initiatives around the district, in part thanks to the \$25,000 Zero Waste grant from the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) and partnerships within the school district. The participation of the RDN plays a critical role in supporting educational programs aimed at reducing waste within the district.



All the schools participating in zero waste initiatives wish to highlight the custodial department's role and collaborative efforts across schools. Specific recognition is given to the expansion of composting programs in schools like Springwood and Winchelsea Place, underscoring the teamwork involved in launching and sustaining these environmental initiatives. The number of learning grants and their impact on environmental stewardship further underscores the district's commitment to sustainability.

Resources: [RDN Zero Waste Education Program](#)

[PQB News – More School participating in Zero Waste Education Program](#)

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

Student Voice

Gillian Wilson, Association Superintendent, shared updates with the Education Committee regarding the reinstatement of the student voice group, which convened several times last year to discuss reports like the Killarney and The Youth Development Instrument (YDI)*, and formulate actionable recommendations for their schools. This year, the group has reconvened to review the McClure report and the latest YDI data. They plan to meet regularly to continue addressing youth concerns and shaping their educational environment. The initiative aligns with efforts by Katie for Indigenous youth and Rudy's community of practice facilitation, focusing on creating a positive school environment based on student input. Key priorities identified by the students include safety, inclusivity, student voice in decision-making, authentic adult relationships, dignity, respect, and robust education on mental health, drug misuse, and sexual health. They emphasize the need for more supportive adult mentors and advocate for changes in learning spaces to foster respect and autonomy. The committee is encouraged to engage directly with the youth group to hear their perspectives and learn about ongoing actions emerging from their discussions.

** The Youth Development Instrument (YDI) is a self-report questionnaire designed to learn about the social and emotional development, health, and well-being of young people 16-17 years of age.*

Student Representation at Board Meetings - Trustee Austin

The discussion revolved around the idea of including student representation in future meetings. There is an interest in providing a platform for students to directly engage with the board, similar to how other stakeholders like unions are involved. Trustee Young suggested allocating a specific spot on the agenda where students can present highlights from their discussions and perspectives on student voice initiatives. Peter suggested involving school principals to gauge student interest and participation. It was also acknowledged that board meetings might not always be engaging for students, suggesting that representation should focus on meaningful participation rather than mere presence. The discussion concluded by emphasizing the importance of student interest and suggests exploring potential changes to bylaws to formalize the process while keeping flexibility for years with varying student engagement levels. The board agrees to pursue further exploration of this idea and hopes to receive positive feedback and participation from schools and students.

SHARED LEARNING

Learning Grant Update from June 17th Presentations

All those in attendance at the Education Committee meeting discussed their reflections and takeaways from the recent Learning Grants Ignite sessions held at Sunrise Ridge. Following is a summary of their comments:

1. Overview of the Learning Grants Ignite Sessions: The meeting opened with a summary of the Ignite sessions, where educators presented their projects funded by various grants, including RDN zero waste funds, physical literacy funds, and indigenous education funds. The sessions highlighted hands-on, outdoor, and meaningful learning experiences that resonated with both educators and attendees.
2. Trustee Carol Kellogg expressed enthusiasm about the variety of projects showcased and how they provide insights into the district's educational initiatives. She appreciated the thematic focus on indigenous learning, zero waste initiatives, and literacy, noting how these projects can positively impact student engagement and outcomes.
3. Trustee Elaine Young highlighted the evolution of projects over the years, noting the growth and thematic development among recurring participants.
4. Associate Superintendent Gillian Wilson confirmed that support staff were involved in the presentations and emphasized the cataloging of resources to ensure accessibility across schools.
5. Trustee Barry Kurland praised the event's organization and pacing, crediting Gillian and Rudy for maintaining engagement throughout. He highlighted the importance of such events in fostering a sense of collegiality and shared purpose among educators across the district.
6. Future Directions and Feedback: The discussion concluded with suggestions for further enhancing accessibility to learning grant outcomes, potentially through an online bibliography.

The Learning Grants Ignite sessions are seen as a valuable platform for showcasing innovative educational practices, fostering collaboration, and inspiring future initiatives within the district. The trustees would like to thank all who participated.

Highlights from 2024 Grad Walk

Gillian highlighted the Grad Walk event held on June 11th, celebrating graduating students returning to the elementary schools across the district.

Graduates engaged in various activities such as dodgeball, parachuting, and playing on playground equipment at different schools. Each elementary school had unique ways of honoring the graduates, including cards and treats from kindergarten students, banners, posters, and cheers from younger students and teachers. Emotional highlights included a kindergarten teacher moved to tears while drumming in graduates whom she had taught since their kindergarten days. This emotional connection underscored the journey from elementary school to graduation for both students and teachers.

Over 200 grads participated in the event out of a cluster of just over 300, showcasing strong engagement from the graduating cohort. The event allowed graduates to reconnect with past educators and schools, fostering a sense of community and nostalgia. The Grad Walk exemplified community support and celebration, emphasizing the role of elementary schools as foundational in the educational journey. Kindergarten students offered advice and homemade flowers, symbolizing their support and best wishes for the graduates' future endeavors.

Overall, the Grad Walk was a successful event that not only celebrated the achievements of graduating students but also highlighted the continuity and community spirit within the district's educational institutions. It provided a meaningful way for graduates to reminisce and reconnect with their educational roots.

INFORMATION

Coffee with Trustees – Next one is scheduled for False Bay School in October – Date TBD depending on Lasqueti Island ferry schedule.

COFFEE WITH TRUSTEES SCHEDULE	
False Bay School	TBD
Nanoose Bay Elementary	November 6
Errington Elementary	December 4

ITEM(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD

a. **Board Authority/Authorized (BAA) Course – *Summer Explore Your Career Options 10***

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) approve the Board/Authority Authorized Course: Summer Explore Your Career Options 10.

UPCOMING TOPICS

TBD

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 2:30 p.m. via Microsoft TEAMS