



**Qualicum School District
Education Committee of the Whole Report
Tuesday, February 18, 2025
Via Video Conferencing
2:30 p.m.**

Facilitator: Trustee Elaine Young

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.

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES

2. PRESENTATION

a. Local School and False Bay School Calendars

Associate Superintendent Wilson presented the calendar survey data, which included parent/caregivers, staff and community. These were considered during the process of developing the proposed three-year calendars (Local and False Bay Alternate, the latter of which would include 8 alternate Fridays). Both calendars also required a review by the Curriculum Implementation Advisory Committee (CIAC). It was noted that three-year calendars may be re-assessed and change with notice.

The calendars were recommended for approval by the Board at the February Board Meeting, after which they will be shared with schools and posted to the District website. The calendar survey results will be also be shared at the February Board Meeting.

b. Parksville Alternate Secondary School (PASS)

Rowan, Ashton and Keith, students at PASS, shared their experiences of attending the school with the committee. Each student had attended one of the other secondary schools and are now attending PASS to complete graduation. All have plans for post-secondary.

They then shared their top reasons for their success as follows:

- Human feeling place/nice energy/relationships
- Integration and flexible learning environment including life skills and outdoor activities promoting healthy living.
- Welcoming and supportive, able to start with one course and work at one's own pace.

A comment was made that the district could implement many of the practices from the PASS program at the other schools.

c. Career Education

Greg Muirhead, District Lead, provided information regarding the District's Dual Credit Programs, which include Trades and Non-Trades Programs and Academic Courses. The District's overall enrolment in dual credit and off-site courses is relatively high and the success rate above 98%. There has been a significant increase in interest over the last few years and access to seats at the post-secondary level is now preventing further growth in some areas.

A *Health and Human Services Course* was piloted at Ballenas in 2024/2025. There were 9 students who took part in the pilot and earned multiple certifications which have led some of them to being accepted into study programs and work placements in the Health and Human Services field. Three of the students will be completing their Responsible Adult course with the intention of being hired on by the Qualicum School District upon completion. Work placements have resulted in longer term engagement for 4 of the 9 students.

Johanna, a participant in the pilot, reported that the program had given her the grounding in Health and had helped her to choose her career path.

It was shared that the Qualicum School District has recently received a \$50k grant from the Ministry of Education and Child Care to enhance its Work Experience Program. This will provide release time for a teacher to champion this program and generate/ reinforce partnerships with local employers and district students. It is hoped to have enough enrollment to run the program again.

The presentation, which provided more details, will be posted with this month's Education Committee Report.

3. EDUCATION UPDATES – SCHOOL AND/OR PROGRAMS

Director of Instruction Terpstra provided a report on provincial and district-wide assessments, including data obtained from the Foundation Skills Assessments (FSA). He noted that FSA data shows the district has been trending upwards and student performance is showing a marked improvement. It was acknowledged that analyzing and using multiple data points has led to improvement in outcomes for students.

The information will also be shared at the February Board Meeting and the presentation, which provided more details, will be posted with this month's Education Committee Report.

4. INFORMATION

a. Pete the Cat “First Steps to School” Fair– April 17th

More information can be found on the [Oceanside Building Learning Together \(OBLT\)](#) website.

b. Grade 7 Health & Wellness Conference – Thursday, May 8

Associate Superintendent Wilson shared information about past events and early planning for this year.

5. ITEM(S) TO RECOMMEND FOR APPROVAL TO THE BOARD MEETING

a. Local School and False Bay School Calendars

Recommendation to accept the 3-year Local Calendar as presented.

Recommendation to accept the 3-year False Bay Alternate Calendar as presented.

6. UPCOMING TOPICS

- Reporting out of preparations for *Pete the Cat* and *Grade 7 Health and Wellness Conference*
- Updates from Indigenous Education and International Student Program Departments
- Invitation to all Schools: Presentations are welcome, especially student presentations.
- CEAP Presentation is planned – date TBC

7. NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 2:30 p.m. via Teams