



SD69 QUALICUM

**Finance & Operations Committee of the Whole Report**  
**Monday, October 18, 2021**  
**VIA ZOOM**  
**10:30 a.m.**

**Mandate:** *To discuss and make recommendations to the board on financial matters and matters pertaining to facilities, maintenance, technology and transportation.*

**1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories**

**2. Presentation**

None

**3. Project Updates:**

**a. Oceanside Community Track (at Ballenas) Project Update**

Trustee Young shared that the next steering committee will be held on October 20<sup>th</sup> and that Michael Garland has had to step away from the fundraising work to attend to a family emergency. Secretary Treasurer Amos highlighted the work of the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) to write a Joint Use Agreement for the 4 contributors (City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach, RDN and the School District). The agreement is necessary for municipalities to use their Community Works funding and therefore ensure public access to the track and have some common understanding on the responsibilities for ongoing maintenance and eventual replacement in the future. There was some discussion on the conversations being held with other user groups, specifically the Ballenas Whalers Football Support Society, and that they are aware of the project; however, timelines for construction and the potential impact on user groups are yet to be known.

**b. Arrowview Elementary Child Care Space**

Chris Dempster, General Manager of Operations, shared that the facility is now operational for the daycare and that although some minor deficiencies exist they are being addressed.

**c. Green House Gas Emissions Study by Prism Engineering**

Chris Dempster, General Manager of Operations, referred to an attached summary that showed the 5 proposed sites to which the grants would be applied and the corresponding energy savings project costs that would be expected to be borne by the District in pursuit of energy savings. With this information, there was support to contract Prism Engineering to provide a study/review for the 5 sites in order to seek additional energy savings opportunities.

**4. Items for Discussion**

**Climate Action Task Force**

Trustee Austin reported out on the recent Climate Action Task Force, highlighting some of the discussion topics. Included for discussion were the current approval by the Town of Qualicum Beach for construction of a TELUS Cell Tower, the

concerns of wireless routers in our schools and a proposal to initiate a wired classroom/school project as well as the Health and Safety concerns of the wireless system. The topics will be forwarded to the next Regular Board meeting for discussion.

### **Exploration of Community School Concept**

Trustee Austin brought forward this topic for early discussion. It was introduced earlier in the year as a consideration and with the upcoming review of Land and Facilities it was felt that this was germane to the broader discussion. There was general support to have a working group created to consider this concept. Superintendent Jory recognized the need to include this in the review process and will consider it in the discussions.

## **5. Information Items**

### **a. Zonar Bus Pass Update**

Chris Dempster, General Manager of Operations, reported out on the Zonar project being undertaken by the Transportation department. The card readers were installed on the buses during the summer and the cards have now been issued to riders along with their bus passes. Staff and students are currently undergoing training to familiarize themselves with the new process. It is anticipated that this will allow the department to better report and communicate on who the riders are and where they are on any given day.

### **b. Electronic Work Order Software**

Chris Dempster, General Manager of Operations and Lesley Rowan, District Principal of IT Services, provided a history of the current work order system and what led them to recommending a new software program. It was felt that the current system is quite antiquated and that the new software will address many of the deficiencies. Common concerns relate to the ongoing managing of the work orders, communication of what and when work orders are handled by staff, and the perceived priorities placed on some work orders over others.

### **c. Quarterly Financial Summary**

Ron Amos, Secretary Treasurer, provided an update on the current financial situation of the district and presented the Q1 summary. It was highlighted that the provincial operating grants would be reduced due to enrolment declines in alternate programs and student with special needs; however, the international program has rebounded more than anticipated so would provide some financial relief. Expenditures are as expected recognizing that we are only 10% through the educational year and 25% the operating year.

### **d. Land and Facilities Review**

Superintendent Jory provided an update on the recent discussions regarding the land and facilities review. It was felt that although the LRFP was a report that required updating for formal submission to the Ministry the actual review would be better served by staff facilitating the discussions. He highlighted that district facilities are generally in great shape and there are no enrolment pressures generally; pockets exist but they are quite localized. The priorities of the review would consider use of space within the facilities, programs such as French Immersion, community schools, and specialty programs, and the potential for using closed sites as 'swing space'. He indicated that more information would follow in

the coming months but anticipated the review would include town hall type discussions with all stakeholder groups in January and February. It was generally understood that the discussions would work themselves into other timelines, such as budgetary and operational planning as necessary.

**6. Recommendations to the Board of Education**

To ask staff to create a working group to explore the community schools concept.

**7. Future Topics**

**a. Exploration of Community Schools Concept**

**8. Next Meeting Date/Location:**

- Monday, November 15, 2021 at 10:30 – Via Zoom Until Further Notice