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Always growing
Grandissons ensemble

**Qualicum School District
Finance & Operations Committee of the Whole Report
Tuesday, February 18, 2025
Via Video Conferencing
10:30 a.m.**

Facilitator: Trustee Carol Kellogg

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 financial, facilities, maintenance, technology and transportation matters with a view to environmental sustainability.*

1. PRESENTATIONS (10 MINUTES)

None

2. PROJECT UPDATES

a. Oceanside Community Track

No update as the project is set to be completed in the spring when the weather has improved.

b. False Bay Replacement

No news to report as the District awaits approval of this project.

c. Town of Qualicum Beach Council Update

Trustee Young shared that she had recently watched the February Town of Qualicum Beach Council meeting and wanted to highlight their discussions regarding support for Kwalikum Secondary School (KSS) projects. Council was inquiring whether it still needed to support a new basketball court and playing surface at KSS. Counsellor Skipsey asked that it remain a priority for Council, as these projects take time to plan and fund. To continue this support, Trustee Young asked that a letter be drafted to express the Board's willingness to collaborate with the Town on the basketball court project as well as other safety projects being considered for Village Way near KSS. This was supported and will be recommended for the February Regular Board Meeting.

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. 24/25 Amended Budget

Secretary Treasurer Amos provided information on the items that are included in the Amended Budget. He noted that the budget includes the grant reductions due to the sudden enrolment loss and additional expense pressures that were identified in the Fall school startup. Reduced revenues from the operating grants have been offset by the removal of some discretionary supply budgets and well as staffing adjustments to help balance the budget. There were also additional Ministry grants provided to pay for the labour settlement cost increases.

The budget documents and summaries will be included in the February Regular Board Meeting agenda package for approval by the Board.

b. 25/26 Annual Budget Development

Secretary Treasurer Amos shared that the 25/26 budget season has begun with the preliminary public and partners meeting having been held in the past 2 weeks. The public session was recorded and is available on the website as well as the PowerPoint presentation. It was shared that the public survey would go live later that day and would be open until April 4th.

c. Three Year Enrolment Estimates

Secretary Treasurer Amos shared the projections document that would be sent to the Ministry of Education and Child Care to support the March funding estimates announcement and would feed into the 25/26 Annual Budget planning work. It was shared that District enrolment is trending downward for the next few years as the larger graduating cohorts are not being offset by the incoming (smaller) cohorts in kindergarten. As well, migration into the district is lower due to reduced affordable housing impacting the number of families moving into the district. Enrolment is projected to be down by 98 students, which will directly impact the operating grants to be received.

4. INFORMATION ITEM(S)**a. Errington Elementary School Queries**

Playground timelines, playing field upgrades, 25th Anniversary and building temperature controls. After an introduction by Trustee Austin on these items, Director of Operations Phil Munro spoke to each.

Playground replacements are funded through a provincial capital fund which we apply to and receive support for about one replacement every 1 or 2 years. Currently Springwood Elementary is the priority as they do not have any structures currently, and Errington play structure is next.

Director Munro then spoke to the playing fields indicating that, due to the Errington School being on a well for its water source, the past few years of drought and water restrictions have meant that the school's facility needs have come before the playfields need for irrigation. Recent work on creating a new well will mean an additional source to be able to rebuild the fields with over-seeding and watering.

Building temperatures was also addressed in that there is some communication that will be necessary to remind users of the school to keep doors and windows closed in order to allow the HV units to be effective and efficient in heating the school buildings. Director Munro also highlighted the efforts Operations managers to attend meeting with PACs and DPAC in order to share additional information that might not otherwise be easily available.

Trustee Austin then reminded the Committee that Errington Elementary was the first school in the Province to be opened in the new Millennium, with its opening date in February 2000, and the recent celebrations reflected the successes of those 25 years.

5. ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD**a. 2024-2025 Amended Annual Budget**

Recommendations were supported to be forwarded to the Regular Board meeting for Board approval.

b. Letter to the Town of Qualicum Beach

That the Board write a letter to the Town of Qualicum Beach Council expressing the Board's hope to collaborate with the Town on both the basketball courts as well as other safety projects being considered around Kwalikum Secondary School in the Village Way area.

6. FUTURE TOPICS

- a. Cyber Security was suggested for inclusion for a future meeting

7. NEXT MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, April 14, 2025 at 10:30 via video conferencing