



SCHOOL DISTRICT No.69 (QUALICUM)

August 13, 2020

A Message to all Parents from Your Superintendent

Hello again parents and thank you for your patience as we continue with our planning for September in what is a rather constantly shifting landscape. As our province's COVID reality changes from day to day as reflected in daily announcements from our provincial health officer, we are trying to stay consistent with our messaging and our planning. We are required to have a plan ready for communication with parents, employees and our community by August 26 and we will be doing just that.

Thank you to over 250 people who tuned in to our Board's public meeting last night, and to those of you who used the chat function to ask some very good questions. We are working on answers to those questions and will post them as a Q and A document on our district website later today if possible. The Board also welcomed the idea of having a more open forum than is normal for a formal board meeting, so we have scheduled a Zoom Town Hall for Thursday, August 20 at 6 pm. The Zoom link will also be posted to our website at www.sd69.bc.ca. We invite people to join for a chance to ask questions and engage in dialogue with our trustees and senior staff. This meeting is being held virtually via Zoom in order to allow for maximum participation.

One very important development out of the Board meeting last night was the unanimous passing of the following motion:

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum), within the school restart plan to the Ministry of Education, include parents receiving home supports from their neighbourhood school based on concerns they have for family, health and well-being, even in the absence of (children having COVID) symptoms.

We know that there will be many children at home during instructional time for reasons of illness or perhaps quarantine or isolation, meaning that we will have to have staff dedicated to supporting those learners at home, working in partnership with classroom teachers whose efforts will be focused on in class learning. This motion allows for parents to have their children at home for brief or extended periods of time while remaining connected to their classroom and school learning group rather than moving to distributed learning or home schooling.

There is a lot left to do by way of planning. As our principals and vice-principals and district staff continue to devote their summers to this planning, we will expand that work in the coming weeks to involve school based staff, parents and students. And we will continue in our collaborative work with MATA and CUPE 3570 as representatives of teachers and support staff, as well as parents through DPAC, and representatives of the Qualicum and Nanoose First Nations as well as other learners of Indigenous ancestry through the work of our Indigenous Education Advisory Committee.

As we look toward the first week of school, we now know that we will have staff only in attendance on September 8 and 9, with students gradually returning starting September 10. While that student return is yet to be confirmed, we expect to have half of the students return on September 10 with the other half in attendance on September 11 and a full return to school on Monday, September 14. Stay tuned for confirmation of those details.

Thank you again for your patience, understanding, support and involvement. With respect as always,

Keven

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