



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022
6:00 PM
VIA ZOOM

ATTENDEES

Trustees

Eve Flynn	Chairperson
Julie Austin	Vice-Chairperson
Laura Godfrey	Trustee
Barry Kurland	Trustee
Elaine Young	Trustee

Administration

Peter Jory	Superintendent of Schools
Gillian Wilson	Associate Superintendent of Schools
Ron Amos	Secretary Treasurer
Rudy Terpstra	Director of Instruction
Chris Dempster	General Manager of Operations
Heather MacLeod	Vice Principal, Nanoose Bay Elementary School Qualicum District Principals & Vice Principals Association (QDPVPA)

Education Partners

Mount Arrowsmith Teachers' Association (MATA)
Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 3570
District Parents Advisory Council (DPAC)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Flynn called the zoom meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Chair Flynn acknowledged that the Board was meeting on the lands of the Coast Salish people and thanked the Snaw-Naw-As and Qualicum First Nations for allowing the Board to live, work and play on their lands.

She then noted that it was International Women's Day and asked for a moment of reflection in support of the people, especially the women, of Ukraine.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A Ministry news release and two Trustee Items were added to the agenda.

22-34R

Moved: Trustee Kurland *Seconded:* Trustee Godfrey

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) adopt the agenda as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes: February 22, 2022
- b. Ratification of In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: February 22, 2022
- c. Approval of the Special Board Meeting Minutes – February 28, 2022
- d. Receipt of Ministry News Release
 - Families will save more on child care through Budget 2022
 - New grad requirement ensures students expand their knowledge about Indigenous perspectives, histories, cultures
- e. Receipt of Reports from Trustee Representatives
 - OBLT Early Years Table – Trustee Young
 - Oceanside Health & Wellness Network – Trustee Young
 - French Advisory Committee – Trustee Young
- f. Receipt of Status of Action Items – March 2021

22-35R

Moved: Trustee Austin *Seconded:* Trustee Godfrey

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve the consent agenda items of the Regular Board Meeting of March 8, 2022, as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

None

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

7. MOUNT ARROWSMITH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (MATA)

Matt Woods, President, commented on the following:

- Acknowledgement of international Women's Day. The theme of the day was #BreakTheBias and was a day which provided the opportunity to commit to eradicating gender bias and celebrating women's contributions to education and society while raising awareness against gender bias, stereotypes and discrimination.
- Local bargaining concluded on Friday, March 11th after 11 full days of bargaining and MATA appreciated the positive and respectful manner in which negotiations took place.

8. CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES (CUPE) LOCAL 3570

Sherrie Brown, President, commented on the following:

- Prayers to all the people in Ukraine and Russia, especially the children. The Union is awaiting word from its national partners on finding ways it can provide help and support.
- Appreciation to the Board as well as partner groups and parents for allowing the union a voice in the upcoming 2022-23 budget discussions and the calendar dates.
- Gratitude that the pandemic of the past 2 years is possibly coming to an end. It was an eye opener as to the importance of health and wellness and the union is grateful for the care shown over the past 2 years and looks forward to a healthy year ahead.

9. DISTRICT PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (DPAC)

Angel Delange, President, commented on the following:

- Acknowledgement of International Women’s Day
- Thoughts for both the Ukraine and Russian people who are suffering
- Appreciation for the special board meeting held February 28th to discuss the Long Range Facilities Planning.
- DPAC is investigating the creation of SD69 ‘SWAG’ that would offer transferable spirit wear that crosses all district catchments to bring an enhanced sense of community across the district.
- Thanks to the Board for inviting two DPAC representatives as members to the Community Schools Working Group. The first meeting was held on Monday, March 7th.
- DPAC is working hard to secure some grant funding to purchase accessibility bikes for the district and left on site for some of the schools that have higher needs.

10. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS)

None

11. ACTION ITEMS

a. Trustee Elections – Cost Sharing Agreements

Secretary Treasurer Amos noted that the district’s practice is to partner with the local municipalities to have them conduct the trustee elections on the district’s behalf and share the election costs on a pro-rata basis against the municipal elections. The anticipated cost of a full election with no acclamations will be included in the 2022-2023 annual budget.

22-36R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Austin

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) ratify staff entering into a cost-sharing agreement with the City of Parksville for expenses associated with the 2022 election.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

22-37R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Austin

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve staff entering into a cost-sharing agreement with the Town of Qualicum Beach for expenses associated with the 2022 election, if required.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

22-38R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Kurland

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve staff entering into a cost-sharing agreement with the Regional District of Nanaimo for expenses associated with the 2022 election, if required.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

22-39R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Godfrey

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve staff entering into a cost-sharing agreement with the District of Lantzville for expenses associated with the 2022 election, if required.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. INFORMATION ITEMS**a. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Jory reported on the following:

- Recognition of International Women's Day and the challenges that fellow citizens are facing around the world in this time of conflict and hopes for a swift conclusion to the Russia/Ukraine conflict.
- With Spring Break looming, reports from schools and departments are citing fulsome levels of engagement which will continue until Friday, March 14th.
- Student attendance has stabilized and has been near pre-COVID levels. Staff attendance has also stabilized and, while not at pre-COVID levels, it has returned to pre-Omicron levels.
- The district has received its supply of rapid antigen tests with secondary schools sending the 5-packs for families home with students. Due to the recent safety announcement, the elementary schools will be reaching out to parents with their own plans, which will be some version of a supervised sign-out at pick-up tables for parents.
- Following approval of the catchment changes, staff are reaching out to families who reside in those areas to inform them of the changes, identify their preferences and guide them through next steps.
- Oceanside Elementary School will be hosting an Open House after spring break to provide families with an opportunity to tour the school and learn more about its many opportunities, which includes both an English and French Immersion Track, and to meet the administrative team.
- All new Springwood Elementary School registrations are being placed on a waitlist and it is anticipated that the district can support parents with options shortly after spring break as well.
- Completion of bargaining with MATA and appreciation to everyone who participated, knowing this came with a significant time demand. Special appreciation for the Director of Human Resources for her leadership in organizing the bargaining sessions and speaking on the employer's behalf during the process.
- On March 4th the Ministry of Education announced the addition of an Indigenous course requirement to the graduation program for the 2023-2024 school year. While there was initially some concern regarding the tight timelines, it has been determined that the courses presently offered in SD69 (BC First Peoples 12, English First Peoples 11 and 12) will meet the requirement, with only nominal adjustments.
- A group of staff, politicians and volunteers met at Oceanside Elementary School on Saturday, February 26th to discuss concerns and potential solutions for traffic flow around the school at various times of the day. A number of attendees were given some tasks to complete or information to gather in preparation for a second meeting, which will likely occur by the end of April.

- Angel Delange, DPAC President, was invited by Trustee Young to share that she had successfully applied for \$17,885 through the Vision Zero in Road Safety Grant Program through DriveSmartBC. Stefan Yancey, Operations Manager of the Ministry of Transportation, has since approved the list of items the district wishes to purchase to encourage road safety near and on school grounds, so long as administration will commit to some placement requirements of those items.
- The Community Schools Working Group met for the first time on March 7th with discussion focussed on the definition of a community school, terms of reference, an upcoming trip to a community school in Port Alberni, and the need for a partnerships matrix to track all of the services that currently reside in the community in order to identify any possible gaps. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 4th.
- Appreciation to all staff for their work in March in providing safe and engaging learning environments in all district sites.

b. Educational Programs Update

Associate Superintendent Wilson, commented on the following district initiatives and events:

- The School Review process is underway to determine needs-based staffing and what other supports are needed in the classrooms. A common theme of concern at the elementary level (K-1) is speech and language skills, given that many of them have experienced 2 years of communicating with people who are masked and may also not have had the opportunity to attend preschool.

Trustee Austin inquired whether there were any studies underway on the effects of COVID on the young learners speech acquisition and how things like masking may have contributed to a different way of developing language skills. Nothing at this time; however, the Early Development Index process has just finished and that data will be provided in the fall. Parents can also complete the Childhood Experiences Questionnaire (CHEQ) survey which is provided through the University of BC's website.

- The Teaching & Learning team facilitated an Early Learning Framework (ELF) conversation for 25 Kindergarten teachers who worked on the ELF and explored storytelling. A guest educator from SD71 presented a workshop on oral language acquisition and what to do to set up manipulatives for children.

Trustee Young invited Ms. Wilson to attend the next OBLT Early Years Table to share the ELF information.

- The impact of poverty and trauma on families is coming up often from schools and the district will continue to work on understanding the brain and how it works and is affected by adverse childhood experiences. The Anxiety workshop arranged by DPAC was valuable and staff continue to identify what can be done to support having children back in school and to work with them through that anxiety.

Director of Instruction Terpstra, commented on the following district initiatives and events:

- The district has received word that the Province, which is federally funded, has increased French funding to the district by 15%, which includes the French Immersion and French Second Language (SFL) programs.
- Appreciation for the continued learning occurring in schools with the most recent professional development day supported by the MATA keynote speaker with CUPE in attendance. Work in all schools continues to be focussed on learning as well as on students' disabilities. This recently resulted in a session led by the Tandy Gunn, Terri Morrison and Autumn Taylor on the topic of: Equity for Every Child, Every Day. It made him realize that the District is moving forward with an Equity agenda so that all students feel welcome here and that they belong. It is great when all parts of the organization are learning and focusing in the same direction.

13. EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19th.

14. POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19th.

15. FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19th.

16. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

None

17. TRUSTEE ITEMS

a. Trustee Young apologized for her use of disrespectful language at the February 28th special board meeting. That was not the way she wanted to act or have as her legacy in the community as she has stood for issues that are the opposite of that type of behaviour and she believes in transparency and working together in a positive light.

b. Pete the Cat

Trustee Young announced that a '*Pete the Cat First Steps to School*' event will be held on Thursday, April 21st via appointment due to COVID. The event welcomes children and their parents to Kindergarten and all the community agencies have representatives on site to showcase what services and resources are available to families. Each of the elementary schools will also be holding a *Welcome to Kindergarten* session at the end of May or beginning of June to provide students with a gradual look at the school.

c. Vancouver Island School Trustees Association (VISTA) Spring Meeting

Trustee Young reported on the VISTA meeting held on Saturday March 5, 2022. The focus of the meeting was on the topic of Mental Health with a presentation by David Branirer, an award-winning counsellor and stand-up comic who himself suffers from bipolar. This led trustees into a deeper discussion on the role of mental health and breaking some barriers regarding the stigma associated with mental health challenges.

There was also a presentation from Fortis BC’s curriculum around climate change which had SD69 trustees thinking about the corporate sponsorship policy the bias of the Fortis BC curriculum materials. This resulted in a motion to write a letter to the Minister of Education regarding that type of material.

Trustee Young announced that trustees across BC will gather next at the AGM of the BC School Trustees Association in April. The theme will be: *From grief to medicine – moving forward with good hearts*. There will also be some student presentations.

c. Area F Official Community Plan (OCP)

Trustee Austin mentioned that the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) was seeking input on its Draft OCP for Area F (Coombs/Errington/Whiskey Creek/Meadowood) and has provided several different ways people can learn about the project and provide their feedback. She suggested that the Board meet to complete some of the workbooks which relate to a number of areas of interest to the district.

Any available trustees were encouraged to attend the March 15th zoom meeting hosted by the RDN. Trustee Austin will be participating as a member of the community as well as a trustee.

d. Administrative Retirement.

Chair Flynn acknowledged Chris Dempster, General Manager of Operations & Transportation, for his leadership, dedication and support over the past 7 years. He has made many contributions to the district in the areas of safety, sustainability and environmental change as well as being an advocate for board issues. She expressed appreciation on behalf of the Board and for all he has done for the district and wished him all the best in his retirement.

18. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

19. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE AND MEDIA

None

20. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

None

21. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Godfrey moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Original signed copy on file

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY TREASURER