

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes: June 23, 2020
- b. Ratification of Special Board Meeting Minutes: June 5, 2020
- c. Ratification of In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: June 23, 2020
- d. Receipt of Ministry News
 - Province implements vaping action plan
 - Qualicum Beach parents to benefit from new child care spaces
 - New community roundtable to tackle racism in BC schools
 - Minister and K-12 education partners' statement of support of anti-racism
 - Plan to safely bring K-12 students back to class full time
 - Orientation week ensures a safe, ready and welcome return to school
 - K-12 operational guidelines set requirements for masks
- e. Status of Action Items – June 2020

20-82R

Moved: Trustee Godfrey

Seconded: Trustee Austin

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve the consent agenda items of the Regular Board Meeting of August 25, 2020, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

None

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

7. MOUNT ARROWSMITH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (MATA)

Deb Comer, President, commented on the following:

- Work to create the District's Restart Plan
- Appreciation for Superintendent Elder including MATA's concerns and issues in the submission to the Ministry of Education.
- Teachers' concerns about the return to school re lack of physical distancing, students requiring extra supports, contact tracing, possible TTOC shortages and subsequent failure to fill vacancies, and keeping the Grade 8 cohort numbers small.
- While these are exceptional circumstances, COVID times should not circumvent the MATA Collective Agreement, specifically in the areas of health and safety, class size, staffing ratios and processes regarding class assignments and reassignments.
- Request to ensure adequate custodial staff to ensure rigorous cleaning protocols are followed and to cover absences.
- Urged the Board to make a decision on the parameters for return to school that are best for staff, students and family and the broader community and to reach out to the BCSTA to pressure the government to reduce the density of classrooms and schools to reflect more closely what is happening in the general public.

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

No Report

9. DISTRICT PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (DPAC)

Andrea Button, President, noted that parents have many questions regarding student safety, distance learning, and returning to the classroom after distance learning. She also confirmed with staff that the Collaborate Education Alternate Program (CEAP) staff were hosting an information meeting via Zoom that same evening (August 25, 2020).

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

None

11. ACTION ITEMS**a. September Restart Plan**

Superintendent Elder presented the District's September 2020 Restart Plan based on the template that was to be completed for the Ministry of Education, providing an overview of each of the sections contained in the plan to not only ensure the safety of staff and students, but also to ensure quality learning continues.

Superintendent Elder noted that the plan was submitted to the Ministry on August 21st. This resulted in some additional clarification being requested by the Ministry to which the district has responded. The plan was approved by the Ministry earlier in the evening.

Trustees discussed the plan, noting that while it has responded within the parameters of the template provided by the government the Board also wished to acknowledge that the plan can be revised as deemed necessary as the plans move forward.

20-83R

Moved: Trustee Flynn *Seconded:* Trustee Austin

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) supports the Qualicum School District's September Restart Plan for the 2020-2021 school year as presented by the Superintendent of Schools; however, the Board also recognizes that the Qualicum School District may change some of the parameters as circumstances arise.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustees then debated the use of masks in the school setting as well as a suggestion that personnel encourage the use of masks where a minimum of 1 meter distance cannot be maintained.

The potential expectation for district personnel to encourage the use of masks was a concern. It was also noted that the educational component and advocacy around hand washing was what was more important. Families would also have the option of having their child wear a mask at all times if they so choose.

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

- Results received to date of the 2020 restart parent survey to identify what grade their child(ren) were in and what they were planning to do for their child's education in September - full time, distance learning, homeschooling, home support or none of the above (if they are unsure). Staff will use that information to determine what can be provided to organize classes, identify supports needed, and to organize transportation.
- Principals and Vice Principals are working on shape of the day for 8th and 9th when teachers are in the school buildings.
- Principals and Vice Principals are also working to determine which students will attend on the two staggered restart dates of September 10 and 11th and will communicate that to parents in the next week.
- The Regional District of Nanaimo is identifying ways to provide the district with supports to assist with affordable after school programming and are considering having those programs located at Errington, École Oceanside and Bowser elementary schools. They are also looking at building additional programs at the Qualicum and Craig Street Commons sites. A posting has been advertised for an RDN staff person to oversee the after-school programs.
- September 17 & 18 are both professional development days. Plans have had to be adjusted for the district-wide planning day on the 17th so that a guest speaker on the topic of Truth and Reconciliation will present for the morning and in the afternoon schools will work on building their capacity around that (around what?) and working with school teams to identify needs and what their new learning will look like.

Senior Staff then responded to questions from trustees as follows:

- *Will the Collaborative Education Alternate Program be expanded as much as possible given staffing considerations?* Once the parent survey data is reviewed, staff will be determining where the staffing pressures are going to be, how many students will want to go into distributed learning and how best they can be supported as that is a specific contract we hold with the Ministry of Education.
- *Will the parent survey break down how many people are opting for home support from a particular school?* Yes, schools will have that information and grouping that (what?) now knowing what the responses are.
- *Can the district provide financial support to those families who may not be able to afford the after school programs being provided by the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN)?* School administration would work out what and how support could be provided to those families who cannot afford the after school programs.
- *How does the district anticipate transporting children safely to the Qualicum and Craig Street Commons for the after school programs?* Those sites were chosen so that students could go directly from school to the after school program. The program would start at Errington Elementary right after school is dismissed. That way contact can continue to be minimized. It is hoped that minimal transportation will be needed since after school programming is being provided at or near the child's home school site.

Superintendent Elder will also be approaching the RDN to inquire whether they are willing to work with the School District to transport students to other sites by exploring different and/or expanding current routes that could accommodate some of the school district's courtesy riders.

- *Has the Arrowsmith Community Recreation Association (ACRA) been involved in discussions for after school programming?* That organization has been contacted as well; however, discussions occurred first with the RDN as they provide programming across the system versus for one particular community.

b. Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Elder answered additional questions regarding the District's Restart Plan

- *Is there a potential to reduce class size within Stage 2, and what would be involved to consider that?* The Ministry's Stage 2 plan requires the district to provide all students with the opportunity to attend school full time. If the BC K-12 Restart Plan moves to Stage 3 classes will get smaller based on a requirement for 50% density. If the district were to try to create smaller classes at Stage 2 when all students are in session it would need more classroom spaces and more teachers. For example, if class sizes were to be halved, we would need to double the number of teachers and learning spaces. Finding those teachers and spaces would be a major challenge, and the costs would be extremely high. We may get to smaller classes if some parents choose home support for their children.
- *Will there still be the option to provide access to schools for parent volunteers?* Districts have had an answer back from government on that topic and we understand that we are to restrict access to those who must be on site. Parents will not be accessing the school other than for an urgent matter, or to volunteer within distancing and masking protocols for food service programs that serve children who might otherwise go hungry.
- *Can the government be lobbied for additional funds considering that Vancouver Island has a population of high risk, which the Board must take into consideration in its planning and put measures in place that are beyond what the province has outlined?* That is a topic that can be discussed at the Finance & Operations Committee of the Whole in order to set the parameters for any Board request for additional funds from government.

Trustees and Senior Staff noted that sufficient TTOC and custodial staff is an area that will continue to be monitored.

c. Summer Projects Update

Chris Dempster, General Manager of Operations, reviewed his report on projects undertaken as provided in the agenda package and provided updates on which projects were now completed or close to completion. He also noted three additional projects that were not included in his written report as follows:

- Interior painting of Springwood Elementary School
- New PA system in Arrowview Elementary School
- HVAC cleaning at Winchelsea Place

13. EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

No Report

14. POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

No Report

15. FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

No Report

16. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

No Reports

17. TRUSTEE ITEMS**a. Letter to Minister of Education**

Trustee Kurland stated that there are a number of questions that remain following the creation of the district's restart plan. Education must be a priority and the concern is that the provincial government is on a path that is increasing the spread of COVID across the province as numbers are beginning to increase again. It is not the Board's role to be managed and he expressed concerns that, if there is an outbreak, there is nothing in the plan that states the board must be informed. The Board needs to be informed and consulted if the District is going to move between different stages and it is possible that different schools may be in different stages of learning at various times throughout the year. If Board's are being told that they have local control over these aspects then the Board should exercise that right.

20-88R

Moved: Trustee Kurland *Seconded:* Trustee Austin

THAT the Board Chair, on behalf of the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum), write a letter to the Minister of Education, copied to the Premier of BC and the Minister of Health, requesting clarification regarding the government's COVID-19 plan for return to school. Aspects that require clarification are but not limited to:

1. What criteria will the government use to move between stages of reopening?
2. Does each school district have the authority to make the local decision to move thru the various stages?
3. If there is an outbreak in a district, will that effect what stage other districts are in?
4. If there is an outbreak specific to a school in a district, does the whole school require quarantining? Or will the government only require quarantining on an individual basis.
5. Will the government consider a selective return to closure of various businesses to help lessen the spread of covid-19, as a consideration to slow the spread of covid-19, to ensure that schools will be open to serve our children's educational needs

The Board of Education would like clarification of these items, and others, in order to facilitate the return to schools in September in our district and British Columbia.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

18. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

19. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE AND MEDIA

None

20. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

Trustees/senior administrators received comments and/or answered questions on the following topics:

- *How many EAs would be available for FI students?* Education support is determined based on student and cohort needs.
- *What is being done to ensure students voices are being heard in the reopening of schools regarding health concerns and ensuring they receive the education they deserve?* Students have participated in the recent Town Hall zoom call, students are also represented by their parents in the choices being made through the parent survey and the secondary administrators are hearing from and talking to students. When school is back in session, the Superintendent will arrange a Student Leadership meeting as well as organizing on going district leadership meetings.

21. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Godfrey moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

The Regular Board Meeting was followed by Special Board Meeting for yearly election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Board.

Original signed copy on file

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY TREASURER