



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021
6:00 PM
VIA ZOOM

ATTENDEES

Trustees

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

Administration

Keven Elder	Superintendent of Schools
Gillian Wilson	Associate Superintendent of Schools
Ron Amos	Secretary Treasurer
Vivian Collyer	Director of Instruction
Chris Dempster	General Manager of Operations
Jennifer Fuhrmann	Vice Principal, Errington Elementary School Qualicum District Principals/Vice Principals' Association

Education Partners

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

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 via zoom on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish people and thanked the Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose) and Qualicum First Nations for allowing the district to live, work and play on their shared territory.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Two topics were added under Trustee Items: City of Parkville/Springwood Elementary Traffic Safety Update and Oceanside Community Track at Ballenas Secondary Update

21-27R

Moved: Trustee Godfrey *Seconded:* Trustee Young

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 23, 2021
- b. Ratification of In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: February 23, 2021
- c. Ratification of Special In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: February 19, 2021
- d. Ratification of Special In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: January 19 & 21, 2021
- e. Receipt of Ministry News Releases
 - Joint Statement on Pink Shirt Day
 - Compensation fund opens for those impacted by incorrect exam results
 - K-12 schools supported by regional COVID-19 rapid response teams
- f. Receipt of Reports from Trustee Representatives
 - French Advisory Committee- Trustee Young
 - Oceanside Health & Wellness Network (January and February)
– Trustee Young
- g. Receipt of Status of Action Items – March 2021

21-28R

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 March 9, 2021, 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:

- Members are busy with parent/teacher conferences and keeping the teaching pace up for students during this time while also looking forward to spring break
- Appreciation to the many MATA members who have been willing to serve as representatives on MATA and district committees.
- Appreciation to the District Health & Safety Committee to ensure the updated health and safety protocols are implemented.
- Appreciation the work of CUPE staff to ensure schools are clean and safe for students and staff.
- Requested that the Board not pass the 2-year False Bay School Calendar with 10 altered Fridays, noting that members are requesting 12 altered Fridays given the schools unique and remote location on Lasqueti Island and the need to travel to Vancouver Island for appointments and shopping.
- MATA is looking forward to being a partner in discussions as to what September may look like, with a COVID Plan and with a more 'normal' plan.

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

Sherrie Brown, President, commented on the following:

- Appreciation on behalf of the support staff Union for the immediate notice and correspondence to staff regarding covid cases.
- Waste Management project is going well in schools and the Union hopes to have the opportunity to provide feedback on how support staff feel it is working for them.
- In regards to 'COVID-fatigue', the Union has some concerns regarding how a shortage of replacement staffing can impact staff and students.

9. DISTRICT PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (DPAC)

No Report

10. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS)**11. ACTION ITEMS****a. False Bay School Two-Year Calendar 2021-2023**

Associate Superintendent Wilson provided the history of the decisions and conversations over the past few years regarding the altered Fridays at False Bay School. A four-day week had also been discussed in the past; however, after discussion, it was decided not to implement a 4- day week. She noted that recruitment and retention were not a major challenge when staffing the site; rather, it is more due to timing of when a staffing need is identified and what is contained in the Staffing Agreement with MATA. With a larger primary student population, daycare challenges were also considered on the altered Fridays.

Last year had 8 altered Fridays and while the teaching staff have suggested 12 for the upcoming year, a compromise suggested by a parent was to have 10 altered Fridays.

The creation of the school calendar is a thoughtful process and more altered Fridays were added during the winter months when it was more challenging to travel between the islands. Added to that are the conferencing adjustment days, professional development days which allow for teaching staff to participate in collaboration and conversation with their colleagues and this year, the option of attending via Zoom has presented greater opportunities for False Bay School staff to participate in professional development sessions.

Trustees discussed the pros and cons of more or less altered Fridays in a calendar year and how many more minutes per day altered Fridays would add to the days school was in session. Trustees also considered the variable needs of the Lasqueti Island community to attend to personal business that could only occur off the island.

Trustee Austin suggested a friendly amendment to the motion for the Board to approve a one-year calendar with 10 altered Fridays rather than for two years. This would recognize the ever-changing conditions that affect families living on the island depending on the majority age of students attending. Also, historically, the Board has passed one-year calendars for False Bay School as well as for the PASS/Woodwinds and Collaborative Education Alternate Program.

21-29R

Moved: Trustee Young *Seconded:* Trustee Godfrey

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve the False Bay School One-Year Calendar 2021-2022 as presented.

CARRIED

Trustee Kurland voted against the motion

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

Superintendent Elder reported on the following:

- The new process for following up on a COVID exposures. He hopes that Oceanside area continues on its downward trend of cases.
- Appreciation to all the staff who are involved in the follow up with families and staff. Senior Staff still activate a rigorous cleaning protocol when a case is identified in a school. The District also continues to take direction for Island Health and the Local Medical Health Officer and while ready to respond, he hopes that there will not be a future need to do so.
- Appreciation to the Board for its direction to all children and staff to wear masks while riding district buses and for students in grades 5 to 12 and all adults to be required to wear masks when they are outside of their learning groups and likely to be within 2 meters of others. Those are beyond the mandate and it has created some interest outside of the community
- Appreciation for the whole school community for getting to this place a year into the pandemic and the extraordinary resolve people have demonstrated up to this point.
- He acknowledged those who have time coming and who may still be working over the spring break period.
- He reminded employees and parents that anyone who travels for other than essential reasons does so against the recommendations of the provincial health officer and the district strongly supports that position. Employees who travel for non-essential reasons will need to use unpaid leave for their quarantine period.
- Another survey is being drafted that will be released after spring break for the school community to provide feedback on the supports available during the pandemic in the areas of mental health and wellness, educational experiences and to gather more information on the best way forward for the next school year.
- The Framework for Enhancing Student Learning requires a particular kind of report with particular data to be submitted to Ministry between June and September. Further to that, since strategic planning is to be about an entire organization, Superintendent Elder will be putting together an overview framework for strategic planning which includes 10 documents from all departments' operational plans that exist and those will be summarized in the District's framework document with information about how to plan for success in each domain of a school district operation. The summary will be brought to the Board no later than the May Board Meeting.

b. Education Update

Vivian Collyer, Director of Instruction, reported on the following:

- The District has a Vancouver Island SOGI lead group which is working with the ARC foundation on a virtual island SOGI Summit scheduled for May 17 & 18, 2021. SD69 has the opportunity to send representatives from our

district to be part of the planning and she recognized the staff and students who helped organize the Summit.

- The target of the Summit will be the SOGI leads in schools and elementary and secondary students are involved in the planning so there will be a variety of workshops for different audiences. Specific workshops and speakers have yet to be confirmed and Dr. Collyer will provide the information to trustees when it is available.

Gillian Wilson, Associate Superintendent, reported on the following:

- Acknowledgement of the work of Principals and Vice Principals as they have worked with staff to prepare for school reviews with the Associate Superintendent and District Principal of Learning Supports. The reviews are complete which helps identify how professional and support staff are supporting students, areas of strength and challenges, and what supports to put into place next year. The data assists in staffing in each school site for the upcoming school year in order to support the variety of different needs in the system.
- Consideration is being given as to how to support incoming Kindergarten students who may or may not have experienced some formal type of play during the past year and a half as well as how to support teachers to be ready to support those learners.
- A topic of the board budget discussions will be around social-emotional learning and how to support students who are worried or anxious about the next school year and shift the pedagogy to support teachers around universal design for learning and how we create that vision as a system as staff determine what staffing needs are.
- The Pete the Cat event will be held virtually this year and planning is currently underway to determine what that will look like. Invitations will still be sent to the district's new Kindergarten students and the event will be publicized.

13. EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

No meeting was held in March.

14. POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

No Meeting was held in March

15. FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

No Meeting was held in March

16. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

No Reports

17. TRUSTEE ITEMS

a. Commissioning of External Report re Carbon Emission Practices

Trustee Austin provided her rationale to the Notice of Motion from the February Board Meeting, which was to provide trustees with time to consider the proposal and for staff to obtain an idea of the cost of an external report from this year's budget. The report would assist in the creation of the District Climate Action Plan.

Trustee Kurland added that the intent of the report would be for the consultant to review the district's current practices to decrease its carbon footprint, determine which initiatives could be improved or expanded, and to potentially identify other options for consideration. The report would include the costs associated with the initiatives and the implementation timelines. This will provide a baseline from where the Climate Action Task Force (CATForce) could create the Climate Action Plan with input from the district leadership team, teachers, students, parents and community members who make up the CATForce and to create future directions.

Secretary Treasurer Amos reported that he has been in discussion with a consultant and does not have a quote at this time. However, he believed that it would not be more than \$20,000 and that it would likely be substantially less than that amount. He added that there was room in the current budget year to accommodate the cost.

21-30R

Moved: Trustee Austin *Seconded:* Trustee Kurland

THAT the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) ask staff to commission a report by an independent consultant to review our carbon emission practices and operations and create options for the board to consider as we move toward carbon reduction. The costing for this report would be obtained from the 2020/21 budget, and is not to exceed \$20,000.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

It was further noted that the Secretary Treasurer will consult with Trustees Austin and Kurland on the terms of reference for the external report.

b. City of Parkville/Springwood Elementary Traffic Safety Update

Chair Flynn advised that the Board continues to focus on the safety issues around Springwood Elementary School and the impact on the learning community. The Board presented a letter to the City of Parkville regarding steps the Board has taken at its own cost to increase traffic and pedestrian safety in the area. At its February 17th meeting, the City Council received an in-depth traffic analysis; however it was not able to make a decision as to what could be done. The topic was then moved for further discussion in the Fall. A meeting is scheduled to be held in April between the Board and the City Council to discuss the traffic and safety concerns which are heightened with additional construction projects planned in the vicinity of Springwood Elementary School and will impact the school population and the travel to and from the school.

It was noted that there was some misinformation stated at the meeting which suggested that the school did not exist when the last community plan was created, which it was (as Springwood Middle School) and that there had not been any issues with traffic at the school in the past when there has been. The Board hopes to correct those comments at its meeting with City Council.

c. Oceanside Community Track at Ballenas Secondary Update

Trustee Young advised that the main focus of the meeting held earlier in the day was the topic of fundraising. An Oceanside Community Track website has been created with a link for sponsorship/donations. Grants will also be applied for towards which letters of support from staff, parents, students and community members would be greatly appreciated. There is also a Canada Helps fundraiser online that people can donate through.

Trustee Young then announced that she plans to walk 2000 km between the spring equinox and autumn equinox and people can sponsor her on a fundraising calendar that will be available shortly.

Superintendent Elder further reported that the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Oceanside Services Committee met to review the project and confirmed that there have been 2 grants approved within two regions of the RDN for \$21,000 and \$32,000 and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) has approved those funds to be available for the track project. The RDN has also held \$204,000 in its reserves for the project; however, it has requested additional information to ensure that the funds are allocated to a worthwhile cause and it is important that they understand that the community sees the track as an important initiative. The funds are available conditional of other things but we have a tremendous advisory group working in the community who have taken the lead on this project and we think this will happen and the monies will be found within the calendar year and support the proposed timeline of the project to be completed in 2022.

The complete report from the meeting will be available for the April Board Meeting.

18. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

19. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE AND MEDIA

a. **Letter of Support to BCSTA re: Increased School Life Cycle Funding**

20. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee and Senior Staff responded to comments/questions on the following topics:

- Potential plans to reopen any of the closed school sites due to an increase in capacity within the current schools due to construction projects.
- COVID exposures at École Oceanside Elementary School

21. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Godfrey moved to adjourn the meeting at 7.30 p.m.

Original signed copy on file

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY TREASURER