

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT 68  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
AGENDA**

**Wednesday, June 1, 2022, 5:30 PM  
ONLINE MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING**

**Policy 2.4 Role of the Chair and Vice-Chair**

The Chairperson, or designate, shall be the official spokesperson to the news media for the Board.

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**Pages**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair will call the meeting to order. With great respect and humility, we acknowledge and honour the lands of the Snuneymuxw people. The Snuneymuxw people maintain their profound, unique and spiritual connection to the land through ageless traditions, teachings, stewardship and expressions of reciprocity.

**2. ADDITIONS**

**3. DELETIONS**

**4. CHANGE IN ORDER**

**5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

*That the Agenda be approved.*

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**6.1. Scott Saywell, Superintendent**

**3**

Re: NDSS Community Field Renaming

*That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) direct staff to commence a 30 day consultation period as per Policy 2.17 Public Participation to change the name of the NDSS Community Field to "q'unq'inuqwstuxw".*

Re: Coal Tyee Elementary Name Change

*That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) direct staff to commence a 30 day consultation period as per Policy 2.17 Public Participation to change the name of Coal Tyee Elementary School to "syuwén'ct".*

7. ADJOURNMENT

*That the meeting be adjourned.*

**NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
ACTION SHEET**

DATE: June 1, 2022  
TO: Board of Education  
FROM: Scott Saywell, Superintendent  
SUBJECT: NDSS Community Field Renaming

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**Recommendation**

**That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) direct staff to commence a 30 day consultation period as per Policy 2.17 Public Participation to change the name of the NDSS Community Field to “q’unq’inuqwtuxw”.**

**Background**

The Board has been aware of ongoing discussions with Snuneymuxw First Nation (“SFN”) and the City of Nanaimo (“CON”) regarding the naming of the jointly operated sport facilities adjacent to NDSS. This Action Sheet outlines those discussions and proposes next steps. A consultation plan will be shared on the District’s website.

**Discussion**

Over the last year SFN, CON staff and District staff have been working towards opportunities to work closer as well as provide meaningful reconciliation projects where possible. One opportunity is working together on the Stadium District improvements. The goal is to find ways that in addition to developing high end sport and spectator facilities, the land provides natural areas by use of Indigenous plantings, artwork and other natural features. In addition, provide opportunities through education to further Truth and Reconciliation objectives.

One exciting opportunity is to formally name the NDSS Community Field (which the District and City Council have now designated to be a medium sized stadium) a SFN determined name. Working with SFN CAO Joan Brown, Chief Michael Wyse and the SFN Elders Committee, the name decided on was: q’unq’inuqwtuxw.

q’unq’inuqwtuxw is a Coast Salish term meaning “pass it back” or “return”. This was a saying SFN athletes would say to each other when playing soccer. Using q’unq’inuqwtuxw would not only honour the great legacy of SFN athletes in the community but also the concept of sharing and return land to its natural state where possible.

**NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
ACTION SHEET**

DATE: June 1, 2022  
TO: Board of Education  
FROM: Scott Saywell, Superintendent  
SUBJECT: Coal Tyee Elementary Name Change

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**Recommendation**

**That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) direct staff to commence a 30 day consultation period as per Policy 2.17 Public Participation to change the name of Coal Tyee Elementary School to “syuwén'ct”.**

**Background**

On January 26, 2022, the Board passed the following motion:

**That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) engage Policy 2.19 and assign an ad hoc Committee to rename Coal Tyee Elementary School.**

An Action Sheet (attached as Appendix A) was brought forward to the Education Committee on January 5, 2022, which provided the history of the Coal Tyee name together with district's reasons for proposing a name change.

This Action Sheet outlines the work of the ad hoc Committee and proposes next steps with respect to the renaming of Coal Tyee Elementary School. A consultation plan will be shared on the District's website.

**Discussion**

Following the Board motion, and pursuant to the requirements of Policy 2.19, an ad hoc Committee was formed and has met on several occasions to discuss the renaming of Coal Tyee Elementary. The Committee worked alongside Snuneymuxw First Nation, including SFN CAO Joan Brown, Chief Michael Wyse and the SFN Elders Advisory, the name decided on was “syuwén'ct”. syuwén'ct is the Hul'q'umin'um' term meaning “our traditions” or “our history”.

In the event that the Board approves the recommended motion, staff will begin the consultation process immediately with the intent of providing the Board with the consultation feedback in early July at a special open Board meeting. Further, the ad hoc Committee will work together to create a plan outlining how the change will be implemented.

**Appendix A:** January 5, 2022 Action Sheet



## NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

#### ACTON SHEET

DATE: January 5, 2022  
 TO: Board of Education  
 FROM: Scott Saywell, Superintendent  
 SUBJECT: Coal Tye - School Name Change

#### Recommendation

**The Education Committee recommends that the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) engage Policy 2.19 and assign an ad hoc Committee to rename Coal Tye Elementary School.**

#### Background

This Action Sheet is to outline next steps with respect to the potential renaming of Coal Tye Elementary School.

The Education Committee heard a presentation by the school at the December Education Committee meeting with respect to work being done by the school on the Board goal of reconciliation. This work has included discussions regarding the name Coal Tye.

When Coal Tye Elementary School was opened it was named after the Snuneymuxw resident KI-ET-SA-KUN also known as Coal Tye. According to a bust of KI-ET-SA-KUN as described on City of Nanaimo website the story is as follows:

...In 1851, while Ki-et-sa-kun in having his gun repaired in Victoria; he mentions the coal in Winhuysen Inlet. In 1852, James Douglas sent Joseph Mackay (the clerk for the Hudson Bay Company) to Winhuysen Inlet to investigate the reports of coal deposits. He confirms the value of the coal deposits, a year later the Company decides to close the mine at Fort Rupert (where the coal deposits were found to be inferior) and transfer its mining operations to Winhuysen Inlet. On September 10th the first shipment of coal leaves for Victoria. In honour of Ki-et-sa-kun's discovery, he was given the name Coal Tye, meaning Great Coal Chief.

We believe that at the time of the school opening, in good faith it was felt that he represented a positive story of collaboration between the colonial and Indigenous peoples as well as representing Nanaimo's heritage with respect to coal mining.

However, Coal Tyee is seen by our Snuneymuxw relatives as a tragic figure given his interaction with the colonial peoples led directly to purposeful colonization of the area and destructive resource extraction that has impacted the land. That interaction has also impacted the Snuneymuxw peoples in an extremely negative and ongoing way and led directly to the generational trauma that we are working with our Snuneymuxw relatives to heal. We also want to be clear that the colonization is the fault of the colonizers and not Coal Tyee nor any other Indigenous person. However, Coal Tyee's role is not one to be celebrated and is not consistent with our policies.

Further, given the view of our Snuneymuxw people with respect to the name, we have concerns that the school can be appropriately welcoming to students from the Snuneymuxw people. Given these facts, the name is not in line with Syeyutsus and it is time for change. Further, preliminary discussions with SFN indicate support for a change in name.

The Board's naming policy specifically contemplates the renaming of facilities. The purpose statement of Policy 2.19 – Naming of Schools or Parts of Facilities is as follows:

As per the Syeyutsus Reconciliation Framework, the Board recognizes that naming a school is a respected process critical to creating a sense of community, a sense of belonging and creating an opportunity to honour the land in which it is located. A school name also fosters a unique identity for families, students, and staff.

In addition to naming a facility, the Policy also contemplates the renaming of a facility as follows:

1. The Board will consider the renaming of a facility or part of a facility in limited circumstances that may include:
  - a. Where a local municipality or regional district renames a geographic reference associated with the school; or
  - b. Where the name of the facility or part of the facility does not align with Board policies; or
  - c. Where the Board receives a request from the community that aligns with the Board's naming policy.
2. Where the Board considers renaming a school or facility, they will receive a report regarding any potential cost implications for consideration in their decision-making process