

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT 68
EDUCATION COMMITTEEMEETING
AGENDA

Wednesday, October 2, 2024, 6:00 PM
ONLINE MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING

Please note that the proceedings of this meeting are being recorded to assist in the preparation of the minutes of the meeting. The recording of this meeting are records of the School District, as defined in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, and as such may be the subject of access requests under the Act.

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 TO THE AGENDA

3. DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

4. CHANGE IN ORDER

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

That the Agenda be approved.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

That the minutes from the Education Committee meeting held on September 4, 2024, be approved.

7. PRESENTATIONS

8. SENIOR STAFF REPORTS

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8.1 Kerri Steel, Director of Instruction and Shawn Johnston, Executive Director of HR 6

Re: Accessibility Committee Workplan 2024-2025

8.2 Don Balcombe, Assistant Superintendent and Jacquie Poulin, Assistant Superintendent 8

Re: School Start Up

9. CORRESPONDENCE REFERRED FROM THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11. NEW BUSINESS

12. QUESTION PERIOD

Question Period is intended to enable the public to obtain clarifying information regarding a current agenda item.

Individuals wishing to ask questions of the Board upon completion of Committee and Board sessions shall do so in writing on the form provided which includes their name, street address and email address. The individual will be asked to verify his/her self and be afforded the opportunity to read out their own question. Each individual shall be limited to one follow-up question upon receiving a response. Forms are available in the information rack near the entrance of the Board Room.

If the meeting is being held online, individuals wishing to ask questions of the Board shall type their question in the Q&A compose box on the right side of the screen and then select send. Your question will be read by the Board or Committee Chair.

Questions and responses will be included in the video of the meeting and the meeting minutes and will be part of the public record.

13. ADJOURNMENT

That the meeting be adjourned.



**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT 68
MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

September 4, 2024

Trustees	C. Morvay, Chair T. Brzovic, Vice Chair N. Bailey G. Keller L. Lee M. Robinson T. Rokeby
Absent	L. Pellegrin
Staff	M. Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer L. Tait, Interim Superintendent G. Robinson, Ex. Dir. of Communications K. Matthews, Manager Admin. Services
Representatives	DPAC Representative: Eden Wood NDTA Representative: Chris Perrier-Evely NSAA Representative: Lindsey Watford

- CALL TO ORDER**
The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
- ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**
There were no additions.
- DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**
There were no deletions.
- CHANGE IN ORDER**
There was no change in order.

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

E24/09/04-01

IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Robinson
IT WAS SECONDED BY Trustee Brzovic

That the Agenda be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

E24/09/04-02

IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Robinson
IT WAS SECONDED BY Trustee Brzovic

That the minutes from the Education Committee meeting held on June 5, 2024, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. PRESENTATIONS

There were none.

8. SENIOR STAFF REPORTS

8.1 Don Balcombe and Jacquie Poulin, Assistant Superintendents

Re: Restriction of Digital Devices

Don Balcombe and Jacquie Poulin provided an update on the Ministry's cell phone restrictions for the up-coming school year. An information sheet is attached to the agenda.

8.2 Laura Tait, Interim Superintendent

Re: Enhancing Student Learning Report

Laura Tait presented the Enhancing Student Learning Report. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the Ministry of Education and Child Care data related to the Enhancing Student Learning Reporting Order (M302/20). The report, together with an action sheet, is attached to the agenda.

E24/09/04-03

IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Lee
IT WAS SECONDED BY Trustee Bailey

The Education Committee recommends that the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) approve the 2023/2024 Enhancing Student

Learning Report and submit to the Ministry of Education and Child Care by September 30, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.3 Laura Tait, Interim Superintendent

Re: Amendment to the Strategic Plan 2024-2028

On June 28, 2024, the Board of Education adopted the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan. Laura Tait provided recommended changes, with rationale, to the objectives of the Board's goal of Truth & Reconciliation. An action sheet is attached to the agenda.

E24/09/04-04

IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Lee

IT WAS SECONDED BY Trustee Bailey

The Education Committee recommends that the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) amend the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan as shown on the Action Sheet dated September 4, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. **CORRESPONDENCE REFERRED FROM THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

There was none.

10. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was none.

11. **NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

12. **QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no questions.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

E24/09/04-05

IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Robinson

IT WAS SECONDED BY Trustee Lee

That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING
INFORMATION SHEET**

DATE: October 2, 2024
TO: Education Committee
FROM: Kerri Steel, Director of Instruction and Shawn Johnston, Executive Director of HR
SUBJECT: Accessibility Committee Workplan 2024-2025

Board of Education Strategic Plan – Board Goal

- Student and Employee Wellness
- Student Success

Background

The NLPS Accessibility Committee held their first meeting of the school year on September 19, 2024, where confirmed their work plan for the 2024-2025 school year. Action steps for each of the four priority areas in our Accessibility Plan have been identified.

The committee will be reaching out to individuals with lived experience, as well as individuals with expertise in specific areas of focus, to help inform its work in the coming months. Examples include:

- Students who are physically dependent or who have significant mobility differences
- Itinerant specialist staff such as school psychologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists
- A playground design specialist

Appendix A: NLPS Accessibility Committee Workplan

Accessibility Committee Workplan 2024-2025



Priority #1: Employment and Service Delivery Practices

Engage in dialogue with students, specialist staff and school leaders to explore potential gaps in accessibility.

- Gather student voice about their experiences in school related to accessibility barriers (i.e. Is it easy for you to get around your school? Do you have enough help when you're learning?)
- Engage with the professional development committees for teaching and support staff to explore opportunities for staff learning about accessibility.
- Invite itinerant specialist staff and students with lived experience to share information with the Accessibility Committee (e.g. students with mobility needs, school psychologists, physiotherapists)



Priority #2: The Built Environment

Create a workplan for addressing gaps in accessibility as related to the Guidelines for the Built Environment. Include playgrounds in this framework.

- Gather parent and student voice regarding playground accessibility.
- Continue the collaboration between Facilities staff and the Department of Learning Services to establish Guidelines for the Built Environment. These guidelines will establish an intended baseline for universal accessibility across the system, as well as mechanisms for addressing additional accessibility barriers.
- Encourage school teams to explore options to increasing playground accessibility that are not related to infrastructure changes



Priority #3: Inclusion, Mental Health and Peer Connections

Enhance classroom teacher understanding of ways to reduce the impact of accessibility barriers on inclusion, mental health, and peer connections for their students.

- Work with the professional development committee and the Department of Learning Services to share the Classroom Accessibility Matrix that was developed in 2023-2024.
- Collaborate with school teams around transition planning for students moving between schools



Priority #4: Information and Communication

Create guidelines for the system that will allow print and digital communication to be more universally accessible.

- Collaborate with the Communications Department to explore options and best practices regarding accessible communication



**NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING
INFORMATION SHEET**

DATE: October 2, 2024
TO: Education Committee
FROM: Don Balcombe, Assistant Superintendent and
Jacquie Poulin, Assistant Superintendent
SUBJECT: School Start-Up

Background

This Information Sheet is intended to provide the Committee with an update on school start-up.

Discussion

Planning for school start-up begins early in the previous school year. Enrolment projections are made in February with staffing allocations provided to schools in April. Enrolment is tracked throughout the Spring. Over the summer and into the opening week of the new school year, as registrations are confirmed, additional staffing is assigned, if required, to be compliant with class size and composition requirements.

At the end of September an enrolment “snapshot” is captured. While the final document will not be submitted to the ministry until mid-October, preliminary indications are that our overall enrolment is up slightly from the previous year. This continues a year-over-year trend as our community continues to grow. Our Board’s Strategic Plan has identified three priority populations to support with intentional strategies: Indigenous students, students with disabilities and diverse abilities, and children and youth in care. All three of these populations are seeing a net increase year-over-year.

The following schools had new divisions created this September to meet class size and composition requirements: Chase River, Cilaire, Forest Park, Frank J Ney, Gabriola, and Rock City. Ecole North Oyster saw a change in their school organization that resulted in a reduction of a division in French Immersion and an addition of a division for their English-track enrolment. Most schools throughout the district were organized into classrooms by Monday, September 9th. During the first week of school, a variety of instructional approaches were utilized, including cross-grade and whole-grade activities focused on welcoming students and building community.

Secondary schools welcomed returning and new students with a variety of activities and events in September to build community and help students and staff settle into the new school year. One additional portable will be on site this year for the second semester at Wellington to address enrolment pressures.

This September saw schools implement new guidelines around personal digital devices. Schools are reporting an overall positive response from students, staff, and families.

Staff have returned to school with bright smiles and positive energy after coming off a summer of sunshine. It has been a pleasure to see and join in some of the regular September activities and events such as open-house events and Terry Fox runs while also hearing of the startup extra-curricular sports and various clubs.

As a district, we are excited to bring to life the new Board’s Strategic Plan, focusing on student success, student and staff wellness, and Truth and Reconciliation. We will continue to grow and learn about the importance of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion as focal points for our work to meet the needs of our learners, staff, and families.

