

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

Wednesday, November 27, 2024, 6:00 PM

BOARD ROOM

395 Wakesiah Avenue

Nanaimo, BC V9R 3K6

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.

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. TRANSFER OF ITEMS TO OPEN MEETING AGENDA

3. ADDITIONS

4. DELETIONS

5. CHANGE IN ORDER

6. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

That the Agenda be approved.

7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

That the minutes from the Regular Board of Education meeting held on October 23, 2024, be adopted.

8. SECTION 72(3) REPORT

That the Section 72(3) Report from the Closed Board of Education meeting on October 23, 2024 and the Special Closed Board meetings on October 30, 2024 and November 5, 2024, be received.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

Education Committee Meeting: December 4, 2024

Business Committee Meeting: December 11, 2024

Board of Education Meeting: December 18, 2024

Schools Closed for Winter Break: December 21 - January 5, 2025

10. PRESENTATIONS

10.1 Zonta Club Nanaimo

9

Re: Human Trafficking Awareness Day

11. CORRESPONDENCE

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

12.1 Business Committee

That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) approve the recommended minor catchment boundary changes as shown below in this Action Sheet.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) amend the policy committee work plan to include the review and update of Policy 2.1, Role of the Board.

12.2 Education Committee

13. SENIOR STAFF REPORTS

13.1 Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer

20

Re: Safe Schools Committee Work Plan

That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) approve the Safe Schools Committee Work Plan for 2024-2025.

Re: Te'Tuxwtun Covenant

That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) give all three readings of the Covenant Bylaw No. 2024/25-1 for a Covenant Bylaw on the District's lands at 505 Howard Avenue, Nanaimo, BC, to the benefit of the City of Nanaimo that commits to the future disposal of a small parcel of land to support the redevelopment of the Te'Tuxwtun project at this Regular Board Meeting, on November 27, 2024.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) adopt the Covenant Bylaw 2024/25-1, on the District's lands at 505 Howard Avenue, Nanaimo, BC, to the benefit of the City of Nanaimo that commits to the future disposal of a small parcel of land to support the redevelopment of the Te'Tuxwtun project.

Read a first time this 27th day of November 2024.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) adopt the Covenant Bylaw 2024/25-1, on the District's lands at 505 Howard Avenue, Nanaimo, BC, to the benefit of the City of Nanaimo that commits to the future disposal of a small parcel of land to support the redevelopment of the Te'Tuxwtun project.

Read a second time this 27th day of November 2024.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) adopt the Covenant Bylaw 2024/25-1, on the District's lands at 505 Howard Avenue, Nanaimo, BC, to the benefit of the City of Nanaimo that commits to the future disposal of a small parcel of land to support the redevelopment of the Te'Tuxwtun project.

Read a third time and adopted, this 27th day of November 2024.

Re: Surplus Reallocation to Support Schools

That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) approve the proposed reallocation of the September 2024 surplus allocation as found in the action sheet below dated, November 27, 2024.

13.4 Robyn Gray, Superintendent

Re: Superintendent's Update

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

15. NEW BUSINESS

15.1 Robyn Gray, Superintendent

Re: Letter of Congratulations

That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) write a letter of congratulations to the new Minister of Education and Child Care, the Honourable Lisa Beare.

16. FOR INFORMATION

16.1 Board Motions Report 42

16.2 Trustee Committee Reports 44

16.3 Trustee Annual Zone Reports 45

17. 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.

18. ADJOURNMENT

That the meeting be adjourned.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT 68
(NANAIMO-LADYSMITH)**

Report of the Closed Board Meeting October 23, 2024

Minutes – Section 72(3) Report

(3) A board must prepare a record containing a general statement as to the nature of the matters discussed and the general nature of the decisions reached at a meeting from which persons other than trustees or officers of the board, or both, were excluded and the record must be open for inspection at all reasonable times by any person, who may make copies and extracts on payment of a fee set by the board.

Trustees

T. Brzovic
T. Harris
L. Lee
L. Pellegrin
G. Keller
C. Morvay
M. Robinson
T. Rokeby

Absent

N. Bailey

General Decisions Made by the Board

- Personnel Matters
- Asset Management

General Matters Discussed by the Board

- Personnel Matters
- Asset Management

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT 68
(NANAIMO-LADYSMITH)**

Report of the Special Closed Board Meeting October 30, 2024

Minutes – Section 72(3) Report

(3) A board must prepare a record containing a general statement as to the nature of the matters discussed and the general nature of the decisions reached at a meeting from which persons other than trustees or officers of the board, or both, were excluded and the record must be open for inspection at all reasonable times by any person, who may make copies and extracts on payment of a fee set by the board.

Trustees

T. Brzovic
N. Bailey
L. Lee
L. Pellegrin
G. Keller
C. Morvay
M. Robinson
T. Rokeby

Absent

T. Harris

General Decisions Made by the Board

- Personnel Matters

General Matters Discussed by the Board

- Personnel Matters

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT 68
(NANAIMO-LADYSMITH)**

Report of the Special Closed Board Meeting November 5, 2024

Minutes – Section 72(3) Report

(3) A board must prepare a record containing a general statement as to the nature of the matters discussed and the general nature of the decisions reached at a meeting from which persons other than trustees or officers of the board, or both, were excluded and the record must be open for inspection at all reasonable times by any person, who may make copies and extracts on payment of a fee set by the board.

Trustees

T. Brzovic

T. Harris

L. Lee

L. Pellegrin

G. Keller

Absent *(Due to Conflict)*

N. Bailey

C. Morvay

M. Robinson

T. Rokeby

General Decisions Made by the Board

- Personnel Matters

General Matters Discussed by the Board

- Personnel Matters

Human Trafficking Awareness Day: February 20, 2025



Organized by Zonta Nanaimo
Authored by: Andrea Paris Advocacy Chair

Summary on Human Trafficking Awareness Day for Board of Education Trustees and Staff

Mission statement: to hold an awareness for grade 8-12 students and adults on human trafficking and sexual exploitation online safety.

Speakers:

- -The practicum Students,
- - Michael Down VIU Prof,
- -The Canadian Center to End Human Trafficking,
- - Children of the street

Topics were:

- Online, safety, what is trafficking: In Depth of Human trafficking, and TCO2

Attendees:

- About 170 Students from all high schools but not from NDSS and LSS,
- 20 school staff and parents,
- 10 Volunteers,
- 8 organizers,
- Zone trustee Chantelle Morvay,
- 2 VIU Practicum students.
- At bastion light up evening ceremony about 25 adults and our MLS Sheila Malcomson and our lovely club members.

Cost of the event was covered by Donations from businesses.

- \$700 for 70 pizzas
- \$300 for signs and business cards
- \$15 for printing flyers
- \$ 250 Buying 25x\$10 gift cards
- 3 Cathy Peters books given to presenters and the school for their help.

Overall, with some minor issues the event was a huge success. We have doubled our goals each year and look forward to continuing to grow. Lessons learned that online and Zoom needs a better connection and triple check pizza order times 😊 Students were engaged and we found that when younger people spoke engagement went up.

Next Steps:

- Our District has encouraged us to open our Z-Club and Golden Z. To this day we have 2 high school students wanting to participate with our group. They are the first students working with student councils to bring more awareness. As data shows, many peers get their friends involved to either recruit and be used. Peers have huge influence and having them empowered will make a difference in bringing awareness.
- Would love to go back **Cedar school next year on Feb 20th, 2025**. It is a Thursday, and we find it work best for Students. Please mark your calendars.
- We are able to attend school councils to help them join for Z-club while offering leadership experiences.
- The **public event will be on Feb 22nd 2025**. Day time event is geared up to gather all service clubs taking any part in HT. The event is aimed to produce a moving forward strategic plan for Nanaimo. This will be a yearlong process for our small group. We need your presents and any support to get organized.
- The light up of the Bastion will be in the evening and observe it from inside at Minnoz Restaurant at Coast Bastion Hotel.
- Practicum students will come at the end of September to start working with us.
- **UBCM days on Sept 18-19th** of September were a huge success. Meet many people and we were heard. As you know Prince George council have taken steps, and I (we) would love to work with you and many groups to have FEB 22 each year marked and used for awareness. Gained the support of many Ministers and their staff as well our Premier Eby.
- Ultimately, we would like to take students with us to the **2026 Zonta international conference in Vancouver**. Looking forward to being able to speak on our success and processes.
- Our young leaders would like to do more speaking and leadership for the coming year. I am thrilled to the moon and back.

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- A new logo was created: KNOW MORE Nanaimo with KnowMoreNanaimo@gmail.com email, cards and signs were created.

Next Year's Focus:

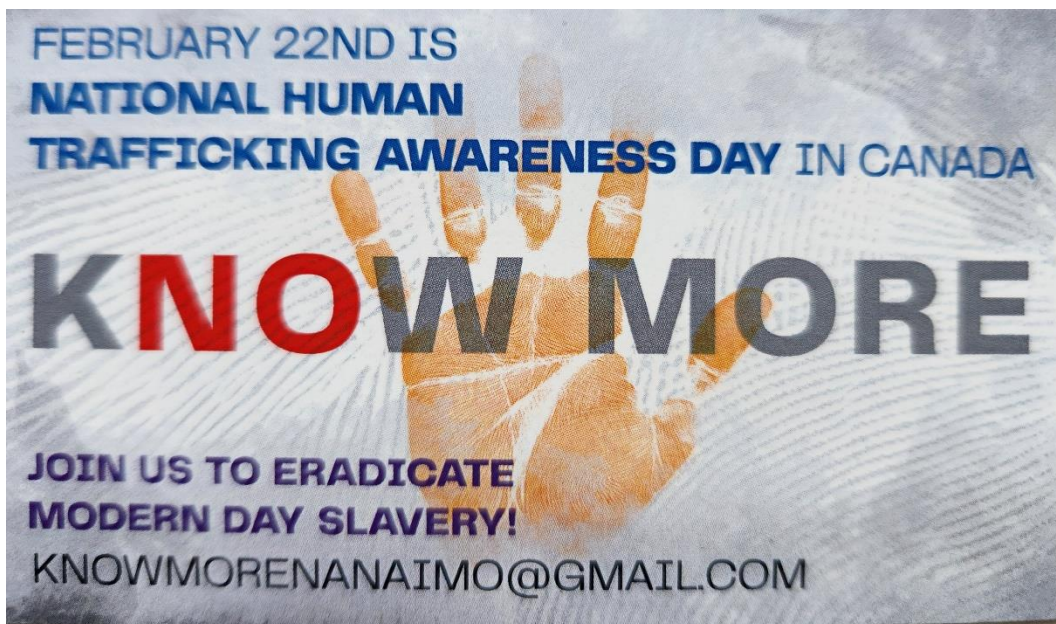
- To increase the awareness about online activities, behaviors, programs respect to Human Trafficking. As there are many forms of it and not everyone knows that.
- To pull as many service clubs together as we can to see how to work together collaboratively.
- To have student councils be aware of the program and offer leadership opportunities.
- To have as College and High school participant as we can.
- Volunteer participation has grown.

HUGE THANK YOU to all the students and staff, organizers, volunteers, and club members who helped to make this event to be so successful. The students were engaged, great presentations with great questions.

You had to be there to feel the energy and see the glowing eyes of interests in the topics and speakers.

Our hearts were full and was totally worth our efforts.





UBCM September 18-19th 2024 with Cathy Peters and our Be Amazing team.
www.bemazingcampaign.org
www.Zonta.org



Great support and direction from the Premier.





Past Pictures





Thank you all for your time and SUPPORT! See you on Feb 20th and 22nd, 2025!

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

DATE: November 27, 2024
TO: Board of Education
FROM: Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer
SUBJECT: Safe Schools Committee Work Plan

Recommendation:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) approve the Safe Schools Committee Work Plan for 2024-2025.

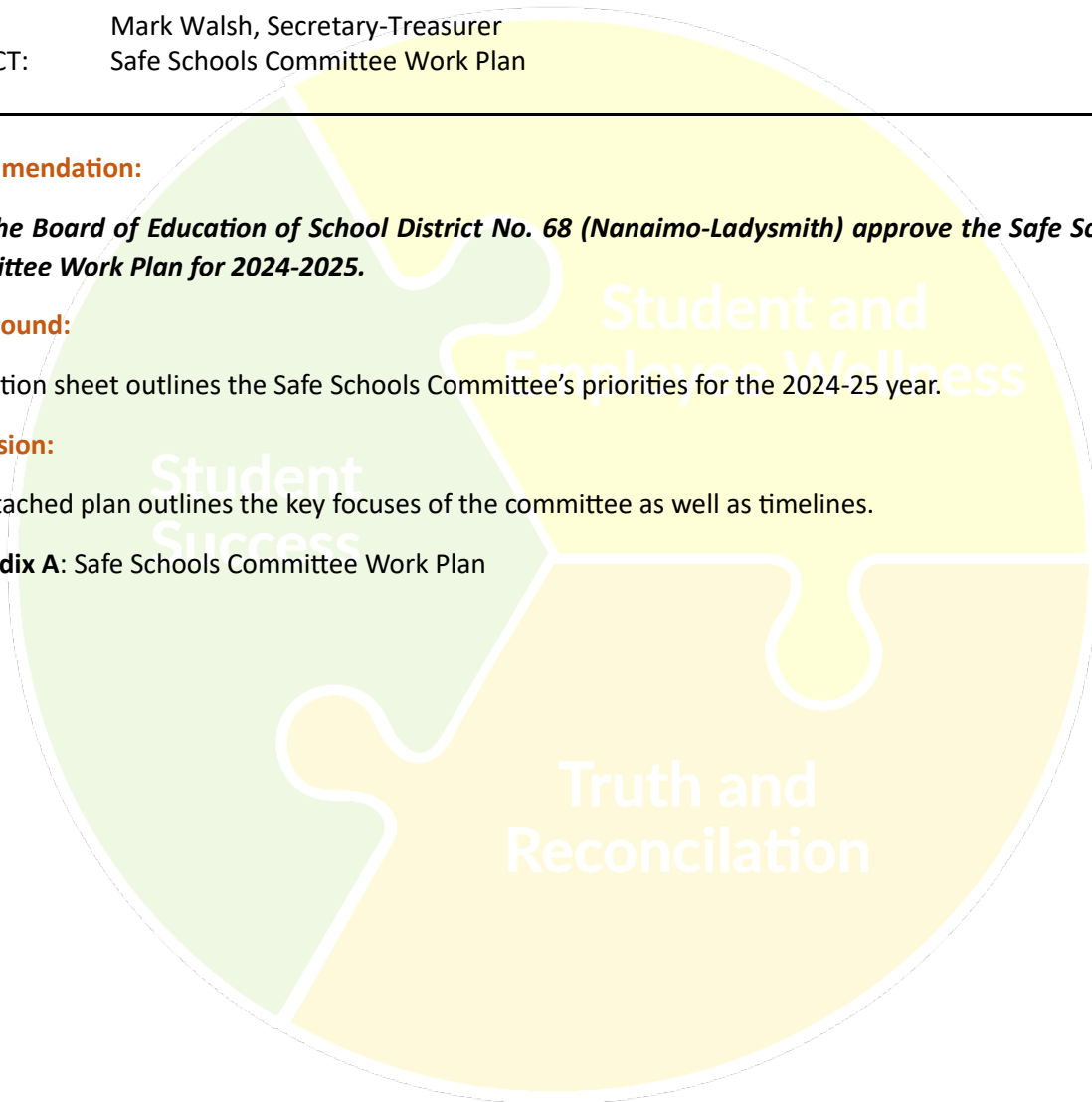
Background:

This action sheet outlines the Safe Schools Committee's priorities for the 2024-25 year.

Discussion:

The attached plan outlines the key focuses of the committee as well as timelines.

Appendix A: Safe Schools Committee Work Plan





Safe Schools Committee Work Plan: 2024/25 School Year

Outline

This year, the Committee has decided to focus its time and resources on researching the following two questions:

1. What are the biggest issues facing student safety in our schools?
2. What are the resource gaps in addressing these safety issues?

To gather this information, we will meet with various groups, including elementary and secondary principals, learning services staff (including the District Principal of Safer Schools & Wellness), students, DPAC representatives, educational assistants (EAs), and others.

Once the Committee has a clear understanding of the most pressing issues and corresponding gaps, it will provide the Board with "actionable recommendations" and "general feedback" to assist in its governance role, as outlined in the Committee's terms of reference.

Steps to Implementation:

Step One: Establish committee membership for the year. Sahara will reach out to members for assigned roles.

Step Two: Schedule participants for information-gathering meetings:

- DPAC
- Elementary Principal/Teacher/EA
- Secondary Principal/Teacher/EA
- Liaison Officers
- Students
- Others, as needed.

Participant groups will be invited to the meetings and will receive advance notice of the meeting's purpose. They also can meet with a co-chair beforehand to prepare.

September

- September 10: Agenda Setting
- September 26: Meeting

Guest:

October

- October 8: Agenda Setting
- October 31: Meeting

Guest:

November

- November 12: Agenda Setting
- November 28: Meeting

Guest:

December

- December 3: Agenda Setting
- December 19: Meeting

Guest:

January

- January 14: Agenda Setting
- January 30: Meeting

Guest:

February

- February 11: Agenda Setting
- February 27: Meeting

Guest:

March

- March 11: Agenda Setting
- March 27: Meeting

Guest:

April

- April 8: Agenda Setting
- April 24: Meeting

Guest:

May

- May 13: Agenda Setting

- May 29: Meeting

Guest:

June

- June 10: Agenda Setting
- June 26: Meeting

Guest:

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

DATE: November 27, 2024
TO: Board of Education
FROM: Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer
SUBJECT: Te'tuxwtun Redevelopment Project

Recommendations

That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) adopts all three readings of the Covenant Bylaw No. 2024/25-1 for a Covenant Bylaw on the District's lands at 505 Howard Avenue, Nanaimo, BC, to the benefit of the City of Nanaimo that commits to the future disposal of a small parcel of land to support the redevelopment of the Te'tuxwtun project at its Regular Board Meeting on November 27, 2024.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) adopt the Covenant Bylaw 2024/25-1, on the District's lands at 505 Howard Avenue, Nanaimo, BC, to the benefit of the City of Nanaimo that commits to the future disposal of a small parcel of land to support the redevelopment of the Te'tuxwtun project.

Background

The Board has previously supported the District's participation in the Te'tuxwtun Redevelopment Project. The project is a partnership with SFN, CON, BC Housing and the Board to develop land at 505 Howard Avenue in Nanaimo. Initially, the plan was to merge the properties of each party into one parcel to develop. Unfortunately, early on it became apparent that the Crown Reverter on our parcel would prevent the merging of the three parcels. However, our parcel is still part of the over project development. The attached action sheet and recommended motions are the last steps the District is required to complete to assist the project in moving forward.

Discussion

The Te'tuxwtun Redevelopment Project is a large scale development that will see the creation of nearly 400 units of housing at 502 Howard (City site), 564 Fifth Avenue (BC housing site), site map is attached as Appendix B. The parties have been working over 5 years on the project and it is ready to proceed. The District's part of the project is associated with rezoning to create a denser educational use than is currently on the property. The initial plan of the District was to create an alternative school site, however, given there are no funds available the zoning would allow for a future learning alternative site, perhaps a high density elementary school site or even employee housing if the Ministry moved in that direction.

Staff are recommended a motion to support the Covenant Bylaw as it is essentially an agreement to dispose of the property in the future vs a bylaw which would support the disposition of the property immediately. There is some risk as in the future the district may be unable to achieve the Disposal Consents required. This risk was pointed out by legal assistance and discussed with city staff. Concerns were exchanged in emails which city staff have indicated they would keep on file. City staff have represented that should the district have difficulty in receiving the disposal consent, after following the covenant agreement, that future city staff would work with the district on acceptable alternatives.

Given this, staff are recommending a motion to support the Covenant Bylaw and relying on the language in the agreement which states : "If the Grantor makes any such applications, it shall use reasonable commercial efforts to do so which will not require the payment of any monies or the commencement of any legal proceedings."

At this time, however, the Bylaw only commits the Board to dispose of a small parcel of the land for highway dedication in the event that we apply to development. No disposition would occur prior to that event and therefore there is no immediate impact to the property. Please note that due to the District's continue participation additional density was able to be applied to the remainder of the project.

As a general project update please see attached a rendering of the design that is underway as part of the package to gain design stage acceptance with the City of Nanaimo. Also attached as Appendix C is a project update – note that the project is in stage 3 of the Rezoning and Development Permit Process, with work on site indicated to begin in 2025/2026.

References

Appendix A: Site Map

Appendix B: Covenant Bylaw





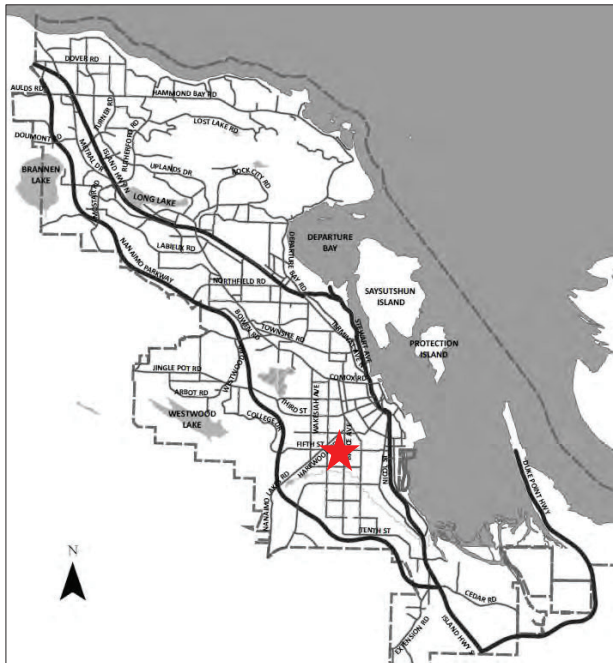




DATE OF MEETING | August 28, 2023

AUTHORED BY | KRISTINE MAYES, PLANNER, CURRENT PLANNING

SUBJECT | **OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN AMENDMENT APPLICATION NO. OCP103 & REZONING APPLICATION NO. RA493 – 564 FIFTH STREET / 502 & 505 HOWARD AVENUE**



Proposal:

To allow a mixed-use development

Current Zoning:

CS1 - Community Service One
PRC3 - Parks, Recreation and Culture Three
R6 - Low Density Residential

Proposed Zoning:

CD12 - Comprehensive Development
District Zone 12

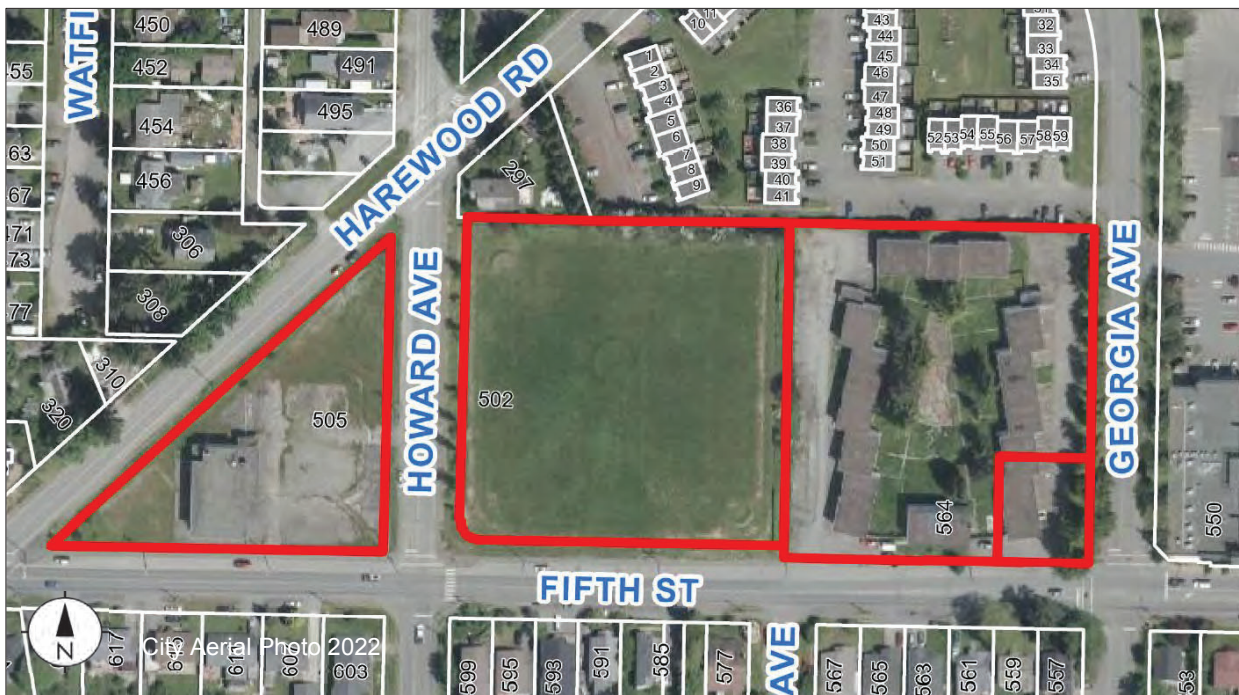
City Plan Land Use Designation:

Mixed-Use Corridor
Parks & Open Spaces

Lot Area:

9,234m² – 564 Fifth Street
9,475m² – 502 Howard Avenue
4,758m² – 505 Howard Avenue
2.35 ha (total lot areas)

RA



**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68 (NANAIMO-LADYSMITH)**

**Covenant Bylaw No. 2024/25 -1
(FORMER Harewood Elementary school site)**

WHEREAS Section 65 (5) of the *School Act* requires that a board disposes of property owned or administered by the board only by bylaw;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to Section 96 (1) of the *School Act*; "land" includes any interest in land, including any right, title or estate in it of any tenure;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to Section 96 (3) of the *School Act* a board may dispose of land or improvements subject to the orders of the Minister;

AND WHEREAS Section 219 of the *Land Title Act* provides, inter alia, that a covenant, whether of a negative or positive nature, may be registered as a charge against the title to the land, in favour of the City, and that the covenant is enforceable against the Grantor and its successors in title;

AND WHEREAS Section 44 of the *Community Charter* provides that the City may enter into an agreement with an owner of land to reserve any part of the land for highway purposes, with such agreement having the same force and effect as a restrictive covenant running with the land and which agreement must be registered in the appropriate Land Title Office as a covenant under section 219 of the *Land Title Act*.

AND WHEREAS the address of the Property is 505 Howard Avenue, Nanaimo, British Columbia V9T 1N5, and the legal description of the Property is:

Parcel Identifier: 008-744-700

Legal Description: Plan VIP630, Section 25, Range 6. Nanaimo Land District, SEC 1

AND WHEREAS As a condition of the City of Nanaimo adopting Bylaw No. 4500.213, associated with rezoning application RA000493, which are required to rezone the Lands to permit the Grantor's proposed development, the District has agreed to the registration of a covenant under Section 219 of the *Land Title Act* against title to the Lands on the terms and conditions set out herein reserving a portion of the Lands for highway purposes.

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith):

- (a) is satisfied that the "SECTION 219 COVENANT AND OPTION TO PURCHASE" will benefit the Board and that the granting of the covenant does not interfere with the Board's use of the Property for educational purposes.
- (b) as a Bylaw that the Board grant the covenant; and
- (c) as a Bylaw that the Secretary-Treasurer be and is hereby authorized, on behalf of the Board, to execute and deliver all documents required to complete the covenant agreement on such terms and conditions as the Secretary-Treasurer may consider advisable as witnessed by the signature of the Secretary-Treasurer.

This bylaw may be cited as School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) **Covenant Bylaw No. 2024/25 -1**

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 27th day of November 2024

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 27th day of November 2024

READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th day of November 2024

Greg Keller, Board Chair

Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer

I HEREBY CERTIFY this to be a true and original copy of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) **Covenant Bylaw No. 2024/25 -1** adopted by the Board the 27th day of November, 2024.

Mark Walsh, Secretary Treasurer

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

DATE: November 27, 2024
TO: Board of Education
FROM: Robyn Gray, Superintendent
SUBJECT: Reallocation to Support Schools

Recommendation

That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) approve the proposed reallocation of the September 2024 surplus allocation as found in the action sheet below dated November 27, 2024.

Background

On September 25, 2024, the Board of Education approved the allocation of surplus dollars from the 2023-24 school year. The action sheet outlining the expenditures is attached. This action sheet is intended to seek the approval of the Board to reallocate a number of these expenditures to meet more immediate school based needs.

Discussion

The action sheet of September 11, 2024, outlines various expenditures intended to support the Board's goals and approved plans (e.g. LRFP, ESAP). However, following discussions with the Interim Superintendent and my own observations and discussions with staff, it is apparent that there are more pressing needs in our schools that call for the reallocation of the limited resources available to the District.

The Board should be aware of three important facts when considering these reallocations:

- a. The funds are one time in nature. This means that next spring, barring additional resources, the allocations will revert to previous levels;
- b. Given the timing of the expenditures the amounts reflect the prorated costs of the supports rather than their full yearly costs. As an example, a 1.0 counsellor costs far in excess of the \$105,000 we have proposed if they were hired on a full year basis; and
- c. The numbers below are approximate costs.

The following expenditures are being proposed:

1. Increased Noon-Hour Supervision - \$100,000

This expenditure will provide additional supervisors to provide break time for EAs. In addition, currently some EAs are supervising the entire playground in addition to supervising individual students. This latter issue presents a safety issue for our schools and creates a significant burden on the EA performing these

duties. We note that some of the additional hours will be assigned to EAs and some of the time will go to supervision aids that we will recruit.

2. Increased Inclusion Support Teacher Time - \$150,000

This expenditure is intended to support the increased complexity and volume of students with disabilities/diverse abilities. The intention is to use the funds to top-up currently existing employees.

3. Additional ELL support at secondary schools - \$25,000

The District has seen significant case load increases at some of our secondary schools due to increased refugees. This support is intended to alleviate this issue with a focus on Wellington.

4. Additional CYFSW support - \$50,000

This support would add an additional CYFSW to NDSS who are currently running at 1.6 FTE for a variety of circumstances.

5. Additional Counselling support - \$105,000

This would add an additional person (1.0 FTE) to support targeted schools with Social Emotional/Mental Health needs that have been identified.

6. Internal EA Certification Program - \$50,000

These funds would support the creation of an internal EA certification program. Currently, our fill rate for EAs is having significant operational and health and wellness impacts on our schools. These funds would support the creation of the program including the curriculum. An additional investment would likely be required in future.

7. Youth Resilience - \$20,000

This funding is intended to bridge a position funded by special purpose funds that expire in March of 2025. In the event funding is extended, these funds would be reallocated at that time.

8. Equity Support - \$30,000

These funds are intended to support focus schools to provide their students the same opportunities as other schools. For instance, bussing for field trips is becoming increasingly expensive as we have increasingly had to use external providers for a variety of reasons.

9. EA Attendance at Meetings - \$110,000

This item is not strictly a reallocation from the surplus. However, it provides clarity that this will be the focus of the allocation.

10. Release Time for Schools - \$30,000

Currently schools receive some funds to provide release time for enrolling teachers to attend IEP and/or Class Review meetings. As we have seen a significant increase in the complexity of students and the number of IEP meetings that need to be scheduled, the funds currently allocated does not meet the need.

The total of the funds is \$670,000. The following funds will be reallocated:

1. \$100,000 for reconciliation. At this time there are no specific initiatives envisioned for these dollars. Further, the Superintendent's budget has a budget for this purpose. Finally, given the new structure of three Assistant Superintendents, increased senior level focus is being put on this goal area.
2. \$65,000 for data initiative. This initiative will continue but discussions are occurring that will involve current existing staff and carving out release time of existing budgets to involve school-based staff.
3. \$150,000 Employee Wellness and Safety. We will still expend dollars on safety training for compliance purposes and the remaining amount will be reallocated. This issue will continue to be a focus, however, the reallocations, including supervision, we believe will have immediate positive wellness impacts.
4. \$100,000 Employee Engagement. This amount remains but we are just specifying that the funds will support EA attendance at staff meetings and/or other appropriate opportunities.
5. \$100,000 District Communications. The Board support for a modest website upgrade will remain. However, Communications will be spending the next year gathering data on its needs for a future funding request.
6. \$150,000 Portable Moves. While the need to move portables continues, the immediate needs at schools are of greater importance.

Finally, it should be noted that we are not recommending using the unrestricted surplus (reserve fund). As the Board is aware, a number of Districts around the province have been surprised by significant unforeseen financial burdens (e.g. accounting errors, over enrollment projections) and our reserve is a very small percentage of our overall budget. Prudence suggests maintaining this reserve at its modest level.

Conclusion

It is quite exciting that the District is in the enviable position of being able to fund additional supports for schools. Further, for the most part these supports can flow almost immediately. I am greatly appreciative of the time and effort our District and school-based staff have taken to contemplate how we are able to provide immediate additional supports to our schools. Finally, I want to express appreciation to our principals and vice-principals, CUPE and NDTA partners who have shared their opinions and concerns in a productive and safe way to improve our system together and meet the Board's goals.



**NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BUSINESS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING
ACTION SHEET**

DATE: September 11, 2024
TO: Business Committee
FROM: Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer
SUBJECT: Surplus Allocation Recommendations with Financial Statement Discussion & Analysis and Audited Financial Statements

Recommendation:

The Business Committee recommends that the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) approve the recommendations contained in this Action Sheet to allocate the unrestricted surplus to support the Board's goals.

Background:

The Board was previously provided an outline of the end of the year surplus of the district. Following initial restrictions associated with contractual commitments, anticipated expenditures (e.g. the by-election) and other carry forward amounts the total unrestricted amount for the district is \$5.5 million. This action sheet outlines staff's recommended expenditures with respect to the funds.

This action sheet should be read in conjunction with the information sheet dated August 28, 2024, presented at the August Board meeting of the same date as well as the Financial Statement Disclosure and Analysis ("FSDA") document in the current agenda.

Discussion:

Local Capital Transfer

As with the 2023-24 school year for the 2024-25 the district did not budget a local capital transfer in the preliminary budget. This is not a regular practice in districts across the province. At the time of the preliminary budget staff were able to anticipate a year end surplus and recommended rather than make cuts to programs that the Board could wait until September to make a local capital transfer.

The current recommendation is to transfer \$3.0 million to local capital (\$2.4 million 2023-24 surplus and \$600k for Rutherford from 2022-23). Specifically, the funds would replenish the local capital balance and support:

1. The completion of equitable access to network infrastructure in our schools.

Rationale (Goal 1):

Prior to Board investment in technology access to network infrastructure our system was inequitable and unreliable. The investment is related to both wired infrastructure as well as access to Wi-Fi. Technology is an important tool in teaching. Our teachers have access to mobile technology (e.g. laptops) for instructional use, as well as access to Chrome books, iPads etc. for student use.

Modern literacy acquisition requires access to digital technologies. Without modernizing our technology, teachers will not be able to deliver digital literacy opportunities for students, and will not be able to utilize a large variety of digital teaching resources. This would impact both the content that is provided, as well as the methods students use to respond to assignments. Additionally, access to technology is critical for students with diverse needs and disabilities to participate fully in their educational program.

2. Refresh and replacement and expansion of aging technology

Rationale (Goal 1):

The District currently provides a lap-top to school-based teaching staff (including P/VPs). As staff expand and devices age replacements are required. Further, staff have identified a gap in our model. Specifically, IT issues and supports school-based technology. However, the Department of Learning Services (DLS) has supported itinerant devices. Unfortunately, DLS has not had a sufficient budget to properly equip these employees. We have shifted the responsibility as of September 2024. However, there is a significant one-time cost and ongoing increased costs for this shift.

Staff are required to have ongoing and timely communication with a variety of community partners (e.g. medical offices, MCFD), who utilize digital methods to communicate. Devices must have functional access to a variety of programs, such as email, video calling, etc. in order to engage fully in their work.

3. Continued Production of Learning Studios

Rationale (Goals 1 and 2):

For a number of years, district staff have worked with students to upgrade aging portables into Learning Studios. The finished products are then transported to schools with capacity issues. These environmentally friendly learning spaces are far superior to aging units and are in high demand in schools. As the District continues to grow additional funds are required to continue the program. In the end, the refurbishments in addition to providing a positive student outcome are cheaper than purchasing new units.

4. Enrollment Growth

Rationale (Goals 1 and 2 and LRFP):

The District is fortunate that we continue to have a few portables to reallocate for space needs with more anticipated to be available following the opening of Rutherford, the reality is that moving a portable or Learning Studio is an incredibly expensive endeavor that only local capital can support.

5. Rutherford

Rationale (Goal 1 and LRFP):

The District approved the transfer of \$600,000 from 2022-23 which is now being transferred into local capital and will be expended in the current year.

6. Capital Contribution

Rationale (LRFP):

The District expects that we will be asked to contribute to Ladysmith Intermediate School (assuming the Davis Road option is supported) and/or NDSS (when approved). Having funds on hand for this purpose highlights the Board's commitment to these projects.

Recommended Expenditures – Operating Fund

1. EA Contingency Increase \$150,000

Rationale (Goal 1 and JEDI):

This total is in addition to the \$150,000 proposed in the memo of August 28. These funds are intended to provide Learning Services flexibility to provide additional supports to students. It is likely in the form of additional staff. However, the Board should be cognizant that increased staffing will result in layoffs in the preliminary budget of 2025-26 as the funds are one-time in nature.

2. Data Initiative Support \$65,000

Rationale (Goal 1):

Given the Board's ambitious Strategic Plan and commitment to the focus on data, staff are targeting temporary one-time support to ensure the correct data tool and training are available to the system. These funds would support either a secondment or a contract employee to assist with this work.

3. Employee Wellness and Safety \$150,000

Rationale (Goal 2 and JEDI):

These funds would support additional safety training and the creation of resources to support staff ensure up to date knowledge of safety requirements. In addition, the funds would support Human Resources in creating wellness initiatives that meet staff needs.

4. Employee Engagement \$100,000

Rationale (Goal 2):

The District's recent employee survey indicate some opportunities for improvement with engaging our employees. The funds would specifically provide for additional opportunities for staff (both district and school based) to have enhanced opportunities to connect with our staff on the Strategic Plan. This could include funds to facilitate support staff attendance at staff meetings and/or targeted engagement.

5. District Communications \$100,000

Rationale (Goal 2 and 3):

Through the District's engagement survey, it became clear that District staff are interested in more and better access to district resources and information. This funding would support the improvement of the district's intranet to support staff.

6. Board Technology \$20,000

Rationale (Commitment to Transparency):

The Board's technology is being upgraded to ensure smoother online meetings for participants and the public.

7. Environmental Upgrades \$40,000

Rationale (Environmental Sustainability):

These funds would support equipment purchases that will enhance the District's waste separation capacity at a number of schools.

8. Portable Moves \$150,00

Rationale (Goal 2 and LRFP):

The District is facing major issues in the timely moving of portables. From inception to permitting to installation moving a portable can take over a year. These funds will support proactive planning at the Departure Bay site (in the event the Rutherford recommendations are approved) to begin the process well in advance.

9. Proactive Maintenance \$150,000

Rationale (LRFP):

The District has a significant maintenance deficit. While the Annual Facilities Grant has increased in recent years we continue to lag behind need. These funds would go to support priority projects and may include enhancements to NDSS while the Board continues to encourage the Ministry of Education and Childcare to replace the school.

10. Truth and Reconciliation \$100 000

Rationale (Goal 3):

These funds would support the continued enhancement of cultural understanding in our school and at the district level. Specifically, targeting opportunities to deepen the understanding of Syeyutsus, providing opportunities for hul'q'umi'num learning, enhancing cultural visibility on school lands and music. Any initiative would be discussed with Leaders for Learning prior to proceeding.

11. Vice-Principal as TTOC \$100,000

Rationale (Goal 2):

These funds would be carried forward to the 2025-26 budget to support the initiative. The initiative sees a school vice-principal not being assigned a classroom but rather acting as a floating TTOC. This allows the VP a better opportunity to get to know all of the classes, and all of the students in the school. Currently we have piloted this program at 4 schools and the program has been successful. These funds would support expansion of the program.

Unallocated Unrestricted Surplus

Finally, staff are recommending leaving \$1,528,991 as unallocated. Please note the VP as TTOC dollars would also be added to this as they would not be used in the current school year.

2023-24 Accumulated Operating Surplus Appropriation Recommendations

Unrestricted Accumulated Operating Surplus Opening Balance	5,503,991
<i>Less Recommended Appropriations to support:</i>	
Local Capital	3,000,000
EA Contingency increase	150,000
Data Initiative	65,000
Employee Wellness and Safety	150,000
Employee Engagement	100,000
District Communications	100,000
Board Technology	20,000
Environmental Upgrades	40,000
Portable moves	150,000
Proactive Maintenance	100,000
Truth and Reconciliation	100,000
Total Recommended Surplus Appropriations	3,975,000
Unrestricted Accumulated Operating Surplus Carrying Balance	1,528,991

Rationale:

Generally, it is prudent to ensure that funds are available in the event of unforeseen events. We note that a number of Districts in the recent past have been subject to major cybersecurity events that resulted in significant funding implications. Further, if the district's enrollment missing projections, there is a major repair issue at a school. Further, an election is imminent, and we do not know the potential impact of any changes of government.

Given these risks and in alignment with Board Policy these funds would remain unallocated.

Summary

As reflected in Note 13 in the districts 2023-24 financial statements, the total Accumulated Operating Surplus is \$11,593,188 of which \$6.089 million is internally restricted, and \$5.5 million is the unrestricted balance.

To provide clarity with regards to the recommended appropriations of the unrestricted balance, if the board approves the recommendations, the following confirms the revised carrying balance of unrestricted operating surplus, which would be available for future operations.

Note 13 Accumulated Surplus	
OPERATING FUND	2023-24
Total Accumulated Operating Surplus	11,593,188
Summary of Accumulated Operating Surplus	
Total Restricted Operating Surplus	6,089,197
Total Recommended Unrestricted Appropriations (to be expensed in 2024-25)	3,975,000
Total Unrestricted Surplus Balance (carried forward for future operations)	1,528,991
Total Accumulated Operating Surplus	11,593,188

Appendix A: Action Sheet dated August 28, 2024

Appendix B: Financial Statement Discussion and Analysis

Appendix C: Audited Financial Statements

Outstanding Regular Board Motions Report – November 2024

Motion	Comments	Assigned	Due Date	Completed
R24/10/23-04	That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) refer the correspondence from D&A Mahony to staff for response.	G. Robinson	November 2024	Yes
R24/10/23-06	That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) refer the correspondence from G. Prouten to staff for response.	G. Robinson	November 2024	Yes
R24/06/26-08	That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) set aside any decision on changing the tagline until after the Strategic Plan is passed by the Board of Education.	Superintendent	Fall 2024	Ongoing
R24/02/23-07	That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) direct staff to create a report with options to gather funds to support the higher cost option for the Ladysmith Intermediate Seismic Upgrade (Davis Road) and report back to the Board for approval.	M. Walsh	Spring 2024	Ongoing
R23/08/30-05	That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) approve the Policy Committee Work Plan for 2023-2024 and add Policy 2.4 Role of Chair and Vice Chair to the Policy Committee work plan; and that following the 2023 annual general meeting of the Board a subcommittee of the Policy Committee be struck, including the current chair and vice chair as well as the newly elected Chair and Vice Chair, to make recommendations for updates on policy 2.4 to the Policy Committee.	M. Walsh/Board Chair	Fall 2023	Ongoing

R22/06/17-11	That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) continue to apply for an expansion at Departure Bay in the 2023-24 capital plan with the intention of replacing portable usage at the school. Such an expansion would not be intended to expand the capacity of the school beyond 400 (the current enrollment of the school) but is intended to remove the portables at the site.	M. Walsh		Ongoing
R20/09/23-17	That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) direct Staff to work with the City of Nanaimo on the draft concept of making NDSS Community Field a medium sized stadium as per the draft City of Nanaimo Stadium Report.	M. Walsh	Fall 2020	Ongoing
R20/06/24-09	That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) refer Inclusion Policy 2.10 to the Policy Advisory Committee for review from an anti-racist perspective that acknowledges and address' the existence of systemic racism and provides the necessary revisions and to provide any recommended changes to the Board for consideration in the fall of 2020.	Superintendent	Fall 2020	Ongoing

Meeting Minutes – October 15th

Present: Board Members – Dan Morris, Kathy Berg, Dhanook Singh

Staff – Crystal Dennison, Executive Director

NLPS – Trustee Leana Pellegrin

Regrets: Lesley France, Dot Neary, Kim Strynadka, Bill Robinson, Toni Wheeler

1. **Call to Order:** 11:35

2. **Approval of Agenda:**

Motion: To approve agenda, as amended, K/Dh/Carried

3. **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion: To approve June 18, 2024 Board Minutes Dh/K/Carried

4. **Reports:**

- **President**
- **Committees**
- **ED**

Motion: to receive reports as presented: K/D/Carried

5. **Review 2024-2025 Calendar** – Crystal presented the 2024-2025 Board calendar. Meetings scheduled monthly on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

6. **Resource Development Committee** – Reviewed recommendation to dissolve the committee. Tabled to next meeting

7. **NLPS** – new Superintendent Robin Grey was hired and in the interim, Piet Langstraat, will be acting Superintendent.

8. **Board Development** – nothing to report

9. **Unfinished Business:** NA

10. **New Business:** NLSF

11. **In camera** – NA

Motion to adjourn: DH/K/Carried

Meeting adjourned at 12:16

Important Dates:

Tuesday December 3 11:00-12:00 Executive Meeting via zoom

Tuesday December 10th TBD In-person AGM and Social

ANNUAL TRUSTEE ZONE REPORT

Trustee Chantelle Morvay	School Year: Dec.2023-Nov.2024
School Names/Zone: CAREER TECHNICAL INSTITUTE – Principal Dave Travers	
<p>Annual Highlights:</p> <p>Dave came on board as Principal in Sept. of 2023 and it's obvious he has worked tirelessly since then to continue to grow the programs that were nurtured by the previous principal Derek Beeston.</p> <p>Dave's ability to make connections with folks around the community and with our partners at VIU and private businesses is evident in the growth in the programs and students' interest in them.</p> <p>What I heard and saw was that while Dave has many different courses and opportunities for students on the go to help set our students up for success in the future, a few that stood out for me were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students in life skills programs and creating a trade sampler that would be accessible including: car detailing, oil/lube changes, culinary, baking etc. With a forward-thinking planning of incorporating hospitality and other solid paths to career choices for those who are interested. 2. Partnership with Island Health in creating a whole innovative, interactive day at the hospital for students to get a better understanding of the diversity of healthcare careers available to them. 3. New Marine Service Technician course run by Quadra Marine and VIU Recreational Vehicle Tech are just a few of the many partnerships happening with private enterprise, VIU and CTC. <p>It's obvious Dave and staff are passionate about students finding their purpose and leveraging that intrinsic motivation to do well in school to move into "life after high school" with confidence and a clear path forward.</p> <p>I am looking forward to what new innovations Dave and the staff come up with to support learners in our school community build their schools for their future.</p>	
School Names/Zone: Island Connect Ed.	
<p>Annual Highlights:</p> <p>This unique Online school is led by Justin Mark and the incredibly caring and dedicated staff that work there.</p> <p>A few big highlights were:</p>	

1. Work BC came with an incredible Job Fair set up for the students towards the end of the school year this year. It included interactive stations for different careers such as Pilot (that had its own flight simulator), Early Childhood Education, Computer Coding and Psychology. It was great to see such a wide range of ages interacting with the various stations.
2. Fridays are always a great time for the students to get together for some Floor hockey and lunch. This is a great way for them to create school community in a system that traditionally can inhibit that growth.
3. Graduation 2024! It's always an honour to speak at the Graduation Ceremonies for those who took a unique school path. I'm always grateful that the students get to close out their K-12 school journey experiencing Patrick Aleck sing and drum the "Equality Song". This year we even had Josh Gillingham serenade us with his guitar and a student played the violin.

The dedicated staff at Island Connect Ed demonstrate exceptional commitment and resilience in their efforts to provide a high-quality education amidst a dynamic and ever-changing student enrollment. Secondary teachers, in particular, go above and beyond by spending one to three days each week teaching at various high schools across the district. Their ability to adapt quickly to shifting demands, while maintaining a strong focus on student success, is truly commendable. Their unwavering dedication and hard work ensure that all students receive the support and education they deserve, even under pressure.

School Names/Zone: Cinnabar Elementary

Annual Highlights:

Under the leadership of Colette Young, the school is dedicated to fostering a strong sense of community. Key highlights include:

1. Cinnabar was chosen for the Indigo Love of Reading Foundation Adopt a School Program and raised over \$5,000!
2. This school uses the Open Parachute program that supports staff in teaching students, and even their families Social Emotional Learning, designating each month with a theme. September: Community, October: Gratitude, November: Respect, December: Honesty/courage, January: Perseverance, February: Kindness, March: Collaboration: Leadership, May: Accountability, June: Inclusion/diversity.
3. The Halloween pumpkin carving competition showcases an impressive level of creativity, with each entry being uniquely crafted. It is clear that students approach this event with great enthusiasm and take the competition very seriously.
4. The PAC is deeply involved and committed to collaborating to create the best school environment for the students.

School Names/Zone: Cedar Secondary Community School

Annual Highlights:

With Theresa Kraeker taking over as Principal last school year and Jim Pascoe as Vice-principal, this small, but mighty high school is a part of a very tight knit community.

Highlights Include:

1. Zonta Club presentation on Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation

Awareness Presentation including:

- Cathay Peters from Be Amazing Campaign,
- Children of the street organization
- Canadian center to end Human Trafficking
- Tagen Marschall Inspirational speaker and Student of VIU
- VIU Professor, Michael Downs.
- Practicum Student Presentation
- Q&A
- Free Pizza!

-The students were engaged and thoughtful in their questions and I'm encouraged that there are more students out there who can help support each other to be safe and see the warning signs.

2. Graduation 2024! I was truly honoured and humbled to have the opportunity to have a 2nd time speaking at the ceremonies to staff, students and their loved ones. The school community had been hit hard with loss and this important event hopefully brought some light back into the community.

2. Halloween Costume Contest: Many students, and staff took dressing up seriously on Halloween and the costume contest was a rousing success with Jim Carrey coming in first.

School Names/Zone: Cedar Elementary School

Annual Highlights:

Cedar Elementary led by Carrie Wood as Principal and Callum Lynch as VP has had an extraordinary year filled with meaningful events, community spirit, and opportunities for learning and celebration.

Some Highlights include:

1. Literacy week: February was an exciting month for Cedar Elementary, with Literacy Spirit Week energizing students and staff from February 12 to 16. This unique celebration combined the joy of reading with school pride, creating a vibrant atmosphere throughout the week. During this time, the Scholastic Book Fair on February 13 and 14 gave students the chance to discover new books while raising funds for the school.

2. Community-building events, including an exciting Art Show in April and a vibrant Talent Show in May, offer students and families the chance to come together and celebrate creativity and talent.
3. Exciting new Initiatives started in the fall to foster connection and school community spirit:
 - a. The school introduced the *Timberwolf of the Month* initiative, celebrating students who go above and beyond in contributing to the school community. Each month, a few students are selected by their teachers and receive a personalized certificate, a treat from Gas N Go, and a spot in the *Timberwolf Hallway of Fame*. The goal is for every student to be recognized at least once throughout the school year. Additionally, Ms. McIntosh and her class were acknowledged for their exceptional work in creating a *Land Acknowledgement*, further showcasing the students' commitment to fostering a positive and inclusive environment. The *Timberwolf Hallway of Fame* provides a visible and encouraging display of student achievements.
 - b. In interesting initiative at the school focuses on mental health and well-being. The school has introduced a special poster for all classrooms that outlines common coping strategies. These posters will also be sent home to encourage families to continue the conversation and reinforce these tools at home. The goal of the initiative is to help the community build healthy ways of managing stress and emotions. The message behind this initiative is clear: "Coping tools are like muscles – the more we practice, the stronger they get." This approach aims to normalize conversations about mental health and provide students with the resources to handle stress effectively. A new feature in the Timberwolf Newsletter is the *Counsellor Corner*, connects with families each week to highlight these mental health and wellness school initiatives and provide helpful tips on topics such as cybersecurity and fostering positive connections at home.

The school is fostering a positive and supportive environment where students can thrive emotionally, socially, and academically, creating a culture that values well-being alongside academic success.

ANNUAL TRUSTEE ZONE REPORT

Trustee Leanne Lee	November 2024
Family of Schools Report	
<p>NDSS Bursting at the seams with students and educators this building is so busy. There are endless opportunities to participate in school clubs and school sports. They have a very effective student council and are leading the district with their voices. They have an annual student voice forum where students from the district join in to discuss leadership opportunities, leadership goals, challenges they face and collaboration opportunities. It's always best to visit on a theme day as the whole school community participates in the fun.</p>	
<p>Forest Park They have created a great outdoor learning space that helps students learn valuable essential skills through hands on learning. They hosted an amazing bioluminescence artwork show that featured art they created from recycled materials, it was truly magical. They have a primary focus on numeracy and creating an environment for teachers and students where numeracy is fun. If you pop by make sure you ask the principal if he has any hockey cards. Better yet, walk around outside with him at recess and see how the kids run up to him to chat and ask about hockey cards.</p> <p>Brechin Vibrant school with passionate educators and energetic students. Heavy focus on literacy with targeted supports for students who need it most. The students are passionate readers who love the library and books. The kids are excited to start participating in school sports with Volleyball being tried out this year. Be sure to stop by on a Thrilling Thursday to check out school wide activities.</p> <p>Ecole Hammond Bay With more space to spread out in this school is loving their new addition. They are participating in Everybody Deserves a Smile again this year creating handmade care packages for those who are living on the street in Nanaimo and Parksville. Theres a heavy focus on physical activity and school sports fostering healthy development of positive attitudes through movement. Blessed with more outdoor space than the average school they spend a lot of time learning in Neck Point Park as outdoor education is key at this school. They had a fun time participating in Manie Musicale in the spring with students voting on their favourite songs and they seeing how their peers voted as well.</p> <p>Gabriola This small but mighty school is heavily rooted in community involvement. The students spend a lot of time outdoors in the school's forest. They are always over at the community gardens learning about plants. They grew their own starter veggies this year and got to take them home to their gardens to replant and harvest during the season. They are able to have lessons in the Makers Space at the recycling centre, learning all about textiles. They've mastered the breakfast café allowing students to have a healthy breakfast before school starts. They are always experimenting with foods to make use of what they receive, while allowing kids to try new foods. Dec 7th is their annual Craft Fair and they hope you can attend.</p>	

ANNUAL TRUSTEE ZONE REPORT

Trustee MARK ROBINSON	November 2024
School Names/Zone: DOVER BAY FAMILY OF SCHOOLS	
Dover Bay Secondary	
<p>Annual Highlights:</p> <p>The year started great for Dover Bay, seeing the Dolphins winning the 3A Boys BC Provincial Championships. Several initiatives were held at Dover Bay to bring greater awareness to gender-based violence. Students honoured Red Dress Day by learning about missing and murdered girls and women in Canada. Dover Bay dedicated the “B” Wing section of the school to hold lessons on Red Dress Day and why we have this day of reflection. Also, the Moosehide Campaign rolled into Dover Bay, which is a grassroots initiative designed to directly engage men and boys in ending violence towards women and children. For the 2nd year in a row, it was my honour and pleasure to be on hand to congratulate graduating Dover Bay students at the Nanaimo Conference Centre.</p> <p>McGirr Elementary</p> <p>It was a pleasure to visit McGirr Elementary and meet with Principal Mr. Dhillon, a dedicated and hardworking leader. During my visit, I had the opportunity to engage with students and staff, observing classes in action. One highlight was being invited to participate in a Kindergarten music lesson, where I enjoyed watching the children engage in music and dance under the enthusiastic guidance of Mr. Bamford. It was truly heartwarming to see the students so excited and active, and many staff joining in as well! "Puff the Magic Dragon" was a highlight, and it was done both musically and with integrated movements.</p> <p>I also had the privilege of reading the book <i>"We Are Definitely Human"</i> to two Kindergarten classes in the library. Afterward, I was pleased to donate the book to the school library as a gift. A special mention goes to Ms. Dawson, the librarian, for her exceptional work in coordinating the guest reader program.</p> <p>Overall, the staff at McGirr appeared more upbeat and energized than in times before. There is a strong sense of optimism and enthusiasm as the school community looks forward to what lies ahead under the new leadership at the district level.</p>	
<p>Seaview Elementary</p> <p>I recently spent some time at Seaview Elementary and had the opportunity to meet the new principal, Ms. Watford. She has truly been a superhero for Seaview, earning the respect and admiration of staff, parents, and students alike. I was pleased to meet with staff and learn about the many successes and challenges the school has faced.</p> <p>One of the highlights of my visit was participating in a fantastic and interactive lesson led by Mr. Newton, which showcased the creativity and dedication of Seaview’s teachers. I also encouraged other trustees to visit Seaview, and it was heartwarming to see many of them attend, demonstrating our collective support for the school.</p> <p>The success of Seaview is a direct result of the unwavering teamwork and commitment of the staff, who continue to demonstrate resilience and positivity. With new leadership in place at the district</p>	

level, staff are excited and optimistic about the future and the positive changes that seem to be coming on the horizon.

Frank J. Ney Elementary

I had the pleasure of meeting the new principal, Tanya Whiting, who by all accounts has truly excelled in her new role heading up Frank J. Ney. Tanya has received high praise from staff for her hard work, professionalism, and ability to manage multiple challenges with grace. She is clearly the glue that holds the school together.

During my visit, I had the opportunity to attend their excellent Remembrance Day ceremony, where students spoke proudly and represented their school with honor. I also met with staff and listened to their concerns, which were addressed with optimism as there is a newfound sense of careful confidence that our new Superintendent will work towards positive changes.

Tanya, along with the Parent Advisory Council (PAC), shared some fascinating financial literacy lessons that are both age-appropriate and engaging for students. It's evident that Frank J. Ney is in great hands, and there is excitement about what the future holds.

Randerson Ridge Elementary

I had the pleasure of meeting the wonderful new vice-principal, Ms. Barritt-Flatt, early in the school year. Randerson Ridge is looking even better with new signage and a freshly painted parking lot. However, I've heard feedback from parents regarding the overcrowding at the school, and the upcoming opening of Rutherford Elementary next year is eagerly anticipated to help alleviate some of this pressure.

Randerson Ridge also hosted its popular annual fundraising craft fair at Dover Bay Secondary, which was a huge success. This event continues to be a cherished tradition in the community, drawing large crowds and creating a vibrant atmosphere of support and involvement.

Pleasant Valley Elementary

Earlier this year, Pleasant Valley Elementary applied for a grant through the B.C. Alliance for Health Living Society's Active Communities Grant Program to build a new bike rack and shelter and was successful. This initiative was aimed at accommodating the growing number of students and staff who cycle to school. The funding goes to the City of Nanaimo as part of their active transportation plan and it is the city's public works department which made the presentation to city council on Feb 21st of this year, stating their intentions for Pleasant Valley. According to the City of Nanaimo's public works department, they were slated to be installed in June of this year. As it turns out, the racks have yet to be installed and it is a mystery as to when they will land at the school. I have recently reached out with some inquiries, so stay tuned. Staff and students alike are waiting with anticipation to see them become part of Seaview's growing infrastructure.

Seaview Elementary continues to host a range of community events, such as the Buxom Bird Plus Sized Thrift Market and Zumba classes, demonstrating the school's strong commitment to community involvement. Furthermore, the NDSS Lacrosse Academy supported Pleasant Valley's Coast Salish Learning Day, fostering a collaborative learning experience for students.

Rutherford Elementary

After completing public consultation, the school board has made some adjustments to the boundary catchments to reflect the feedback received from the community. Rutherford Elementary is set to open next September, and the surrounding schools are eagerly anticipating the positive impact it will have in alleviating overcrowding in the area. The school is already a beacon of excitement and hope for the local community.

International Education

One of the biggest challenges currently facing our International Education program is the need for more homestay families. This component is critical to the program's success, as it allows our international students to experience life in our community. Hosting an international student offers many rewards, not only in terms of cultural exchange but also in broadening the educational experiences of both the students and their families. We encourage more families to consider opening their homes to these students, as the benefits are immense for all involved.

ANNUAL TRUSTEE ZONE REPORT

Trustee Naomi Bailey

November 2024

Ecole North Oyster:

The focus for this year has been celebrating.

North Oyster did a “Welcome Back” BBQ at the start of this school year and it was the first one. It was a community endeavour, with the local fire department preparing the food as well as food contributed by a local grocery store.

A school dance at Hallow’een was another celebration the school organized. Ecole North Oyster PAC were integral to the making the event happen.

Performances at the school are bilingual, incorporating French and English together, and it is quite beautiful.

The school has participated in volleyball, basketball, track and field, cross country and ultimate frisbee.

The location of the school is beautiful, surrounded by forests in a rural setting. Some teachers utilize this location by incorporating outdoor education into their teaching.

Ladysmith Intermediate:

The school is dealing with a front door renovation. The awning that covers the walkway to the front door is weak from mold and is rotten. If there was a snow fall, there was a good chance the awning would collapse. The school’s structure is very old. We need to obtain the funding for a new build in Ladysmith to replace this school. Further, they have had issues with their playground equipment, with a swing and monkey bars toppling over.

Theatre and music are thriving at Ladysmith Intermediate. They have had Hallowe’en Theatre and will be doing a Christmas theatre performance of the Polar Express commencing the week of December 16th.

Teachers offer so many extra-curricular activities for students. Lego class, art, intermural sports and drumming club are some of the activities offered.

There will be a trades workshop for students, and this will be assisted by the school district.

Ladysmith Secondary School

The school has been very busy with many sports and extra-curricular activities. There is significant community support in the form of coaches as there were many students who wanted to play volleyball and basketball this year. The counselling team is offering a craft club for students during lunch time. Practicum students who are completing their master’s degree in counselling are also running a girl’s group for interested students. There will be a boy’s group possibly starting soon. The Improv team did it again! They made it to the Nationals for the fifth year in a row and have

placed no less than sixth every year. Last year, they got into the Nationals through “back door”, having one shot to compete against other teams as they did not make it in through the regular route. They then had two weeks to find approximately \$20,000 dollars to get to Ottawa. The Ladysmith community came through!

The gender-neutral bathrooms are a success. The principal tells me that the design is helpful in making students feel safe. There has been no vandalism as well.

For Orange Shirt Day, the Primary School, Intermediate School and the High School participated in a celebration of singing and prayer outside on the soccer field. It was a beautiful day and so wonderful to see indigenous and nonindigenous students singing in Hulq’u minum together. Classes were given instructions on how to weave and each student has woven a square that will eventually be put together to create a massive blanket.

The previous school year focussed on anti-racism. There were six weeks of videos and activities. The principal felt it was successful but believe this is a topic that will always generate more work.

Ladysmith Primary:

Ladysmith Primary has 295 students from K-3. It is a unique school in our district. The school is active in sports with the grade three’s participating in track and field and cross country. The school has a choir consisting of 80 students which is incredible.

As well, the school offers a “Make or Space Program” where students can have the opportunity to create and build using a variety of different materials such as lego, boxes and wood. Students are given a task and then they try to complete it. This provides opportunities for using your creative attributes, critical thinking skills and problem solving.

Finally, some teachers have signed up to learn about UFLI, which is a phonetics program that is becoming widespread across the district. This is to help target literacy, a strategic goal as well as provide teachers with the right training.

ANNUAL TRUSTEE ZONE REPORT

Trustee Tom Rokeby

November 2024

2024 was another year of growth for the Barsby family of schools. Modular expansion is on its way to move Chase River students out of portables. Daycares are onsite at Chase River and at Georgia Ave, The Barsby Bulldogs played their first home season on a regulation turf field, and the school itself will soon be renovated for a new universal washroom facility. I've enjoyed my time this past year at Bayview enjoying the magic of their Gift Gala gift store, sharing ice cream cones with the students and staff at Park Ave elementary, and spaghetti dinner with Georgia Ave families at their open house. What a wonderfully active zone, thank you staff and PACs for all your extra time and energy on these community events. Its is truly appreciated.

This year, the Barsby Family of Schools was also reminded that our graduates do amazing things. One of my favourite parts of being a teacher was getting a preview on the leaders of tomorrow. I want to bring four such graduates to your attention, two you may well know, and two you may not. The entire country rejoiced this past summer as John Barsby graduate Ethan Katzberg heaved the hammer to a gold medal at the Olympics. Years of commitment to his sport paid off, and the school district is grateful for Ethan spending time inspiring students at John Barsby Community School and allowing us all to celebrate together as a City at the Rotary Bowl. Ethan with the Canada flag doing a lap surrounding by hundreds of SD68 elementary students was an amazing sight.

In the fall of this year, the British Columbia provincial election saw former John Barsby valedictorian George Anderson on the ballot in the new riding of Nanaimo-Lantzville. The Park Ave alumnus won over the voters and will now represent the riding, and the spirit of Harewood, in the British Columbia Legislature in Victoria. George has already started to visit School District 68 public schools in his new role as Member of the Legislative Assembly (M.L.A.) hoping to inspire the next generation of leaders.

Our amazing graduates don't always make headlines, but they do make a difference. Another Park Ave./ John Barsby graduate, Dr Patricia Caddy, has dedicated years of study and professional practice to save lives by battling addiction. Her groundbreaking work in the use of naloxone has helped other doctors properly diagnose patients and been published in the British Columbia Journal of Medicine. However Dr Caddy is also an advocate for people suffering through the worst public health crisis in our provinces history, and I encourage you to read her Editorial in the

Sept 11th edition of the province titled “We Have all been Wounded by BC's Overdose Crisis”.

Finally, the work to revitalize the hulqu'minum language has long been a passion for Bayview/Quum Quum/John Barsby graduate Talela Manson. Talela has been speaking hulqu'minum with her grandfather Elder Gary Manson and her uncle and SD68 language instuctor Adam Manson. The work of this amazing family has helped many local Snuneymuxw mustimuxw recover their language, and welcomed settlers to appreciate the beauty and power of the original language of these lands.

So this week when the Junior Varsity Bulldogs play in the provincial championships, or when the kids take the stage at the Georgia Ave Holiday Concert, you never know who you're watching. Our kids are amazing.

Hy cep qa to our amazing teachers, staff and administrators for giving our kids the best of life chances.

ANNUAL TRUSTEE ZONE REPORT

Trustee Leana Pellegrin

November 2024

Annual Highlights:

Cilaire elementary

179 students

Principal, Lisa Frey

Secretary Nancy Wood

Cilaire is such a fun school with a unique multiple fields one of which backs onto a waterfall, what a rich environment for learning. Between the beautiful saltwater tank of local sea life in the hall. One of a kind views and kind sense of community. Last December there was a really fun holiday havoc craft making night for families. Last month I helped a class of kindergartners plant an apple tree at the Woodlands garden. What a beautiful thing to witness the awe and wonder of each excited learner and the power of team work and curiosity. One of the classes is working on a theme of being strategic. The animal symbol for this is the raccoon who is so good at problem-solving, cleverness and adaptability. There's a winter concert on December 12.

Departure Bay elementary

406 students

Principal, Larry Dean; Vice Principal Margaret Westaway

Secretary Anne Stacey

Departure Bay is a full school with lots of different languages and diversity. with frequent trips to the beautiful stillup (Departure Bay beach) makes this a very unique school. A few teachers organized a work party at wardropper park. They had 34 volunteers to help clean up and fill a big disposal bin. There's a small planting party in October where students were working together with VIU horticultural students to help the park. The fun fair in May was a huge success. I was so lucky to be at the cakewalk table and enjoy and enjoy the family excitement of a super fun evening. The RDN added an extra bath to accommodate Departure base students. It leaves country club at 2:30 and arrives at the school at 2:35. It is the number 20 and it's not on the online schedule but has been a huge help.

Rock City Elementary

325 students

Principal: Mike Lundine

Vice principal Shaun Weighill

Secretary Laura Healy

The Rock city Tigers always bring so much joy within the school community. There was an amazing spring dance. There are many clubs, languages and deep learning. One of my favorite things to do at rock city is to read so I go in in a little table and chairs outside a classroom and take turns reading with different learners, a couple of weeks ago there was a beautiful lab helping kids with reading time.

Syuwéñct

338 students

Principal Trish Armour

Secretary Bev Lundine

Ms. Armour a new principal this September. This school has clubs, galore Pokémon choir music, rainbow river Rubik's cube club to name a few. The learners at syuwénct have a lot of passion for keeping the neighborhood clean and the marsh clear of garbage. These students are stewards of the land and it starts young. What a beautiful thing. The late great Joel Good's Bentwood box is in the lobby of this amazing school. December 19 is winter craft night and the 20th is PJ day. I was able to join two classes on a walk in the trails behind the school and see the magic of the woods and the students knowledge on local plants and their passion for protecting them.

Uplands Park Elementary
323 students
Principal Mike Ingalls
Secretary, Tammy Rovanzouin

Uplands elementary is a fun and busy school community. there is a fantastic breakfast program that is very popular by all. There are many clubs, languages, and supportive energy throughout the building. I got to join some classes for reading and helping out. The stations in the kindergarten class are absolutely incredible. The students and I even did some line dancing. there was an incredible speaker that came to the school to do a presentation on Seawolves all were in awe. The new playground was installed earlier this year and is being enjoyed by many.

Wellington secondary
1100 students
Principal Andrea Davidson
Vice Principals Stacy Marusic, Neil Pinkerton
Secretary, Patricia Lindsay

Wellington has been blessed with a lot of good news this year, including the much awaited cafeteria which the school didn't have for many years. There was the announcement of the new modular classrooms that will be added right away. Beau Wagner has been working with the students of Wellington to make a canoe. The students have been involved in all of the processes, including cutting down the tree and digging weaving the bark and strips of cedar. but it was a cultural powerhouse and it's so nice to see these students lighting up with this heartfelt project embracing culture to the fullest. The principal always interviews the grade 12 at the beginning of the school year and then later implement their ideas and suggestions as best as possible into the following school year with an amazing practice

TRUSTEE ZONE REPORT

Trustee Tania Brzovic	Date: November 27, 2024	
<p>It has been a privilege to be the trustee zone rep for part of the NDSS zone. I have been extremely impressed by the commitment of the staff to serving our students. I have seen many great initiatives from the PACs. These schools all demonstrate a strong sense of community & school spirit.</p>		
<p>Mountain View</p> <p>This year the school is working towards the same goals as 2023-2024, as they align with the updated strategic plan. They are focussed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -increasing opportunities for learning & student leadership in environmental stewardship and sustainable practices. They use place-based learning strategies & outdoor educational experience where possible. I had the opportunity to spend some time with the environmental leadership group over the past 2 years & they inspired me with their ideas & their commitment. -Continue to grow in their understanding of Truth & reconciliation, and to integrate indigenous knowledge into both student & staff's learning. They continue to work to implement the Syeyutsus Reconciliation Framework, and to advocate for land based and language focused learning initiatives, while also continuing to foster a deeper sense of belonging for all students. -Continue to refine instructional & assessment practices for each learner & staff member. Provide ongoing collaborative opportunities for collective learning and enhance early intervention & learning support initiatives. <p>The PAC is very active & is working hard to fundraise to support phase two of their playground project. They are grateful for the work of the facilities department in helping them get questions answered so the project can move forward. Some of those fundraisers included a successful fall fair and a raffle for Taylor Swift tickets.</p>		
<p>Fairview</p> <p>I only made it into Fairview a few times this year, but the times I was there were exciting. I attended the Entrepreneurial Fair and I was extremely impressed by the initiative and the professionalism of the students. They all had terrific, high-quality products for sale & they had clearly thought through their marketing. The energy in the gym was palpable. Principal Haack & staff have created a culture that gives all kids a chance to be involved. They have activities every day at lunch for students who don't always find the playground a great environment or just need a break. These range from games day to crafts. There are times when it would be beneficial to have more adult support for these activities. The other thing I love about what happens at Fairview is that Ms. Haack has all Grade 7 students fill out a survey at the start of the year and then they have an interview with her, and together they find opportunities for the students to take on leadership roles in the school.</p>		
<p>Ecole Quarterway</p> <p>I attended the Open House at Quarterway this year and it was a terrific evening. The original plan had been to have an outdoor event, but the weather had other ideas. The staff quickly</p>		

adapted, and the event was held indoors. Their volunteers braved the rain to ensure that we all had hotdogs, and they set up the gym for the students to get some of their energy out. While it was a little crowded & loud, it was impressive to see how quickly they pivoted, and it truly was great energy to start the Open House, which was well attended. More recently, on November 16, the PAC put on a Pancake Breakfast at Branch 256 Legion (across the street from the school) and held a craft fair the same day at the school itself. I did not make it into the craft fair, but I did assist with greeting at the breakfast, and it was well attended, to the point that there was a wait for tables at first, because until 10 am the group only had use of half the hall. They handled the situation with aplomb & everyone seemed to enjoy the morning.

Quarterway is also providing excellent leadership & learning opportunities for their students. They have a group of grade 7 students who get together to plan and deliver the monthly assembly. I have seen one & they do an excellent job,

The Equity song is being taught in every classroom, with each division singing & drumming weekly. The song is sung to start and end each of the monthly assemblies. Hul'qumi'num is also being practiced during the morning announcements.

To help foster a safe environment in the school, the school is using restorative justice and restitution to help students reflect on their actions. Classrooms also use talking circles to teach communication skills, create a sense of safety and belonging and build a sense of a team environment within the classroom and the school.

Other areas of focus are: sustainability, creativity, and literacy. A notable example of a sustainability practice is a project they did to sew bags from hand towels to reduce brown paper bag usage. They are exploring the real word application of educational technology, which is both creative and a means of expanding literacy in general, and particularly related to media literacy.

There are some new things happening in the library that are neat. Students are learning the basics of podcasting to support second language acquisition. They purchased a Cricut machine & will explore ADST with classes.

Ecole Pauline Haarer

November 8th was a school based professional development day. Our staff spent the day at Dufferin. We had a tour, presentation and explored the collection of the learning library in the morning; and then participated in a presentation with Carolyn Roberts, UBC Faculty of Education Indigenous Teacher, about de-colonizing education in the afternoon.

I would encourage everyone to read the school goals document that Principal Bohm has shared on the school district website. It's quite detailed & I've had trouble summarizing it in my own words. It is very clear that the school is embracing the goals of the strategic plan and is working in alignment with it.

The school will be doing Carnival in February and I am excited to go & see it!