

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT 68
EDUCATION COMMITTEEMEETING
AGENDA

Wednesday, December 4, 2024, 6:00 PM

BOARD ROOM

395 Wakesiah Avenue

Nanaimo, BC V9R 3K6

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 November 6, 2024, be approved.

7. PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Georgia Avenue Community School Student Presentation (Accompanied by Pauline Taekema and Principal, Shauna Coey)

- 7.2 Pleasant Valley Student Presentation (Accompanied by Sophia Francescutti and Principal, Sandra Shahi)

8. SENIOR STAFF REPORTS

- 8.1 Robyn Gray, Superintendent

6

Re: Presentation on the Board Goal: Truth & Reconciliation

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**

November 6, 2024

Trustees	C. Morvay, Chair N. Bailey L. Lee L. Pellegrin M. Robinson T. Rokeby T. Harris
Absent	G. Keller, T. Brzovic
Staff	P. Langstraat, Interim Superintendent L. Tait, Deputy Superintendent K. Matthews, Manager Admin. Services
Representatives	NDTA Representative: Chris Perrier-Evely NSAA Representative: Lindsey Watford

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. The Chair acknowledged that November is Indigenous Disability Awareness month.

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions.

3. DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no deletions.

4. CHANGE IN ORDER

There was no change in order.

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

E24/11/06-01

IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Robinson

IT WAS SECONDED BY Trustee Bailey

That the Agenda be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

E24/11/06-02

That the minutes from the Education Committee meeting held on October 2, 2024, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. PRESENTATIONS

There were none.

8. SENIOR STAFF REPORTS

8.1 Laura Tait, Deputy Superintendent

Presentation on the Board's Goal of Student & Employee Wellness.

Objective: Increase the number of students who feel welcome, safe and have a sense of belonging in their school.

School presentations by: Dover Bay Secondary and Seaview Elementary

Kirsten Funke-Robinson presented on the district's continuum of supports designed to improve student's mental health. The Committee also received presentations from school staff at Dover Bay Secondary and Seaview Elementary on how these strategies are used at the school level.

8.2 Laura Tait, Deputy Superintendent

Re: Student Learning Survey & Ministry of Education and Child Care Data Site

Laura Tait presented on the recent Ministry of Education and Child Care's Student Learning Survey results. Laura also provided the public link so that the committee and public can view the results on the Ministry's website. An information sheet is attached to the agenda.

9. CORRESPONDENCE REFERRED FROM THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

There was none.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

11. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

12. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions this evening.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

E24/11/06-03

IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Robinson

IT WAS SECONDED BY Trustee Harris

That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING
INFORMATION SHEET

DATE: December 4, 2024
TO: Education Committee
FROM: Laura Tait, Assistant Superintendent
SUBJECT: Syeyutsus Ways of Being/Principles

Background

The new [Ministerial Order on Indigenous Education Councils - Bill 40](#), mandates the establishment of Indigenous Education Councils to honor and integrate the diverse languages, cultures, traditions, and histories of local First Nations. These councils are to play a pivotal role in advising on the inclusion of Indigenous worldviews and perspectives within the education system. The Syeyutsus Reconciliation Framework and the Strategic Plan reflect this mandate by embracing the values of *walking together* as a pathway to learning and collaboration that balances the teachings of the land with contemporary educational goals, ensuring an inclusive and culturally responsive approach for all.

Further, under the Strategic Plan goal area of Truth & Reconciliation and the Objective to increase awareness of the Syeyutsus Reconciliation Framework, the Syeyutsus Ways of Being/Principles have been created as way of growing our collective understanding of Coast Salish Language and Culture, fostering a shared understanding of the rich heritage of the Stz'uminus, Snuneymuxw, and Snaw Naw As Peoples.

Syeyutsus (*walking together*) is a hul'q'umi'num expression for "walking in two worlds": living and honouring the teachings of the land and First Peoples, while navigating the ever-changing complexities of today's world and society. In today's context Syeyutsus suggests we strive to find balance between the traditional way of living and the contemporary lifestyle.

A professional learning committee of dedicated educators was formed several years ago to further this work across the district. The Nacu Mat Tatulut [*learning together*] (NmT) Professional Learning Committee is comprised of: Teachers, NDTA Executive, Principals/Vice, CUPE Executive, VIU, retired teachers, District staff and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers.

This committee is a close-knit group that is passionate about education and has created/facilitated many learning opportunities and supports across the district. A few examples are: Curriculum Implementation Days X 2, Learning Framework that received input across the district around learning priorities (prior to a District Strategic Plan), Summer Book Clubs, Professional Learning Lens (guide to effective professional learning), Committee Charter (inclusive of a vision, mission, values and goals), teacher mentorship, Syeyutsus Ways of Being/Principles. Most important, however are the long-time relationships that have been fostered amongst the many partner groups.

In the 2019/20 school year, the Syeyutsus Family (Board) asked for assistance from NmT to help embed the Syeyutsus Reconciliation Framework across the system. To accomplish this task (post-Covid) NmT engaged in their own deeper learning by participating in a number of cultural/decolonizing experiences. In the 2023/24 year, NmT completed the Syeyutsus Ways of Being/Principles as a way of addressing the request. This work was completed under the guidance of three Knowledge Keepers: Lawrence Mitchell, George Seymour and Ted Cadwallader.

Discussion

The Syeyutsus Reconciliation Framework (Strategic Plan/Policy) is composed of themes, values and teachings of Indigenous Peoples. In an effort to bring life to these, within our NLPS community, the Syeyutsus Ways of Being/Principles were created.

In 2006/07 the [First Peoples Principles of Learning](#) (FPPL) were articulated by Indigenous Elders, scholars and knowledge keepers to guide the development of the curriculum and teaching of the English First Peoples course created by the BC Ministry of Education and First Nations Education Steering Committee. They represent an attempt to identify common elements in the varied teaching and learning approaches that prevail within particular First Nations societies (FNESC.ca). Since that time, they have been greatly referenced and built on, across the province. The goal with the Syeyutsus Ways of Being/Principles was to embrace the direction of the FPPL and contextualize this approach to our local Nations.

shkw'am'kw'um's tu syeyutsus – **Our Ways of Being Together** (attached) are five concepts that are deeply connected to the land, language and cultures of the Coast Salish Peoples. They provide a starting point for learning from another worldview or through a different lens. These five concepts are intended to be universally accessible; they are not specific to education. In this way, any and all members of the NLPS community can access and learn from them, both adults and students. They can have a positive impact on organizational culture overall.

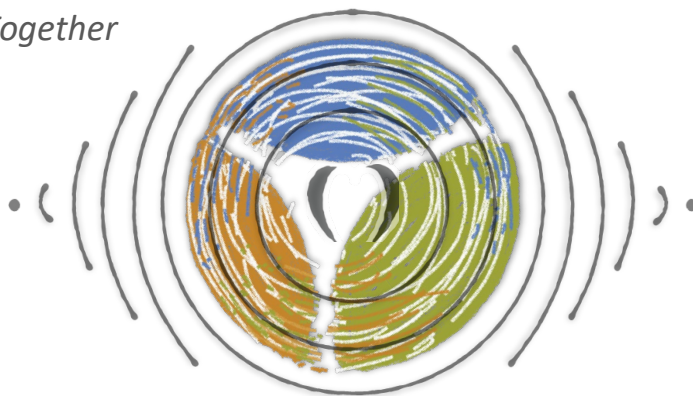
Moving forward, the intention is to work with teachers to create Syeyutsus Teaching and Learning Principles that will be informed by these original five concepts.

Appendix A: Our Ways of Being together

shkw'am'kw'um's tu syeyutsus

is a way of saying:

Our Ways of Being Together



shilhukw' is a way of saying *connected*

- Holistic, connected, interconnected.
- Belonging to something greater than ourselves.
- A whole-self approach that integrates all aspects of a person's being to achieve well-being, balance and fulfillment.
- We all need to feel seen, heard & valued.
- Being part of a larger whole comes with responsibilities and honours connectedness.
- When we belong, we share the responsibilities of caretaking and upholding values.
- When we feel part of something we thrive.
- Individuals are multifaceted and our mental, physical, emotional and social dimensions are interconnected.
- We are all related to one another as well as to the land, all aspects of nature, past/present/future.

shhw'a'luqw'a' is a way of saying *relatives*

- We are all family.
- We are all connected, related and interdependent with one another.
- We are accountable to our relationships.
- Healthy relationships help us to flourish.
- Relationality and kinship.
- We are related to one another as well as to the land, all aspects of nature, past/present/future.

ts'its'uwatul is a way of saying *to help and to support each other*

- Equity.
- Each person getting what they need to succeed.
- We honour and recognize the gifts each person brings.
- We support that each person may do things a bit differently.
- We understand that we are all on our own learning journey.
- Personalization and contextualization.
- Looking for strengths in those around us and working hard to see what they need.
- Recognizing the diversity and dignity of Indigenous peoples and ensuring fairness by addressing historical systemic barriers.
- Deeply rooted in respect, reciprocity and the interconnectedness of all life.

xe'xe' tumuhw is a way of saying *sacred earth*

- Land is central to everything.
- Our responsibility is to nurture a reciprocal relationship with the earth, which carries the teachings of the ancestors.
- The land is our first teacher.
- Everything we need to be well, comes from the land.
- When the land speaks in this territory, the land speaks hul'q'umi'num.
- We take care of the land and the land takes care of us.
- We are related to one another as well as to the land, all aspects of nature, past/present/future.

'uy'shqwaluwun is a way of saying good heart and good mind

- Integrity, respect, balance.
- Healthy mindset.
- Showing up in a good way, with good intentions.
- We approach things with both our hearts and our minds.
- Heart: kindness, compassion, empathy, care and sincerity in one's intentions and actions.
- Mind: clarity, wisdom and thoughtfulness in one's intentions and actions.
- Self-awareness & self-reflection.
- Children are the reason for being; we must show up for them, in a good way.