

# LONG RANGE FACILITIES PLAN

2021-2031

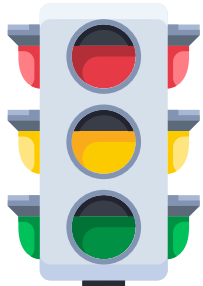
**Monitoring  
our Progress**



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## MONITORING OUR PROGRESS

In the Spring of 2021 the Board of Education adopted the Long Range Facilities Plan entitled “Addressing Growth and Safety 2021-2031” (the “LRFP”). The LRFP is ambitious in scope and incorporates issues associated with capacity and growth, seismic safety, the environment and reconciliation. In order to monitor the LRFP’s progress a Long Range Facilities Plan Advisory Committee has been created.

This report is intended to provide a brief overview of how we are doing. The report has six metrics clearly indicated by the graphics next to each recommendation along with a brief description of progress to date. The metrics are as follows:



**Red Light** – The red light signifies that the District has made no demonstrable progress on a recommendation. This indicates the need for a focus in the following school year to begin progress.



**Yield** – The yield sign indicates that the District has purposefully delayed progress on a recommendation.



**Yellow Light** – The yellow light indicates that the District has begun work on a recommendation but has not made significant progress.



**Green Light** – The green light means the District is actively implementing a recommendation.



**U Turn** – The turn around sign indicates that the Board may wish to review maintaining a recommendation as it is not required or does not align with District priorities.



**Arrivals**

**Arrival** – The arrival sign indicates that the District has fully implemented the recommendation.

### ***Recommendation 1***

**Alleviate medium and long-term capacity issues by working through the LRFP Advisory Committee to consider expanding existing school(s), opening a new school(s) and/or re-opening school(s).**



**GREEN LIGHT**

The District has made significant progress on this recommendation. It has made submissions for expansion to the Ministry of Education as well as begun consultation in the [North End of Nanaimo](#) on a number of options to alleviate capacity. Further, the District is nearly ready to begin a similar consultation in Ladysmith.

### ***Recommendation 2***

**Institute a School Site Acquisition Charge (SSAC).**



**ARRIVAL**

NLPS has now instituted a school site acquisition charge in all parts of the District. Development funds will have begun to flow by the end of May 2022.

### ***Recommendation 3***

**Apply to the Crown for a grant(s) of land if located in future growth areas.**



**YIELD**

The District has looked at a number of potential crown grants but at this time with the focus on the North End consultation, followed by Ladysmith, a crown grant is not likely to be pursued in the short term. Although we note that there are areas west of Pleasant Valley that may be worth exploration.

### ***Recommendation 4***

**Design and Cost Permanent Annexes Built with Portables.**



**YIELD**

Currently, the District is focused on permanent space in the North End and Ladysmith. Further, in the event that the District is supported for a replacement of NDSS the Board will likely be required to contribute money to the project. Given this demand the costs of a permanent annex are likely beyond the Board's means. In future, such a project may be desirable but given the current situation it is not a priority.

### ***Recommendation 5***

**The LRFP Advisory Committee will identify schools with immediate and medium-term capacity issues for expansion.**



**GREEN LIGHT**

The District is prioritizing additional capacity in the North End and alleviating capacity issues in the Ladysmith area. Our capital plan reflects this priority.

### ***Recommendation 6***

**Proactively acquire additional lands using local capital, school site acquisition dollars and/or Ministry Capital to support the expansion schools.**



**GREEN LIGHT**

The Board has allocated funding from its 2020-21 surplus to proactively acquire lands at a site or sites projected to have significant growth. No specific properties have been publicly noted to protect the District's financial interests.

### ***Recommendation 7***

**Review catchments and families of schools to determine whether there is any possibility of moving enrolment from schools at or over capacity to schools under or slated to be under capacity.**



GREEN LIGHT

NLPS has begun the discussion of catchment changes as well as the review of school families. However, the discussions are preliminary in nature and we anticipate that further discussions will begin in earnest in fall of 2022 with significant opportunity for public feedback prior to making changes. We do note that the catchment changes are inevitable in the North End if a school were to open or become dual track.

### ***Recommendation 8***

**Reviewing programming including French Immersion, International Education and Academies to determine implications for capacity issues.**



GREEN LIGHT

Similar to Recommendation 7 discussions have begun in the context of the North End consultation. However, NLPS anticipates further discussions as our secondary schools continue to grow. Specifically, NDSS has quickly become over capacity and a solution will need to be determined for the 2023-24 school year.

### ***Recommendation 9***

**Prioritize the Upgrade of NDSS.**



GREEN LIGHT

The Board of Education has placed NDSS as its number 1 priority focusing on the condition, seismic safety and environmental

footprint of the facility ([NDSS Information Package](#)). The Board has an advocacy plan and will continue to apply respectful pressure until a new facility has been approved.

### ***Recommendation 10***

**Align seismic upgrades with other priorities in the facilities plan including environmental upgrades and expansions.**



GREEN LIGHT

At both Cilaire and Pleasant Valley Elementary, the District has incorporated upgrades from various funding sources including enhanced HVAC, accessibility, building envelope and general infrastructure issues as well as play spaces into the projects. Similar planning is currently underway for Ladysmith Intermediate.

### ***Recommendation 11***

**Explore partnerships with external parties, including BC Housing, while planning seismic upgrades to allow for additional locally sourced amenities.**



YELLOW LIGHT

While there has been limited progress on this recommendation, NLPS is actively promoting this opportunity with our partners including the concept of [Neighbourhood Learning Centres](#) associated with new builds or seismic rebuilds.

### ***Recommendation 12***

**Use “Swing Space” when doing seismic upgrades to limit the disruption of an educational program of a school.**



GREEN LIGHT

Currently both Cilaire and Pleasant Valley are located at “Swing Spaces” and NLPS appreciates the patience of our staff and families through the upgrades. Both swing schools, by design, are able to support future seismic projects. We note the possibility of Rutherford re-opening limiting access for the purpose of a Swing Space.

### ***Recommendation 13***

**Ensure upgrades are distributed across jurisdictional boundaries of NLPS.**



GREEN LIGHT

The District’s capital planning (major, minor and Annual Facilities Grant) have achieved this recommendation. Environmental upgrades at Cedar Elementary traffic safety at École North Oyster Elementary seismic priority in Ladysmith and childcare at Seaview Elementary all indicate a commitment to ensuring upgrades across the District.

### ***Recommendation 14***

**Complete HVAC Upgrade Program to ensure modern health and safety in all facilities.**



ARRIVAL

The District has upgraded all of our facilities with mechanical HVAC except Ladysmith Intermediate School. We have received approval for Ladysmith Intermediate School and are in the process of planning whether the upgrade will happen immediately or be timed with the result of our seismic upgrade.

### ***Recommendation 15***

**Ensure that rental rates for facilities, including childcare, operate on a cost recovery basis at minimum.**



GREEN LIGHT

The District has consulted with our community partners and created rates that will support the ongoing operation and maintenance of childcare at our sites for years to come. Further, the Board has advocated to the Ministry of Education for ongoing funds to maintain these facilities. If the Board is successful the savings will be passed on to providers. The District has not yet reviewed general user rates to ensure cost recovery.

### ***Recommendation 16***

**Advocate for additional Annual Facilities Grant (AFG) funding.**



GREEN LIGHT

[The Board, through the British Columbia School Trustees Association has advocated on this matter.](#)

### ***Recommendation 17***

**Lower GHG emissions through the acquisition of electric buses and other vehicles for the NLPS fleet.**



GREEN LIGHT

The District has four electric buses and approved for an additional three. It is expected to have all seven operational in the 22/23 school year. Seven electric buses representing 33% of in service buses. The move to electric has been faster than anticipated with the support of the Board and the Ministry of Education.

### ***Recommendation 18***

**Review alternate funding sources for immediate environmental upgrades outside of the Ministry of Education processes.**



The District continues to work with BC Hydro, and other agencies on pilots and funded initiatives for various projects (continuous optimization, white fleet electrification, low carbon electrification, EV adoption, etc.). Funding through Association of School Transportation Services of BC and CleanBC contributes to the funding of EV buses. The District continues to be aware of and consider other opportunities for funding including low interest loans and grants as energy savings programs are considered and approved.

### ***Recommendation 19***

**That the Board of Education encourage government to make electricity as cost effective for school districts as natural gas.**



Our current Energy Manager Program with BC Hydro will now include LCE (low carbon electrification) targets along with the traditional demand targets (i.e. kwh savings). This signifies that BC Hydro is committing to Low Carbon Electrification which will assist the district in meeting CleanBC targets. Further Hydro has increased its support for the Energy Manager Program recognizing its importance towards electrification.

### ***Recommendation 20***

**Incorporate the expansion of outdoor learning spaces and schools gardens into NLPS's Annual Facilities Grant and/or local capital planning.**



The Board invested significant dollars in the expansion of school garden and outdoor learning spaces in the fall of 2021, and the infrastructure is being planned with installations started and continuing in the Spring/Summer of 2022. In addition, the International Student Program is supporting the expansion of outdoor education opportunities throughout the District.

### ***Recommendation 21***

**Create an active transportation plan for staff and students and ensure that walkable neighborhoods are considered when reviewing catchments.**



District staff continue to work on the District's Active School Travel ("AST") program from a number of perspectives including:

- ▶ Revisiting previously completed plans at schools as student traffic issues present themselves
- ▶ Creation of new AST plans (Uplands in 2021/22), planning for future project priorities with local authorities
- ▶ Creation of and piloting a TIER one AST program for schools to access to assist with creating a school based AST culture
- ▶ Training internal staff to prepare to facilitate future AST programs
- ▶ Working with City of Nanaimo to utilize the collaborative work to date in other jurisdictions
- ▶ Working with relevant authorities on improvements to the conspicuousness of school zones to assist drivers in safe practices

In addition, the Environmental Committee has recommended the review of AP 426 – Modes of Transportation to attempt to encourage sustainable and safe transportation options for employees.

### ***Recommendation 22***

**Partner to bring municipal and regional infrastructure onto sites (e.g. turf fields, childcare, community centres).**



GREEN LIGHT

Currently, the Board has funded \$500k to support a joint turf field at John Barsby in partnership with the City of Nanaimo which will begin construction very soon. There are also other initiatives with the City of Nanaimo. In Ladysmith the closed Davis Road facility is licensed to the Town for arts purposes. In the event that the District replaces Ladysmith Intermediate School we are hopeful for a Neighborhood Learning Centre.

### ***Recommendation 23***

**Continue our work with Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN) at Te'tuxwtun and Qwam Qwum Stuwixwulh childcare. Expand to other opportunities with SFN and our other land and community based First Nations partners.**



GREEN LIGHT

Currently, we are in the planning stage to build childcare at Quam Qwum Stuwixwulh Community School. Further, the former Woodbank Elementary is home to a variety of SFN initiatives. At John Barsby, Tillicum Lelum operates a childcare facility. Through our Leaders for Learning group the District is constantly seeking additional partnership opportunities.

### ***Recommendation 24***

**Partner with Community Agencies and other Groups to enhance opportunities for our students and the broader community.**



GREEN LIGHT

While COVID did limit some access to our facilities, NLPS continues to partner with a variety of community services organizations. One new example will be the Woodlands Farm which will bring a farmer onto the land who will grow food for market but also allow access to classes to learn. The District also partners with the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation to provide space for their programming.

### ***Recommendation 25***

**Create a District Childcare Strategy.**



GREEN LIGHT

While the District has not yet began the drafting of a specific plan, the District's administrative procedure has been updated and staff is drafting a business case to provide a pilot Before and After School Care Program to be delivered to the Board in the fall. In addition, childcare has now been incorporated into the Ministry of Education and we are hopeful for additional direction in the near future.

### ***Recommendation 26***

**Maintain fee simple ownership of all closed sites and consider leasing closed school sites not needed for the foreseeable future to support local capital or the upgrade of the site.**



GREEN LIGHT

Recently, the District concluded a 25 year lease with the RDN for the South Wellington site that will see the RDN upgrade the facility in exchange for the lease.

### ***Recommendation 27***

**Consider the disposition on a long-term or permanent basis of sites not required for educational purposes and which are too small for future school use.**





The District has not actively pursued this recommendation. Further, given the need for additional land in many areas of the District this recommendation creates confusion. While there may be a need to dispose of land at some point (e.g. to financially support a new NDSS) the recommendation is unnecessary as a strategy.

### ***Recommendation 28***

**Consider the disposition on a long-term or permanent basis of portions of active sites that are excess to the immediate and long-term needs of NLPS to support local initiatives.**



Similar to Recommendation 27, the District has not actively pursued this recommendation. Further, given the need for additional land in many areas of the District this recommendation creates confusion. While there may be a need to dispose of land at some point (e.g. to financially support a new NDSS) the recommendation is unnecessary as a strategy.

### ***Recommendation 29***

**When applicable, review contemplated legislated changes with respect to accessibility and pursue an accessibility audit that reflects current legislation.**



While the District is awaiting the outcome and guidance of the provincial accessibility legislation, it has struck an ad-hoc committee comprised of members of the Department of Learning Services, Facilities, and the School Aged Therapy team contracted through the Child Development Centre. This group has developed a tool for

an accessibility gap analysis which will be undertaken beginning in September 2022. DLS and Facilities have also refined internal processes for accessibility requests (e.g. ramps and safety fencing at schools) to ensure an efficient response when specific requests are received. These initiatives have been designed to align with interim guidance issued by the Government, and will inform the work of the more formal accessibility committee when it is created in the fall.

### ***Recommendation 30***

**Develop funding streams for short and medium-term accessibility requirements as identified in internal and/or external audits through allocating operating, AFG, local capital and Ministry funding dollars as required.**



The District has continued to actively invest yearly annual facilities grant dollars in accessibility improvements. Further, we have taken advantage of major capital projects such as the seismic at Cilaire and Pleasant Valley Elementary to make improvements in accessibility.

### ***Recommendation 31***

**Continue investments in the Access to Technology Plan (Wi-Fi infrastructure upgrade).**



The Board has continued to financially support Wi-Fi upgrades and District staff have continued to deliver. Our secondary schools are complete and overall 45% of our District has been completed or is underway. Dependent on funding the upgrade should be complete by the end of the 23/24 school year (2 more school years).



### ***Recommendation 32***

**That when upgrading our facilities, NLPS commit to upgrades that align with modern ways of teaching and learning, including considering flexible spaces and a cross-curricular focus.**



YELLOW LIGHT

To date the District has not had the opportunity to make major changes to a facility through a rebuild or a new school. Opportunities presented by space project additions such as Dover Bay Secondary and École Hammond Bay Elementary expansions do include considerations from planning flexible teachings spaces that meet current and future educational needs. We do note, however, that the investment in outdoor learning reflects a commitment to the Board's vision of aligning our facilities with our ways of learning.

### ***Recommendation 33***

**Create policy and procedure to ensure that staff is more active in influencing local and regional planning.**



ARRIVAL

On April 2022 Board meeting the Board passed  
2.16 Accumulated Operating Surplus (Reserves) Policy.

### ***Recommendation 34***

**Create a Long Range Facilities Plan Advisory Committee.**



ARRIVAL

On May 19, 2021 the Board created the Long Range Facilities Plan Advisory Committee to monitor the LRFP and the Committee has been active in reviewing progress since that time.

# RECOMMENDATIONS UPDATE



# SUCCESS FOR ALL!



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