

NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PUBLIC MEETING

ACTION SHEET

DATE: July 6, 2022  
TO: Board of Education  
FROM: Scott Saywell, Superintendent  
SUBJECT: Coal Tye Name Change

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**Recommendation:**

*That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) approve the name change of Coal Tye Elementary School to “syuwén'ct”.*

**Background:**

On June 1, 2022, the Board of Education passed the following motion:

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

Feedback was open until June 30, 2022 with significant public input.

This action sheet outlines the feedback as well as provides for a recommended next step.

**Consultation Feedback:**

Information on the consultation was posted on the district's community engagement [webpage](#) during the period of June 1 to June 30, 2022.

Information on the community engagement was:

- Emailed to all district staff via district email
- Emailed to all families via School Messenger platform
- Posted on weekly district news
- Shared on social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram)

The community provided feedback in two ways:

1. *Email* sent to [consultation@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:consultation@sd68.bc.ca)
2. *Online survey*

**Consultation results**

- Eight emails
- 708 online survey respondents

**Participant demographics**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
District employee	26.95%	190
District student	1.28%	9
District family member	56.03%	395
General community member	14.04%	99
Other	1.70%	12
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>705</b>

**Survey results**

**Do you approve of naming the school syuwén'ct?**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	51.50%	361
No	48.50%	340
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>701</b>

**Discussion:**

There was significant support for the change of name as presented. In fact, over 50% of respondents were supportive of the change.

Staff note that there were a number of concerns raised with respect to the pronunciation of the proposed name.

Generally, given the support of the community, support of Snuneymuxw First Nation and the fact that the change is in line with the Board’s Syeyutsus Learning Framework, staff continue to recommend the change of name.

Staff do not anticipate significant cost associated with the replacement of school items (e.g. sports uniforms, stamps, stationary, etc.) Further, the change to the signage will be relatively affordable. Finally, changes to district templates etc. will require some effort given the “Anuks”. Overall costs will be in the \$10,000 range.

**Next Steps**

The ad hoc Committee will work together to create a plan outlining how the change will be implemented.

In the event that the Board proceeds with the name change, signage will be updated and staff will continue to provide opportunities to understand the pronunciation of the school and are confident that with time (particularly with our students) the name will serve our community well and is a positive step towards reconciliation.