

NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETING

INFORMATION SHEET

DATE: September 14, 2022
TO: Business Committee
FROM: Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer
SUBJECT: Elementary Resources Allocation

Background

On September 29, 2021, the Board passed the following motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) allocate \$2,000 to each elementary school for classroom resources and that any of these funds unspent as at June 30, 2022 be restricted and returned to the school for future resource allocations.

These elementary resource allocations were also included the allocation of 2020/21 unrestricted surplus that was approved on September 29, 2021.

\$56,000 – Elementary Resource Allocation – These funds (representing \$2,000 per school) are in response to our survey of administrators about resource needs at the school level. Our intention would be to place these funds in schools, allow them to carryforward unused amounts for one year and determine the level of usage of the funds to see if additional funds are required or a potential increase in the general allocation to school may serve the same purpose as this resource allocation. We also note that it is important that the resources should be purchased with the Board's sustainability goals in mind. (Goal 1)

This Information Sheet is intended to outline the impact of the resources and provide a recommendation with respect to next steps.

Discussion

2021/22 Elementary Resource Allocation (from Accumulated Operating Surplus)

School	Budget	Expense	Budget Available
Bayview Elementary	2,000	682	1,318
Brechin Elementary	2,000	1,852	148
Cedar Elementary	2,000	-	2,000
Chase River Elementary	2,000	1,960	40
Cinnabar Valley Elementary	2,000	1,753	247
Cilaire Elementary	2,000	1,474	526
Coal Tyee Elementary	2,000	1,626	374
Departure Bay Elementary	2,000	555	1,445
Fairview Elementary	2,000	1,066	934
Forest Park Elementary	2,000	1,838	162
Frank J Ney Elementary	2,000	2,050	(50)
Gabriola Elementary	2,000	1,613	387
Georgia Avenue Elementary	2,000	1,382	618
Hammond Bay Elementary	2,000	-	2,000
Ladysmith Intermediate	2,000	1,781	219
Ladysmith Primary	2,000	544	1,456
Mountain View Elementary	2,000	2,020	(20)
McGirr Elementary	2,000	1,300	700
North Oyster Elementary	2,000	2,000	-
Park Avenue Elementary	2,000	381	1,619
Pauline Haarer Elementary	2,000	1,180	820
Pleasant Valley Elementary	2,000	2,001	(1)
Qwam Qwum Stuwixwulh Community	2,000	1,934	66
Quarterway Elementary	2,000	-	2,000
Randerson Ridge	2,000	2,189	(189)
Rock City Elementary	2,000	1,820	180
Seaview Elementary	2,000	1,941	59
Uplands Park Elementary	2,000	3,101	(1,101)
Total	56,000	40,043	15,957

It should be noted that some of the schools showing zero expenditures do not mean that resources were not purchased but rather they were coded to a different account. Further, given the funds were intended to carry forward schools may have an intention to purchase resources in the coming year.

The impact of the resource funds is difficult to ascertain at this point. We have continued to see many schools with remaining balances at the end of the school year that could be used on resources and additional resources appear unnecessary. Further, it is not completely clear that all teachers may have been aware of the available resources and each school may have made expenditure determinations in differing ways. The District was careful to share the intent of the funds with schools but not place specific restrictions on expenditures which could risk creating an administrative burden far in excess of the benefits of the funds.

We note that this report does not contain any anecdotal data from teachers which may be helpful if the Board were interested in continuing to monitor the issue.

However, at this time staff is not recommending adding to the fund or continuing it beyond the carry forwards for 2022-23. Schools (for the most part) continue to underspend their allocations. This likely reflects the continuation of COVID, however, this trend should be reviewed in a year in which schools can access external activities.

Below is the amount of school-based end of year surplus from 2012 to now. However, it should be noted that elementary schools typically finish the year with significantly lower balances than secondary schools:

NLPS - School Supplies

See note below							
June-22	June-21	June-20	June-19	June-18	June-17	June-16	June-15
134,367	189,061	276,500	330,830	373,920	320,167	294,777	222,990

* 2021/22 added Aug 23, 2022 so pending approval by the Board/Auditors

Staff also note that there are increasing concerns about the impact of inflation. This issue may be one for the Board to address as a priority in the 2023-24 budget.

