

NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC MEETING

ACTION SHEET

DATE: July 6, 2022
TO: Board of Education
FROM: Scott Saywell, Superintendent
SUBJECT: NDSS Community Field Naming

Recommendation:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) approve the naming of the NDSS Community Field to “q’unq’inuqwstuxw”.

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 the NDSS Community Field to “q’unq’inuqwstuxw”.

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 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
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
TOTAL		705

Survey results**Do you approve of naming the artificial turf field behind NDSS q'unq'inuqwstuxw?**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Yes	45.66%	321
▼ No	54.34%	382
TOTAL		703

Discussion:

There is significant support for the change of name as presented. However, we note that slightly less than 50% of the respondents were in favour. In reviewing the feedback, it appears that a number of respondents thought that the entire school was being contemplated for renaming, which is not the case.

Further, many of the concerns are related to the pronunciation and the complexity of learning how to say it properly. Generally, very few of the comments were completely against the name change.

While acknowledging that there are concerns, staff continue to recommend the change. Not only does the renaming have the support of Snuneymuxw First Nation and the City of Nanaimo, it does have the support of the school and a great deal of the respondents. Furthermore, the change is in line with the Board's Syeyutsus Learning Framework.

We note that the costs of the name change are relatively minor with minor signage changes required and will be less than \$10,000.

Next Steps

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 field and are confident that with time (particularly with our students) the name will serve our community well and is a positive step towards reconciliation.

Appendices:

Appendix A: Consultation Feedback