

NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BUSINESS COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING

INFORMATION SHEET

DATE: October 12, 2022
TO: Business Committee
FROM: Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer
SUBJECT: Student and Family Affordability Fund

Background

The Ministry of Education and Child Care recently announced the “Student and Family Affordability Fund”. Our District’s allocation is \$1,458,182. This Information Sheet outlines the purposes of the funds, the process by which the District has determined how they will be allocated and the specific anticipated allocation.

Discussion

Purpose

The purpose of the fund is to support families feeling the impact of inflation. The idea is that schools are often in the best position to understand the needs of local families and are also in the best position to quickly provide support. The funds can be used to support the purpose or provision of food, waiving of fees (grad etc.), provision of supplies or materials to parents, pay for field trips etc. The funds are not intended to directly offset the inflationary pressures on schools (e.g. consumables etc.). The funds are required to be expended in the current fiscal year.

Local Process

The District has formed a working group to determine the allocation of the funds. The working group includes senior staff, representatives from CUPE, NDTA an elementary and secondary school principal, DPAC and the CAO of Snuneymuxw First Nation. Leaders for Learning was also consulted, and their feedback was brought to the working group. Members of the committee also met with the Nanaimo Ladysmith Schools Foundation (NLSF). The working group agreed that equity was fundamental in the determination of the allocation. In addition, it was recognized that the administrative burden on schools should be minimized. Notably, the funds are not intended to be spent on staffing. Leaders for Learning provided a list of considerations for funds which were considered in the allocation.

Allocation

The allocation will be as follows:

1. \$800,000 to schools, on the basis of \$50 per headcount, with a minimum of \$10,000. These funds will support schools providing food, supplies and other resource supports to families with needs. School may wish to work with NLSF for bulk food purchases. See attached Appendix A for School Allocations.
2. \$100,000 to NLSF to support their current programming including bulk purchase of foods, supplies for students and other initiatives that meet the requirements of the fund; and
3. \$558,182 will be held in reserve and the working group will meet on a regular basis (likely monthly) to ensure that funds are being spent and to address any gaps that are noted by our schools, Leaders for Learning and other stakeholders.

The working group was at consensus to the above noted allocation.

Appendix A: Allocation to Schools