



NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC MEETING

INFORMATION SHEET

DATE: October 12, 2022
TO: Business Committee
FROM: Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer
Dale Burgos, Executive Director Communication, Privacy & Engagement
SUBJECT: Engagement Feedback – Ladysmith and North Oyster Capacity

Background

Last Spring the Board approved that staff begin a consultation with the Ladysmith and École North Oyster Communities regarding the future of elementary education in the region to address seismic and capacity issues in light of Ministry support for the upgrading (and potential replacement) of Ladysmith Intermediate.

This memo outlines the results of that consultation and provides next steps.

Discussion

Engagement

The consultation period began on June 27. The community had until August 31, 2022 to provide feedback by participating in three ways:

- Online through ThoughtExchange
- Emailing consultation@sd68.bc.ca
- Virtual open house (Teams): Tuesday, September 20, 2022 5 p.m.

Timeline

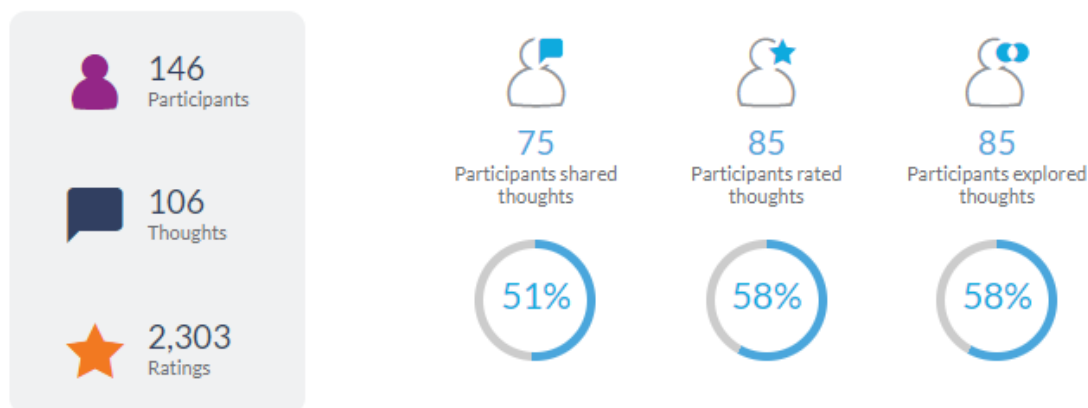
- Monday, June 27, 2022
 - Email to families
 - District News
 - Social media posts
- Monday, July 25, 2022
 - Reminder email to staff and families
 - Social media posts

- Monday, August 29, 2022
 - Reminder email to staff and families
 - Social media reminder
- Tuesday, September 13, 2022
 - Virtual open house announcement (email to staff, families and social posts)
 - Reminders sent September 20, 2022

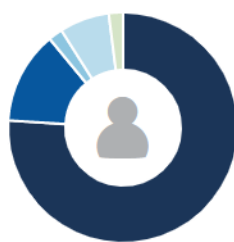
The big question:

Given the projected increase of students in the Ladysmith and North Oyster areas, which of these scenarios do you think the school district should focus on and why?

Results



– Understanding that you may identify with more than one of the following roles. Please select the role you identify most closely with for the purposes of this exchange.



%		Answer
76%	(108)	A parent or caregiver of a student in the district
13%	(19)	An employee of the district
0%	(0)	A student of the district
2%	(2)	A member of a partner group (E.g. Indigenous, city/town council, business owner)
7%	(10)	A member of the general community
2%	(3)	Other

– Does your child attend one of the South End schools listed in the introduction?



%		Answer
71%	(98)	Yes
29%	(41)	No

The following ThoughtExchange overview will provide the top thoughts and ratings:

- [Summary report](#)

On September 20, 2022, the virtual open house (held on Microsoft Teams) saw 21 community (non district staff) members participate.

The following topics/questions were discussed by the participants. Secretary-Treasurer Mark Walsh and Executive Director of Planning and Operations Pete Sabo provided answers.

- **Busing:** Will it change in each scenario? Will busing to Ladysmith be available for students living near ENO?
- **LIS new build:** Can new school be built in lower field? Can students stay in current school while new school is being built? Is there an option to keep ENO and LPS as is with new build? Sell Davis Road? Is there a plan on where staff and students were housed during a school build?
- **ENO upgrade:** What upgrades are needed at the school? If FI is moved from ENO, will that affect the student population at the school? If ENO stayed, will the school get a seismic upgrade in only scenario 3?
- **French Immersion:** Are there any rules or geographic guidance for placement of a FI school?
- **Purchase land:** Are there any other sites that are being considered for purchase (or already owned) within Ladysmith that would support a K-7 population?
- **Before and after school care:** Is this considered in these scenarios?
- **Timelines:** What are the realistic timelines for these types of projects?

Next Steps

The District has engaged an architectural consultant to bring the costing and planning of concepts for the project. The timeliness of the consultation was required to ensure that the consultant had all potential supportable options when creating the concept plan for Board and then Ministry consideration.

Now that the District has received the feedback from the Ladysmith and North Oyster communities, we have confirmed that there are no additional options required for our consultants to consider in the planning for the area. We have engaged consultants to assist us in creating a concept plan that will allow us to compare the costs and effectiveness of each option in more depth. It appears that an option that involves the re-invigoration of the Davis Road site is preferable.

However, the Board is not required to make a decision at this time to ensure the timely upgrade and or replacement of LIS. We anticipate with the completion of the consultant's work to come back to the Board with a final recommendation of which option to proceed with. However, we note that the community input to date is helpful in determining the appropriate option once the consultant has completed their work. The Ministry of Education and Child Care, prior to approval of whatever direction we choose, will want to see a comparison of various concepts to ensure they addressed both our enrolment issues as well as our seismic safety.

It is also noted that some of the concerns raised by our community are also being examined including the potential transportation impact on ENO French Immersion students if French Immersion was to be relocated back to Ladysmith.

Appendix A: Online Public Consultation Feedback