

**NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**BUSINESS COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC MEETING**

**INFORMATION SHEET**

**DATE:** November 9, 2022  
**TO:** Business Committee  
**FROM:** Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer  
Jacquie Poulin, Assistant Superintendent Elementary Schools  
Pete Sabo, Executive Director Planning & Operations  
**SUBJECT:** Randerson Ridge PAC Traffic Team Proposal

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**Background:**

At the Regular Board Meeting held on September 28, 2022, the Randerson Ridge “Parent Advisory Committee Traffic Team” presented their report to improve the drop-off and pick-up process at the school.

The Board’s recommendation was as follows:

“That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) request staff to review the Randerson Ridge Elementary School Safer Schools Drop off Zone submission and provide an action sheet to the Business Committee outlining the potential next steps to consider in implementing the proposed changes and achieving the Randerson Ridge Elementary School – Parent Advisory Committee Traffic Team’s stated goals.”

An extensive Active School Travel Plan (AST) for Randerson Ridge was developed jointly by NLPS, the School Community and City of Nanaimo in 2017.

A stakeholders meeting was held on October 24, 2022, at the school. In attendance were:

- NLPS Facilities Staff
- Randerson Ridge Principal
- Assistant Superintendent Elementary Schools
- City of Nanaimo
- PAC Traffic Committee Team Member

**Discussion:**

It became apparent during the Stakeholders meeting that the AST plan and the conclusions of the PAC Traffic Team were based on 2 different methods, with divergent objectives.

The AST plan promotes lessening the number of vehicles arriving to the school:

“Identifies and prioritizes engineering, encouragement, and enforcement actions aimed at creating a safer and more comfortable environment for students and their families to walk, bike, and roll to school.”

The PAC Traffic Team Plan attempts to ease the access/egress of personal vehicles by:

“Identify problems associated with the drop off and pick up of students at school, and identify engineering, enforcement, education and encouragement solutions to these problems.”

This conflict of methods was discussed at the meeting and agreed that the principles of the AST should be the priority but items in the PAC proposal could be considered if it supports the AST plan for Randerson Ridge. This was recognized and agreed to by all the participants.

It is recognized that with both staff and student turnover in the past 5 years, the AST plan has lost some of its momentum. With the focus on COVID-19 over the last couple years and the change of some staff, the 2017 plan had not been recently reviewed by the school or the City and some recommendations have not been implemented or promoted.

**Conclusion:**

In keeping with the Board’s Long Range Facilities Plan and City Council goals outlined in the City Plan, District and City staff continue to work collaboratively to reduce dependency on vehicle travel and create safe, healthy, inclusive, and sustainable travel options for families. This partnership is reflected in the development of school and community informed Active School Travel Plans.

The Randerson Ridge existing AST plan has now been re-introduced to all parties concerned. This will allow a revisit of the recommendations and considerations for new solutions to address emerging concerns. The Randerson Ridge PAC Traffic Team recommendations may be considered where they support the existing AST Plan and its intents.

**References:**

**Appendix A:** Randerson Ridge – AST Plan

**Appendix B:** Randerson Ridge PAC traffic team recommendations