

**NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BUSINESS COMMITTEE
INFORMATION SHEET**

DATE: February 8, 2023
TO: Business Committee
FROM: Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer
SUBJECT: Child Care Update

Background

This Information Sheet is intended to provide the Board an update on issues associated with childcare provision. Specifically, it will provide an update on the status of capital projects funded by the Ministry of Education and Child Care to build childcare spaces on school sites as well as provide an update on the provision of a before and after school care pilot for September 2023.

Discussion

Capital Construction

The District has received funding to build childcare at 10 sites including (with current status in brackets):

GROUP 1

- Forest Park (Licensed by March 2023)
- Chase River (Occupancy February 2023)
- Ladysmith Primary (Occupancy February 2023)
- Rock City (Construction underway on site, construction complete July 2023)
- Georgia Ave (Awaiting building permit (BP) for prefab of small studio February 2023, BP for large studio + site submitted February 2023)
- QQS (Design development, issue for tender drawings by March 2023)
- Seaview (Schematic design and stakeholder meeting stage, design complete March 2023)

GROUP 2

- Quarterway (re-apply for funding due to change in program)
- Cilaire (design completion, October 2023)
- Pleasant Valley (design completion, February 2024)

As previously reported, many of the sites are a combination of infant and toddler care along with after school care. At this time, providers typically require the before and after school programming to subsidize the provision of the 0-5 care. Given this reality the District has not considered operating any of these sites to ensure financial viability for the third party providers. The District chose the providers as a

result of a Request for Expression of Interest and Qualifications (REIQ) issued in December 2020 in which there were 3 successful proponents. Notably, only two of the proponents have decided to proceed with the provision of services. The District is discussing the timing of a new REIQ to allow for other interested parties to become eligible to provide service at additional sites as they complete.

While our CUPE staff are constructing the buildings, generally, the projects were facing inflationary challenges that put them at risk. However, the Ministry has since recognized this issue and provided additional support and flexibility that we are confident will allow the project to complete.

Before and After School Pilot

On September 28, 2022, the Board passed the following motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) direct staff to prepare a pilot before and after school care program for September 2023 based on the requirements as outlined in this Action Sheet dated September 14, 2022, and report progress to the Board prior to final implementation.

The rationale for the motion is contained in the action sheet appended to this information sheet.

To date, the District has completed the following action items:

1. Identified Hammond Bay as the pilot site. Hammond Bay is projected to have excess capacity while the additional cohort of French Immersion students progresses through the grade levels over the next 5 years. Further, the number of students is supportive care for 5-12 year olds;
2. Met with CUPE to discuss the location and potential staffing scenarios. This work is not complete and further discussions will be required;
3. Issued a survey to parents to determine demand generally as well as specific demand for before and after care versus after care only;

With the survey complete the District will be in a position to create a tentative schedule and staffing plan. The District would then meet with CUPE to discuss any outstanding labour relations issues. Staff would then return to the Board for final approval to proceed and begin the registration and staffing process.

Appendix A: September 14, 2022 Action Sheet