

Gabriola Presentation to the Nanaimo-Ladysmith School Board

Opposition to Scenario 1 from proposal:
Ensuring Capacity & Safety at NDSS

Cedar School Location

- Not safe for students
 - No active transportation options. (LRFP)
 - Public transportation is limited.
 - Distance compounds and adds stress to situations:
 - illness, school participation and finances for the youth and their parents/caregivers.
- Increased commute times for students
 - Currently the Gabriola students have the longest commute in SD68 and that will be extended.
- Bus in and bus-out community is incorrect
 - Gabriola youth are active in recreation, sport, social and employment which all revolves around the amenities of Nanaimo, not Cedar.
- Access to amenities and support
 - Gabriola youth do not have the same support network proximity, and Cedar will compound that for transportation to medical, dentist and other appointments.

Impacts on Students

- The longer commute will have detrimental effects on:
 - Student learning, ability to connect with peers, opportunities for sport/recreation and employment, as well as time for their families.
- The distance will impact:
 - Their ability to attend school when late or needing to leave for an appointment.
 - The isolation they feel from both their school community and Gabriola.
 - Mental health and wellbeing.
- Participation, Attendance and Graduation:
 - The distance will inhibit students and parents/caregivers from engaging in school activities.
 - Attendance will suffer if students are late or needing to travel to school after the school bus.
 - Graduation and success will be affected due to the logistical challenges this scenario presents.

Impacts on Community

- **Retaining and attracting families**
 - Gabriola has an average age of 67 yo. With the recent addition of the skatepark and the changes to employment from covid, the island has seen an increase of younger demographics. This will reverse the gains that the community has made.
- **Socio-economic strains**
 - Over 45% of the Gabriola youth live at or below the poverty line. Many of which in single parent households. The financial challenges that the Cedar scenario would compound would affect monthly budgets and spending in significant ways.
- **Labour Force & the economy**
 - If Gabriola is unable to retain and attract families, there will be less workers to provide services and the economic impacts would ripple throughout the community
- **Connection**
 - All Gabriolans have a connection to Nanaimo for services, networks, employment and commerce. From a young age children experience Nanaimo and are familiar with its surroundings. Many of us have NEVER been to Cedar and isolating our youth in this way in a strange community would have far reaching impacts.

Gabriola Community Petition

We are presenting you a petition, to demonstrate that the Gabriola Community is NOT supportive of the Gabriola students being moved from NDSS with 1000+ signatures, collected in one weeks time.

Please take the time to read the 18 points on the petition that will help illuminate the detrimental issues a move to Cedar would bring for our youth.

Do not displace students.

The capacity issues at NDSS needs to be addressed in a more innovative and community minded way.