



NDSS ISLANDERS LACROSSE ACADEMY



History

- The Lacrosse Academy was founded at NDSS in 2015 by Joel Smith
- We are in our 8th season with Joel as our head coach for both the junior and senior teams
- The academy began as an avenue for Vancouver Island players to achieve US Scholarships for field lacrosse



NDSS Lacrosse Academy

- Only competitive academy at NDSS
- We travel and play other academy teams in BC and in the USA
- This current season we have gone to Portland, Victoria, Seattle, Palm Springs with upcoming trips to Mercer Island, and Sisters, Oregon
- Travel showcases our players to recruiters and University coaches



US Athletic Scholarships

- To date, 30 NDSS players have received Division 1 & 2 scholarships
- Current NDSS lacrosse players are being actively recruited



Fundraising & Community Outreach

- Parent led fundraising
- Business Community support for the academy
- School Spirit
 - Alumni Games
 - Senior Nights
 - Volunteering





Reasons WHY the Lacrosse Academy should remain at NDSS



Branding

- **Costly**
 - All gear, uniforms, helmets, bags, backpacks, gloves and clothing would have to be rebranded
- **NDSS Islanders Lacrosse**
 - Coaches and recruiters for US Universities know who we are after years of playing as the NDSS Islanders
 - Alumni- this is a connection for our current players and recruiters

The type of Lacrosse we play

- We play FIELD lacrosse
 - We do not play in a box as was mentioned in the proposal
 - We do play on an artificial all weather turf field



Necessities of the Academy

- **Sheds**
 - Are required near the field for gear bags, balls and nets
 - Must be locked and only accessed by the academy
- **NDSS Track**
 - Need the track and stairs for training and conditioning
 - Field Lacrosse is a running game
- **City Bus**
 - Many athletes take the city bus from the North End, they would require 2 buses or extra walking to attend Barsby





Lacrosse Academy Students and Families Position

- Academy students should not suffer the consequences of inadequate future planning
- We are opposed to Scenario 1 and 2; or any option that involves displacement of Academy, Gabriola residents or any students from NDSS

Why Scenario 2 Isn't the Answer: The Costs Outweigh Benefits

- **Educational impacts:**

- Scholarships placed in jeopardy
- Loss of educational options

- **Loss of extracurricular offerings:**

- Students would no longer have access to the same programs and activities that NDSS offers

- **Detrimental to student mental health & well-being:**

- NDSS is a family to academy students
- Trying to fit into a new high school as an adolescent is difficult, the ramifications on mental health as a result of this move could be harmful





Things to Consider

- 44 Athletes in the academy
- 16 of the 44 are already in catchment for NDSS
- Disruption and the cost would free up a small number of spaces at NDSS
- Unfortunately, without prior consultation, it is unknown if all athletes would relocate to Barsby if the lacrosse academy was moved

Our Recommendations

- Move forward with consideration of Scenarios 4 and 5 that will achieve the same temporary outcome without displacement of students
- All future options proposed should be in line with the SD68 Vision, Mission, Values and Goals
- Pursue more consultation with the students and families who are affected by the Board / District plans and recommendations





Thank You from the NDSS Lacrosse players and parents