

# LONG RANGE FACILITIES PLAN

2021-2031

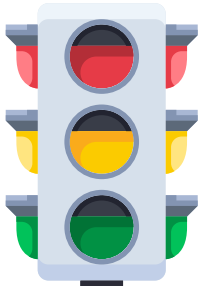
**Monitoring  
our Progress**  
(YEAR TWO)



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PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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## MONITORING OUR PROGRESS

In the Spring of 2021 the Board of Education adopted the Long Range Facilities Plan entitled “Addressing Growth and Safety 2021-2031” (the “LRFP”). The LRFP is ambitious in scope and incorporates issues associated with capacity and growth, seismic safety, the environment and reconciliation. In order to monitor the LRFP’s progress a Long Range Facilities Plan Advisory Committee was created.

This is the second LRFP Report and is intended to provide a brief overview of how we are doing. The report has six metrics clearly indicated by the graphics next to each recommendation along with a brief description of progress to date. The metrics are as follows:



**Red Light** – The red light signifies that the District has made no demonstrable progress on a recommendation. This indicates the need for a focus in the following school year to begin progress.



**Yield** – The yield sign indicates that the District has purposefully delayed progress on a recommendation.



**Yellow Light** – The yellow light indicates that the District has begun work on a recommendation but has not made significant progress.



**Green Light** – The green light means the District is actively implementing a recommendation.

### ***Recommendation 1***

**Alleviate medium and long-term capacity issues by working through the LRFP Advisory Committee to consider expanding existing school(s), opening a new school(s) and/or re-opening school(s).**



GREEN LIGHT

The District has made significant progress on this recommendation. It has made submissions for expansion to the Ministry of Education and Child Care as well as completed consultation in the [North End of Nanaimo](#) on several options to alleviate capacity. Further, the District completed a similar consultation in [Ladysmith and North Oyster](#).

### ***Recommendation 2***

**Institute a School Site Acquisition Charge (SSAC).**



GREEN LIGHT

[Completed](#)

### ***Recommendation 3***

**Apply to the Crown for a grant(s) of land if located in future growth areas.**



YIELD

The District remains open to a future crown grant if appropriate. However, at this time the areas of focus do not have appropriate accessible crown land.

### ***Recommendation 4***

**Design and Cost Permanent Annexes Built with Portables.**



YIELD

This recommendation continues to be on hold given the expense of a permanent annex and the focus on expansions at a number of facilities that may require capital contributions from the Board. While not a full annex, staff continue to plan and place portables for future consideration of shared ramps, roofs, enclosures etc.

### ***Recommendation 5***

**The LRFP Advisory Committee will identify schools with immediate and medium-term capacity issues for expansion.**



GREEN LIGHT

The District has applied for a number of expansions. The priority requests are at Departure Bay as a result of the North End consultation and in Ladysmith as result of the Ladysmith consultation as well as NDSS. Staff will be recommending that Wellington expansion is added to the 2024-25 capital plan.

### ***Recommendation 6***

**Proactively acquire additional lands using local capital, school site acquisition dollars and/or Ministry Capital to support the expansion schools.**



GREEN LIGHT

The Board purchased a home adjacent to Bayview in 2022-23 that it will demolish to expand the footprint of the school. Further, the District has targeted proactive land acquisitions in Lantzville.

### ***Recommendation 7***

**Review catchments and families of schools to determine whether there is any possibility of moving enrolment from schools at or over capacity to schools under or slated to be under capacity.**



YELLOW LIGHT

The District has consulted with the NDSS community about a change as part of the [NDSS consultation](#). No changes have been made to date.

The District anticipates further discussions in the near future with respect to the future of north end catchments due to the reopening of Rutherford Elementary.

### ***Recommendation 8***

**Reviewing programming including French Immersion, International Education and Academies to determine implications for capacity issues.**



GREEN LIGHT

The NDSS consultation included discussions about the relationship between programs and capacity issues at NDSS. Further, International Student enrollment has been limited where capacity does not allow sufficient space for student enrollment.

### ***Recommendation 9***

**Prioritize the Upgrade of NDSS.**



GREEN LIGHT

The Board of Education has placed NDSS as its number 1 priority focusing on the condition, seismic safety and environmental footprint of the facility ([NDSS Information Package](#)). The Board has an advocacy plan and will continue to apply respectful pressure until a new facility has been approved.

### ***Recommendation 10***

**Align seismic upgrades with other priorities in the facilities plan including environmental upgrades and expansions.**



GREEN LIGHT

The District is building on its success with this recommendation with its planning for the future of elementary programming in Ladysmith and our capital plan aligns with the recommendation.

### ***Recommendation 11***

**Explore partnerships with external parties, including BC Housing, while planning seismic upgrades to allow for additional locally sourced amenities.**



YELLOW LIGHT

While there has been limited progress on this recommendation, NLPS is actively promoting this opportunity with our partners including the concept of [Neighbourhood Learning Centres](#) associated with new builds or seismic rebuilds.

### ***Recommendation 12***

**Use “Swing Space” when doing seismic upgrades to limit the disruption of an educational program of a school.**



GREEN LIGHT

The District continues to ensure that Woodlands is available for swing space as it contemplates the reopening of Rutherford. However, given Ladysmith Intermediate and NDSS (the District’s two highest priorities) are unlikely to require swing space as they will be new builds (assuming funding availability). The District anticipates that it will require swing space for the recently announced seismic upgrade to École North Oyster which is not yet finalized but could occur as as 2024-25.

### ***Recommendation 13***

**Ensure upgrades are distributed across jurisdictional boundaries of NLPS.**



The District continues to ensure jurisdictional equality with upgrades happening in every jurisdiction ranging from Garden Projects on Gabriola to HVAC upgrades in Cedar to the District's largest ever (by cost) capital project in planning for the replacement of Ladysmith Intermediate and expansion of Ladysmith Primary.

### ***Recommendation 14***

**Complete HVAC Upgrade Program to ensure modern health and safety in all facilities.**



The District is in the final stages of a interim upgrade to the LIS HVAC system and a small portion of LSS. Upon completion, 100% of District schools will have modern mechanical ventilation. Our next steps will be to continue to improve and monitor performance of the currently existing systems.

### ***Recommendation 15***

**Ensure that rental rates for facilities, including childcare, operate on a cost recovery basis at minimum.**



This is complete with respect to the newly built facilities.

### ***Recommendation 16***

**Advocate for additional Annual Facilities Grant (AFG) funding.**



[The Board, through the British Columbia School Trustees Association has advocated on this matter.](#)

The Annual Facilities Grant for the 2023-24 school year has been a significant increase in funding from the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

### ***Recommendation 17***

**Lower GHG emissions through the acquisition of electric buses and other vehicles for the NLPS fleet.**



The District has four electric buses, three on order and approval for an additional two busses that we anticipate will be EV. It is expected to have seven operational in the 22/23 school year, representing 33% of in service buses. The move to electric has been faster than anticipated with the support of the Board and the Ministry of Education.

### ***Recommendation 18***

**Review alternate funding sources for immediate environmental upgrades outside of the Ministry of Education and Child Care processes.**



The District continues to work with BC Hydro, and other agencies on pilots and funded initiatives for various projects (continuous optimization, white fleet electrification, low carbon electrification, EV adoption, etc.). Funding through Association of School Transportation Services of BC and CleanBC contributes to the funding of EV buses.

Considerations currently being given to the BC Hydro EV fleet ready Plan, which could assist the District is strategy for upgrading our white fleet.

The District continues to be aware of and consider other opportunities for funding including low interest loans and grants as energy savings programs are considered and approved.

### ***Recommendation 19***

**That the Board of Education encourage government to make electricity as cost effective for school districts as natural gas.**



GREEN LIGHT

Our current Energy Manager Program with BC Hydro will now include LCE (low carbon electrification) targets along with the traditional demand targets (i.e. kwh savings). This signifies that BC Hydro is committing to Low Carbon Electrification which will assist the District in meeting CleanBC targets. Recently Hydro advised the additional electrical load for our EV buss usage can be claimed towards out LCE targets.

Further Hydro has increased its support for the Energy Manager Program recognizing its importance towards electrification.

### ***Recommendation 20***

**Incorporate the expansion of outdoor learning spaces and schools gardens into NLPS's Annual Facilities Grant and/or local capital planning.**



GREEN LIGHT

It should be noted that funds set aside by the Board in 2021 continue to be expended with an outdoor learning project at Learning Alternatives and garden projects at Forest Park, Gabriola and Ladysmith Intermediate being completed in late 2022-23. The Board invested significant dollars in the expansion of school garden and outdoor learning spaces in the fall of 2021, and the infrastructure is being planned with installations started

and continuing in the Spring/Summer of 2023. In addition, the International Student Program is supporting the expansion of outdoor education opportunities throughout the District.

### ***Recommendation 21***

**Create an active transportation plan for staff and students and ensure that walkable neighborhoods are considered when reviewing catchments.**



GREEN LIGHT

During the NDSS consultation this was a consideration when creating recommendations.

NLPS staff continue to work closely with City of Nanaimo staff on support for numerous completed Active School Travel programs, new travel programs and various initiatives at schools.

### ***Recommendation 22***

**Partner to bring municipal and regional infrastructure onto sites (e.g. turf fields, childcare, community centres).**



GREEN LIGHT

This item remains unchanged from the previous update. Currently, the Board has funded \$500k to support a joint turf field at John Barsby in partnership with the City of Nanaimo. There are also other initiatives with the City of Nanaimo. In Ladysmith, the closed Davis Road facility is licensed to the Town of Ladysmith for arts purposes. In the event that the District replaces Ladysmith Intermediate School we are hopeful for a Neighborhood Learning Centre.

### ***Recommendation 23***

**Continue our work with Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN) at Te'tuxwtun and Qwam Qwum Stuwixwulh childcare. Expand to**

**other opportunities with SFN and our other land and community based First Nations partners.**



We are in the planning stage to build childcare at Quam Qwum Stuwixwulh Community School. At John Barsby, Tillicum Lelum operates a childcare facility. Through our Leaders for Learning group the District is constantly seeking additional partnership opportunities.

***Recommendation 24***

**Partner with Community Agencies and other Groups to enhance opportunities for our students and the broader community.**



While COVID did limit some access to our facilities, NLPS continues to partner with a variety of community services organizations.

One new example will be the Woodlands Farm which will bring a farmer onto the land who will grow food for market but also allow access to classes to learn. The District also partners with the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation to provide space for their programming.

***Recommendation 25***

**Create a District Childcare Strategy.**



The District continues to expand childcare at school with Forest Park, Chase River and Ladysmith primary seeing expansions come online in 2022-23 with another 7 sites (RTY, QQS, GAE, SVW, QTW, PLV, CIL) in the planning stages. Recently the Board supported an additional request in Cedar for needed spaces.

***Recommendation 26***

Maintain fee simple ownership of all closed sites and consider leasing closed school sites not needed for the foreseeable future to support local capital or the upgrade of the site.



The District concluded a 25 year lease with the RDN for the South Wellington site that will see the RDN upgrade the facility in exchange for the lease.

***Recommendation 27***

Removed in 2022-23

***Recommendation 28***

Removed in 2022-23

***Recommendation 29***

**When applicable, review contemplated legislated changes with respect to accessibility and pursue an accessibility audit that reflects current legislation.**



While the District is awaiting the outcome and guidance of the provincial accessibility legislation, it has struck an ad-hoc committee comprised of members of the Department of Learning Services, Facilities, and the School Aged Therapy team contracted through the Child Development Centre. This group has developed a tool for an accessibility gap analysis which will be undertaken beginning in September 2023. DLS and Facilities have also refined internal processes for accessibility requests (e.g. ramps and safety fencing at schools) to ensure an efficient response when specific



requests are received. These initiatives have been designed to align with interim guidance issued by the Government, and will inform the work of the more formal accessibility committee when it is created in the fall.

### ***Recommendation 30***

**Develop funding streams for short and medium-term accessibility requirements as identified in internal and/or external audits through allocating operating, AFG, local capital and Ministry funding dollars as required.**



The District has continued to actively invest yearly annual facilities grant dollars in accessibility improvements. Further, we have taken advantage of major capital projects such as the seismic at Cilaire and Pleasant Valley Elementary to make improvements in accessibility. Strategic accessibility planning continues as part of the Ladysmith Intermediate seismic concept work as we move towards key options.

### ***Recommendation 31***

**Continue investments in the Access to Technology Plan (Wi-Fi infrastructure upgrade).**



The Board has continued to financially support Wi-Fi upgrades and District staff have continued to deliver. Our secondary schools are complete and overall 45% of our District has been completed or is underway. Dependent on funding and resources availability the upgrade should be completed during the 24/25 school year (2 more school years).

### ***Recommendation 32***

**When upgrading our facilities, NLPS commit to upgrades that align with modern ways of teaching and learning, including considering flexible spaces and a cross-curricular focus.**



The new construction at Dover Bay Secondary that was completed in early 2023 has opened six new spaces for student and staff use. These new spaces have been warmly received and are the first significant upgrade of Dover Bay since it opened in 1992.

- **Four New Classrooms**  
New classroom spaces in D and E Wing have allowed for fewer students to be in portables. The new classrooms are equipped with a variety of furnishings including high desks, rocker chairs, and student desks that can be organized into a variety of configurations. The two new rooms D Wing have a retractable white board wall, that allows the two classrooms to be combined into a larger learning space. The wall itself can be used as a vertical learning surface. Staff and students have been happy to work and learn in these new 21st Century learning spaces.
- **PHE Flex Space**  
This is a new functional fitness space in E Wing which allows teachers to provide a higher variety of activities for students to improve their physical wellbeing. It has also been useful for Dover Athletics for an additional training space for our sports teams. The room includes a projector, screen and sound system. The room is ideal for activities such as yoga, high intensity interval training, circuits, and other alternative fitness experiences.
- **Flex Rooms**  
The new construction has added three bookable spaces within D Wing, that can be used on their own or combined into one bigger space for a total capacity of 48 students. The flex spaces are equipped with a projector, and screen, whiteboard walls, whiteboard tables and retractable glass walls. Smaller group activities can be accommodated, or one large group space can



be created. These rooms have been warmly received by staff and students and are ideal for booking small group presentations, meetings, and guest presenters.

- **Common Areas**  
Each of the two new construction zone has a common area for students to socialize or study at high top tables. These areas also provide charging for devices.
- **Everyone Welcome Washroom**  
The new all-inclusive washroom in E Wing replaces two single gender washrooms. The new washroom provides a larger washroom facility and its location near the gymnasium ensures that it is well used during athletic games and tournaments.

### ***Recommendation 33***

**Create policy and procedure to ensure that staff is more active in influencing local and regional planning.**



Completed in 2021-22

### ***Recommendation 34***

**Create a Long Range Facilities Plan Advisory Committee.**



Completed in 2021-22

# RECOMMENDATIONS

# UPDATE



# SUCCESS FOR ALL!



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