

NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BUSINESS COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING

ACTION SHEET

DATE: April 12, 2023
TO: Business Committee
FROM: Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer, Jacque Poulin, Assistant Superintendent and
Diane McGonigle, District Principal
SUBJECT: Before and After School Care Program Pilot

Recommendations:

The Business Committee recommends that the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) approve proceeding with a pilot before and after school program staffed by District staff on a cost recovery basis, subject to an agreement with CUPE that the pilot is on a without prejudice basis, at Pleasant Valley Elementary and Ecole Hammond Bay.

The Business Committee recommends that the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) advocate to the Ministry of Education and Child Care for additional financial supports to cover the increased costs associated with providing accessible before and after school care.

Background:

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 the Business Committee Action Sheet dated September 14, 2022, and report progress to the Board prior to final implementation.

Staff followed with an [update](#) at the Business Committee meeting on February 8, 2023. This Action Sheet will outline the steps taken following the last update to the Board as well as seek approval to proceed.

Discussion:

Motion 1:

Following the last update to the Board staff have continued to plan for the provision of a program. Parents at École Hammond Bay have been surveyed to determine the demand (both numbers and the times required). For instance, it has been determined that there is slightly less demand for before school care than after school care. Staff have also created a daily schedule using EAs where possible without impacting K-12 coverage of students. Our partners in CUPE have provided some excellent suggestions and we are confident that any labour relations issues related to scheduling and posting etc. will be addressed.

As noted in the motion, there is one labour relations item that needs to be agreed to in order to proceed. Specifically, before and after school care is not currently a service provided by the District. We are intending to pilot two programs. If they do not work, then we may not wish to continue to provide the service. If this were the case, we would be seeking an agreement from CUPE (similar to the Seamless Day) that makes the use of CUPE workers for the before and after school care services without prejudice.

École Hammond Bay has been chosen as the school for the before and after school care pilot as it will have excess space for a number of years. In addition, a demand for before and after school care was seen as a need based on the survey to the community. In addition, the District is currently operating the Seamless Day program at Pleasant Valley Elementary. Notably, we are licensed for 24 before and after school spaces, however, the Seamless Day pilot only offered 12 spaces in its initial year. It is felt that the use of the already licensed spaces and experience at the school, as well as demand for spaces in the community, also makes Pleasant Valley a viable option for the pilot. In addition, we believe the District has the capability to provide two pilot sites.

Further, while there are still a few steps to finalize to provide the service, staff is seeking the Board's approval now to allow for advertising of the services, staffing, etc. to be put in place. Originally the intention was to come before the Board in May. However, that timeline would put the success of the pilot at risk.

Motion 2:

With respect to motion 2, the District has already seen the limitations due to funding to provide accessible spaces. While the physical space may be available, the reality is some students require additional adult support (as in the K-12 sector). However, there is minimal (although there is some) Ministry funding to support accessible spaces. Given the programs will be based on a cost recovery model providing full time accessible spaces simply is not possible without additional funding from the Ministry. Therefore, advocacy on this matter is worthy of the Board's consideration.

