



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

DATE: June 14, 2023
TO: Business Committee
FROM: Chantelle Morvay, Trustee and Leana Pellegrin, Trustee
SUBJECT: Safe Schools Committee - Report

Overview

The Safe Schools Committee met 5 times this year: Monthly from February to June. Meetings were one and a half hours, held in an inclusive hybrid format.

The Committee is comprised of:

- Two Trustee Co-Chairs: Chantelle Morvay and Leana Pellegrin;
- An Indigenous Rights Holder: Nancy Seward;
- CUPE Representative: Sheri Martin;
- NDTA Representative: Sarah Elson-Haugan;
- DPAC Representative: Jessica Krog-Irving;
- Community Member: Terre Flower;
- Two NSAA representative: Lindsey Watford and Jennifer Robinson;
- Learning Services Representative: Kerri Steel;
- Human Resources Representative: Shawn Johnston;
- Three CVIMS Representatives: Emika Asani, Lydia Yacoub, and Jina You

The Committee was supported by Elke Wohlleben, Administrative Assistant, Department of Secretary Treasurer. The Committee would like to thank Elke for her hard work and support!

Due to the Committees late start this school year, a formal workplan was not established, and, instead, agenda items were brought forward by Committee Members in advance of the meetings. The Committee started the year by reviewing the Committee's Terms of Reference. Highlights of the work done by the Committee this year are as follows:

RCMP Youth Team Review

Following reports that other School Districts were reviewing their approaches to police in schools, the Committee undertook the work of reviewing this work in our district. This work was done by inviting key stakeholders, including Principals and members of the Nanaimo RCMP Youth Team to present to the Committee to discuss their work, and to take questions, followed by discussion of this work by the Committee.

The Committee reached consensus on the following recommendations:

- Recommendation 1: The RCMP Youth Program is of significant benefit to students in our District and this partnership between the District and local RCMP should be continued.
- Recommendation 2: The District should develop a communications/community engagement resource regarding the Youth team, so that District stakeholders can easily identify information such as what this work involves, the RCMP officers involved and where they are assigned, and how to contact RCMP and District leaders involved in the program.

JEDI Work

The Committee received regular reports on the JEDI work happening in the District. The current state of this work is as follows:

- The information gathering for the District JEDI environmental scan, conducted by contractor Chanelle Tye, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (Chanelle), is complete, and the information from the scan will be provided to the District by the end of the School Year.
 - This work included collecting data through questionnaires to both staff and students, and focus groups with students and the Safe Schools Committee.
- The information from the scan will inform the top two priority areas for the District to develop district-wide training on. This training will be developed by Chanelle, and training will commence at the start of the coming school year.
- The Scan will also inform the development of a JEDI Policy. Chanelle will provide the District with a framework for the Policy and advice on process of a local JEDI policy development plan.

The Committee reached consensus on the following recommendation:

- That the District continue to prioritize the advancement of JEDI work

Accessibility Committee

The Committee received regular updates from the District's new Accessibility Committee, established under the *Accessible British Columbia Act*. The goal of this collaboration was to ensure that the committees were working towards common purpose and sharing ideas and learnings.

The Committee reached consensus on the following recommendation:

- That the Safe Schools Committee and Accessibility Committee continue to share information and work together to the benefit of students in the District.

Work Plan

The Committee discussed the importance of starting the next school year by developing a work plan. Themes put forward to be considered included:

- Reviewing the Committee's Terms of Reference (required), and approaches to Committee work, including using sub groups;
- Exploring approaches for students to safely disclose issues affecting them;

- Establishing a process to obtain student voice for the Committee;
- Managing JEDI Policy development;
- Exploring best practices in teaching safe/respectful use of language;
- Advancing anti-racism initiatives within the District under the Provincial framework; and
- Reviewing Erase Bullying data.
 - o TOR Review
 - o Utilize “Youth Team Model” to work on other area/concerns/questions
 - o Safe Disclosure for Students
 - o Student voice – develop our approach
 - o JEDI Policy
 - o Utilizing sub committees
 - o Best Practices in Teaching Safe Language
 - o Anti Racism – Provincial Framework and District work
 - o Erase Bullying data