

**NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
INFORMATION SHEET**

DATE: June 28, 2023  
 TO: Board of Education  
 FROM: Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer  
 SUBJECT: NDSS Consultation Update

**Background**

On March 29, 2023, the Board passed the following motion following public consultation with respect to capacity issues at NDSS:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) direct staff to conduct further consultation as well as provide additional information with respect to potential NDSS options and report back to the Board with recommendations and next steps for the Board to consider and that Gabriola Elementary be removed from consideration to feed into Cedar Secondary School.

This Information Sheet will outline the consultation process to survey NDSS students and staff. It will also outline additional steps taken by staff with respect to the Board’s motion.

**Discussion**

On April 21, 2023, the NDSS school administration surveyed staff and students as part of the Long Range Facilities Plan consultation process. The *Hearing from Staff and Students on Capacity and Safety* survey was open until Friday, April 28, 2023.

There were two surveys developed, one for students and another for staff. There were a number of similar questions in both surveys, however, there were more qualitative data questions available for staff feedback.

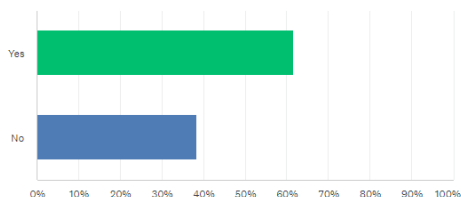
A snapshot of the participants:

- 171 student participants spent an average of five minutes to complete the 23-question survey.
- 43 school staff spent an average of 19 minutes to complete the 28-question survey.

Some examples of questions and response data from the student survey:

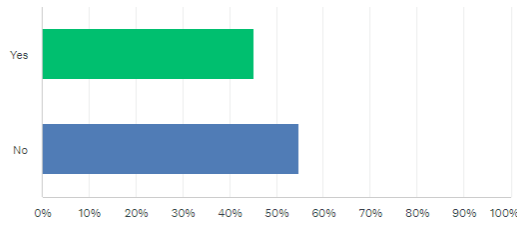
Do you feel you have adequate access to resources such as computers given our population?

Answered: 169 Skipped: 2



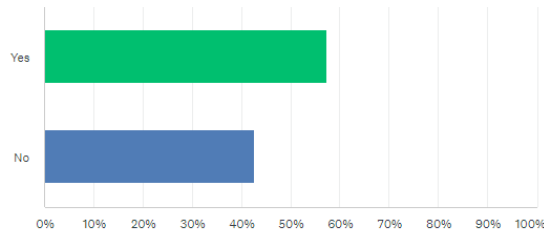
Are you confident that the school is prepared to handle emergency situations, such as fires or other crises, with the current school population?

Answered: 170 Skipped: 1



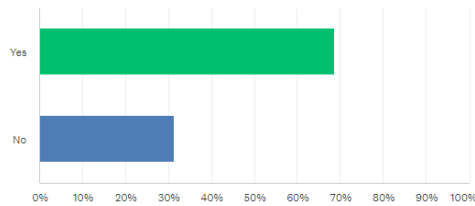
Do you feel safe at NDSS?

Answered: 164 Skipped: 7



Do you feel you have enough access to learning or social emotional supports?

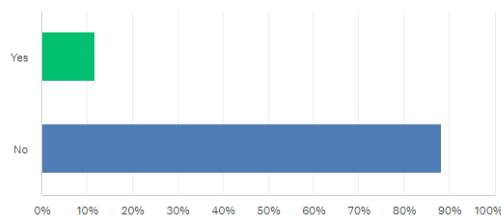
Answered: 169 Skipped: 2



Some examples of questions and response data from the staff survey:

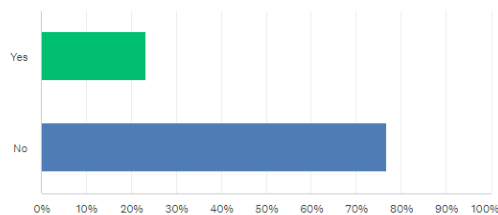
Do you feel students have adequate access to resources such as computers given our population?

Answered: 43 Skipped: 0



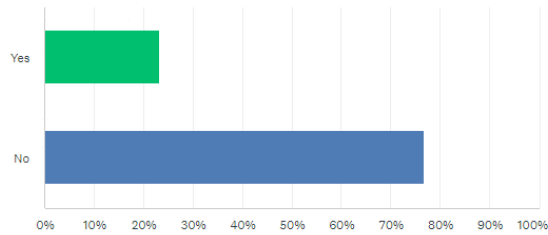
Are you confident that the school is prepared to handle emergency situations, such as fires or other crises, with the current school population?

Answered: 43 Skipped: 0



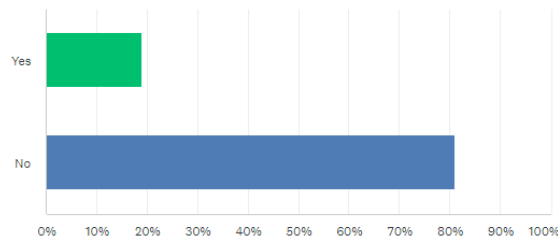
Do students have enough access to learning or social emotional supports?

Answered: 43 Skipped: 0



Are there adequate number of bathrooms for staff and students?

Answered: 42 Skipped: 1



**Additional Steps**

Staff have been in communication with other school Districts with similar capacity issues as NDSS. We are currently contemplating how these examples may work for NDSS and will report back to the Board in fall following additional research.

Additional portables are also scheduled to be placed at NDSS, however, as previously reported delays at Hammond Bay combined with the requirements associated with permitting mean that the school cannot rely on them for first semester.

Staff are also in discussions with our partners at CON with respect to accessing CON spaces. While likely there is no additional classroom space there may be amenity or meeting spaces to access.

Finally, the school will be extending times for class change. This is in direct response to the concerns raised. It is important to note that in order to meet required instructional minutes the day will have to change and it is likely that on Monday and Fridays there will be impacts on students who are bussed. Staff are in the process of contacting impacted families. The main impact will be with respect to Gabriola students who will have a longer wait on the Nanaimo side for bussing and a shorter wait on the Gabriola side for bussing. There is also likely an impact on some students on the other side of the Parkway. The impact is limited to the two days.