



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

DATE: October 11, 2023
TO: Business Committee
FROM: Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer
SUBJECT: NDSS Capacity Update

Background

On March 29, 2023, the Board passed the following motion:

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 is intended to provide the community and Board with an update on the status of the work pursuant to the motion.

Discussion

District staff have now had the opportunity to meet with a number of other School Districts which have schools with similar capacity dynamics to NDSS. Staff have identified a number of promising practices that may alleviate capacity issues without requiring students or programs to move from the school. Unfortunately, at this time the District is not ready to report out as we are still determining feasibility and will report back soon with recommendations.

With respect to capacity, the September 29, 2023 headcount of NDSS was 1,493 domestic SD68 students, plus 48 SD93 students plus 55 ISE students for a total of 1,596. This compares to a total headcount of 1,642 at September 29, 2022. Note that headcount differs from FTE (Full-Time Equivalent). For instance, a grade twelve with 7 courses would be counted as a one for purposes of headcount but .875 FTE. Notably, while they may have a spare block, they still require the amenities of the school.

This slowing of growth was accomplished by limiting access to ISE spots at the school as well as unfortunately redirecting some in-catchment students to neighbouring schools with capacity in the appropriate grade. We also have two portables on site (with permits) and are preparing them for occupancy.

We also note that the District would like to express appreciation to the City of Nanaimo for working to allow access to the bathrooms at the Rotary Bowl Track facility for use by our students.