



NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EDUCATION COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING

INFORMATION SHEET

DATE: November 1, 2023
TO: Education Committee
FROM: Don Balcombe, Assistant Superintendent and
Jacquie Poulin, Assistant Superintendent
SUBJECT: Parent Engagement

Background

This Information Sheet is intended to provide the Committee with a high-level overview of the various ways schools engage with their parent and family communities.

An important aspect of a strong school community are the connections school staff have with parents and families throughout the year. Parents are their child's first teacher and we value all they bring to the school team. Ensuring parents and families feel welcome and connected with their school helps to create a sense of belonging for all and supports their child's learning journey.

Throughout the year, schools have many ways they connect with parents and families. Outlined below are a few. This list is not exhaustive but provides an overview of the more common opportunities:

In Person Opportunities

Welcome to Kindergarten and Gradual Entry – In the late Spring and then during the first week of school, families are invited to meet with Kindergarten teachers to share about their child and learn more about the Kindergarten year.

Open House (Elementary) - These occur early in the school year and are an opportunity for families to visit the school, tour the classrooms, check out the Library, and connect with their child's teacher and often other staff as well. The energy at these events is often positive and energetic. In the last couple of years, schools have been trying different formats to best meet the needs of their community.

Meet the Teacher Night (Secondary) – This event typically happens at the start of each semester. It is an opportunity for parents to meet the teachers their child will have for that semester.

Formative Assessment Conferences (Elementary) – These are scheduled during the early dismissal week in October. Families are scheduled in for a 10 – 15 minute block of time to meet with their child’s teacher. The intent of these conferences is to share how a student is doing with both their academic progress as well as social-emotionally.

Parent-Teacher Meetings (Secondary) – Each school sets them up in a way that meets the needs of their school community. These could be in-person, on Teams, or a phone call. The intent of the meetings are to share how the student is doing in their courses.

Individual Education Planning Meetings (IEP meetings) – These meetings are opportunities for school teams to meet with families and their community teams to formulate goals and plans for the school year. These meetings are for students who qualify for a Ministry designation.

PAC Meetings & PAC Sponsored events such as movie nights, craft nights, hot lunches, and dances etc

School Concerts/Theatre Performances

Other School Sponsored Events such as Family Reading Night, Math Nights, Community Dinners

Athletic Activities – after school sports, track and field, and cross-country

Classroom and Field Trip Volunteers

Gr. 7 – 8 Transition – Parent Evenings

Communication Strategies

Weekly and/or Monthly Updates from the Principal/Vice Principal – often emailed to families

Classroom newsletters/updates

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Assessment and Reporting processes

Phone calls, emails, and informal meetings with a teacher and/or Principal/Vice Principal

School websites & Social Media presence