

Nov 16th, 2023

ANNUAL TRUSTEE ZONE REPORT

Dover Bay Family of Schools

Trustee Mark Robinson

- Dover Bay Secondary (4 visits)
- Seaview Elementary (3 visits)
- Frank J. Ney Elementary (3 visits)
- Randerson Ridge Elementary (4 visits)
- McGirr Elementary (2 visits)
- Pleasant Valley Elementary (3 visits)
- Rutherford Elementary (2 visits) **[opening 2025]**
- International Education (1 visit)

Within the first 30 days of my first term, I was able to visit each and every school within my zone in order to familiarize myself with staff and facilities. Each school has learning opportunities unique to themselves and also common issues that unify them. This includes capacity, needed facilities upgrades, and educational successes rooted in the efforts by excellent staff and the hard work of the students themselves.

With that said, please find below the annual report for each school in the Dover Bay Family of Schools.

Kindly submitted,

Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools



Trustee	MARK ROBINSON	School Year: 2022/2023
School Names/Zone: <p style="text-align: center;">Dover Bay Secondary</p>		
Annual Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total of 4 official visits to Dover Bay (Tour of the school by principal, PAC meeting, Indigenous Peoples' Day celebrations, strategic plan consultations [this month] as well as several other non-official visits such as volunteering for Christmas craft fair, etc.)• Four-classroom expansion completed by district, which also provided for more space for students during breaks and had the additional benefit of emptying some portables for emergent use at other schools across the district. Students and staff love the new space available.• New inclusive washrooms right across from the locker bay by the gymnasium, looking forward to seeing other schools in the district share in this opportunity.• No shortage of activities to participate in as Dover Bay has more extra-curricular clubs and teams than ever before.• A broken down electrical transformer saw the students receive a short break from school but not that short because of the speed in which it was replaced. District staff was able to find a replacement much faster than anticipated so kudos to all involved.• Hul'qumi'num learning opportunities and cultural teachings robustly expanded both during regular class times and on Indigenous Peoples' Day. Snaw-Naw-As's Stamush is an absolute blessing to have in our schools whenever opportunity exists, as the learning outcome cannot be overstated.• Dover Bay Robotics club travelled to Winnipeg for the national competition and came home with the top reward for all of Canada. Well done!		



Trustee	MARK ROBINSON	School Year: 2022/2023
School Names/Zone: <p style="text-align: center;">Frank J. Ney Elementary</p>		
Annual Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total of 3 “official” visits, including initial tour by principal and two class visits.• Something about Frank J. Ney which deserves to be shared is that school supplies have already been purchased at the school level and there is no cost at all to families. This removes many barriers for families including financial considerations and time having to go out and find everything. The biggest equalizer however is that every student gets the same supplies regardless of their family’s circumstances.• Capacity has been a big issue in the last few years at Frank J, Ney, even with the additional new space created; the district’s re-opening of Rutherford will definitely alleviate the pressure.• At the beginning of May, the Grade 7’s had a tour of things to come at Dover Bay Secondary. This gave the soon-to-be Grade 8’s an opportunity to familiarize themselves with a much larger (and much busier) school. In contrast, FJN held a “welcome to Kindergarten” event in the same month to help assist in the transition into school and make them all feel welcome.• Thanks to the efforts of the PAC at FJN, the school earned a large ArtsStarts grant for a project called Resident Artists in the Classroom. Participating classes were engaged in a number of workshops through storytelling by visiting actors/artists, and by all accounts it was a cherished moment for the kids.• Frank J, Ney shared with the board some of their outdoor learning opportunities due to the living forest surrounding the school. This presentation embodied and captured only a fragment of the fantastic work happening in regards to outdoor learning—have to see it with your own eyes to fully understand the depth and scope. Staff should be commended for their efforts.		



Trustee MARK ROBINSON	School Year: 2022/2023
School Names/Zone: <p style="text-align: center;">Randerson Ridge</p>	
Annual Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good news! Randerson Ridge recently held its first school dance since the epidemic began back in 2020 thanks to the hard-work and dedication of the school PAC. It was a fantastic spectacle with a Hallowe'en theme to see first-hand the intermediate students (grade 4-7) dancing it up to their favourite songs- especially every time a Taylor Swift song. Such a success!• In facilities news, workers have been putting the finishing touches on fixing the field's drainage issue that had been causing flooding during heavy wet weather. This investment by the school district has vastly improved conditions for students on the grounds as a result. Next to be worked on will be parking and traffic, coming from the heels of the district's consultation review of traffic at Randerson Ridge after an incredible presentation and proposal by parents.• Volleyball is back in action as the district funded the replacement and repair of the centre net holder.• The 2023 Fun Fair was an amazing success! Thank you to staff and the dedicated work of the PAC, all who volunteered, and each and every individual who contributed prizes for the events. Trustee Tania Brzovic and I were on hand making the workload just a bit lighter at the CakeWalk (and having all the baked goods tempting us in the process), which ended on a high note with a bit of an impromptu dance once all the prizes were won.• Difficult behaviours are reported to be down so far this year, I have been told that this is attributed to a combination of additional resources allocated, effort from staff and parents, increased supports allocated, and students actively supporting one another.	



Trustee MARK ROBINSON	School Year: 2022/2023
School Names/Zone: <p style="text-align: center;">Pleasant Valley Elementary</p>	
Annual Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total of 3 official visits to Pleasant Valley, several other non-official visits (including playground accessibility check, off-site stakeholder discussions, and traffic observations).• Multi-million dollar seismic upgrade investment by the province and district, and multiple additions that expanded accessibility and functionality.• City of Nanaimo grants state of the art new bike racks (slightly delayed due to logistical and supply issues. But project is confirmed to be proceeding).• Floor upgrades in library included re-using and re-purposing flooring from no longer existing sites (Franklyn St. Gym for example).• On-site before and after school care rolled out which integrates Pleasant Valley as a more immersive neighbour in the community.• Pleasant Valley has an amazing living eco-terrarium right at the front entrance that all the students themselves are responsible for maintaining—every-day learning in action!	



ANNUAL TRUSTEE ZONE REPORT

Trustee (INSERT YOUR NAME)	School Year: 2022/2023
School Names/Zone: McGirr Elementary	
Annual Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• McGirr’s principal and some of his team were on hand at the school board’s education committee on October 4th with an excellent presentation on Start Up and welcoming students both new and returning which resulted in an overall better understanding of the challenges and successes schools face each September. What a learning experience!• It should be mentioned that something truly wonderful is happening at McGirr Elementary this year! McGirr’s teacher librarian has developed a weekly reading program on Fridays for McGirr alumni and special guests to read to students a book of their choice or have one selected for them. As one of the volunteer readers, I’ll be reading “True Blue & Wonderfully You” by local Nanaimo author Karen Gornall. The program has already begun and feedback has been nothing short of marvellous!• There was some extensive vandalism and graffiti earlier in the year, but thanks to numerous members of the community it was reported and cleaned up before school started. The speed at which it was cleaned up was surprising and staff deserved our thanks and gratitude.• June 9th saw the future Grade 7s of 2031 arrive to check out their new school here at McGirr, and on June 22nd, Grade 7s had an evening celebration as they make the transition into high school. Speaking of high school –over 20 Dover Bay student volunteers came out to help McGirr Elementary during Track and Field. Thank you!• Capital project news: Finally! Badly needed work has been approved by the district for McGirr, some of which was on the principal’s wish list. This includes enhancing safety and security for MgGirr students by making the field more visible from the school.	



Trustee MARK ROBINSON	School Year: 2022/2023
School Names/Zone: <p style="text-align: center;">Seaview Elementary</p>	
Annual Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three official visits to Seaview, some amazing wall art and projects shared to all visitors on the walls.• Lantzville’s People’s Choice award-winning school Seaview Elementary was busy for the first two months this last autumn! Apart from Start Up, for the months of September and October Seaview put together Free Family Fun Nights in the gym every Tuesday evening from 6PM-8PM. These unstructured nights were open to all families and free to join. Community outreach in action!• It was a blessing to be on hand as all students were treated to a special grand opening of their learning garden. On hand were several Snaw-Naw-As dignitaries, led by Stamush. It was a spectacular event for all students with indigenous learning activities throughout the day. If you get the chance to visit Seaview Elementary in the near future, I highly recommend checking out the fantastic learning garden.• Safe walking access was restored to many students thanks in large part to the hard work and effort by the District of Lantzville and NLPS staff.• After an in-person visit to NLPS’s facilities offices, it can be reported that the new childcare spaces expected for Seaview have been approved and the project is now in the development stages.• Had the honour of representing Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools both in 2022 and 2023 during Lantzville’s annual Remembrance Day ceremonies at Huddlestone Park. 2022’s ceremony saw an incredible rendition of “Oh, Canada!” by one of our Dover Bay students. The ceremony saw a robust amount of students from our district participating.	

--



Trustee (INSERT YOUR NAME)	School Year: 2022/2023
School Names/Zone: <p style="text-align: center;">Rutherford Elementary</p>	
Annual Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 visits to school: Comprehensive tour of facility and external grounds observations with other parents• With eager anticipation, the gears continue to turn and the school board is moving ahead with re-opening Rutherford Elementary and it's a pleasure to announce that the school board has created a new working group to discuss the re-opening, including tackling the new boundaries-- with public engagement to follow afterwards.• In order to be set up for success and long-term viability when re-opened, the district is enhancing international education at the elementary level for Rutherford. This will provide a fall-back of sorts in order to keep the initial student population higher in order to ensure viability.• Opening slated to be for the 2025/2026 school year.• The district is in a much better position to move forward with re-opening with district area enrolment numbers holding (or growing) as they are.• Student numbers across the Dover Bay family of schools zone show no major slow down in growth, the Kindergarten level being the only exception. An increasing number of residential development projects in the area will grow demand for school spaces in the near future, which only adds strength to the importance of re-opening.	



Trustee MARK ROBINSON	School Year: 2022/2023
School Names/Zone:	
International Education	

- Visited the main office of the International Education department located at Dover Bay High School
- Discovered how immersed international students are in our Canadian culture, including Hallowe'en, Indigenous learnings, and participating in every-day events similar to local students.
- Due to the wildfire event, international students were unable to get home and had no place to stay during being effectively trapped. Due to the great efforts of district staff and having a strong relationship with SD70 (Pacific Rim), we were able to accommodate the students with both food and shelter until they were able to safely return home.
- International students participated in numerous outdoor learning experiences which enhanced their time spent with our district and added value to our International Education program overall. Our outdoor learning opportunities outshine most other districts across North America which benefits our ability to attract students to our program.
- Lack of homestay families is perhaps the biggest challenge facing our international program. The rich rewards in hosting an international student can't be said enough—strongly encourage everyone to spread the word and enrich their own family by inviting an international student to share their culture with your family. Opportunities exist year round for families to sign up!