

NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BUSINESS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING
ACTION SHEET

DATE: June 12, 2024
TO: Business Committee
FROM: Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer
SUBJECT: Draft Policy – Child Care Services and Early Years Programs

Recommendation:

The Business Committee recommends that the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) receive the Draft Policy – Child Care Services and Early Years Programs and circulate as a notice of motion for 30 days, utilizing the consultation process as per Board Governance, Section 1, 2.7 – Policy Development.

Background:

Pursuant to the Policy Committee’s workplan it has drafted a child care policy (the “Draft Policy”) for the Board’s consideration.

Discussion:

Approximately two years ago the Ministry of Education and Child Care (the “Ministry”) set out requirements for District’s to have child care policies or procedures in place. AP 528 – Child Care Services and Early Years Programs (attached) included all the requirements as set out by the Ministry.

The Draft Policy is intended to bring aspects of the AP which were more appropriately placed in the Board’s policy making purview as well as address some additional specifics important to the Board and not required by the Ministry.

The highlights of the Draft Policy include a requirement that Childcare services promote Hul’q’umi’num’, reconciliation and accessibility and support student outcomes. It is also highlights the limits in the *School Act* with respect to charging providers for space or charging parents for services provided “in-house”. The Policy also encourages providers to provide a living wage to its employees. It also sets out how providers will be chosen and directs staff to regular provide opportunities for additional providers to become qualified.

Finally, the Policy sets out the Board’s preference for the before and after school services to be provided in-house where feasible and the manner in which Board approval is provided for the expansion or reduction of services. Note that the *School Act* limits the provision of childcare services to student not enrolled in the District and therefore providing 0-5 care at this time would not be permitted.

If ultimately passed, the AP will then be adapted to remove aspects that overlap between the Draft Policy and the AP and to ensure alignment.

Appendices:

Appendix A: Draft Policy – Child Care Services and Early Years Programs

Appendix B: Administrative Procedure 528 – Child Care Services and Early Years Programs