

LONG RANGE FACILITIES PLAN 2021-2031



NANAIMO LADYSMITH
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Monitoring
our Progress**
(APRIL 2025 UPDATE)

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MONITORING OUR PROGRESS

In the Spring of 2021 the Board of Education adopted the Long Range Facilities Plan entitled “Addressing Growth and Safety 2021-2031” (the “LRFP”). The LRFP is ambitious in scope and incorporates issues associated with capacity and growth, seismic safety, the environment and reconciliation. In order to monitor the LRFP’s progress a Long Range Facilities Plan Advisory Committee has been created.

This report is intended to provide a brief overview of how we are doing. The report has five metrics clearly indicated by the graphics next to each recommendation along with a brief description of progress to date. The metrics are as follows:



Red Light – The red light signifies that the District has made no demonstrable progress on a recommendation. This indicates the need for a focus in the following school year to begin progress.



Yield – The yield sign indicates that the District has purposefully delayed progress on a recommendation.



Yellow Light – The yellow light indicates that the District has begun work on a recommendation but has not made significant progress.



Green Light – The green light means the District is actively implementing a recommendation.



Check Mark - This has been completed

Recommendation 1

Alleviate medium and long-term capacity issues by working through the LRFPA Advisory Committee to consider expanding existing school(s), opening new school(s) and/or re-opening school(s).



The Board of Education is reopening Rutherford Elementary for September 2025. This will alleviate space constraints in the north end and allow for future growth. In addition, expansions at Wellington Secondary and Chase River Elementary are in progress.

Recommendation 2

Institute a School Site Acquisition Charge (SSAC).



Since the institution of the SSAC the District has collected \$478,469.08 from the north (plus \$17,343.70 of interest allocated) and \$30,001.97 in the south (plus \$1,222.78 of interest allocated) for a total of \$527,037.53.

Recommendation 3

Apply to the Crown for a grant(s) of land if located in future growth areas.



The district has shared areas that it is monitoring for growth with the Ministry of Education and Child Care. These include Sandstone, Hammond Bay and Lantzville. No formal requests are contemplated for the 2025-26 school year.

Recommendation 4

Design and Cost Permanent Annexes Built with Portables.



The district has received Ministry funding to expand Wellington Secondary and Chase River Elementary with modular units that will integrate within the overall site plan of the respective schools.

Recommendation 5

The LRFPA Advisory Committee will identify schools with immediate and medium-term capacity issues for expansion.



The district's expansion of Wellington Secondary and Chase River Elementary along with the opening of Rutherford Elementary and supported expansion of Ladysmith Primary will mitigate overcrowding in a number of areas in the district.

Recommendation 6

Proactively acquire additional lands using local capital, school site acquisition dollars and/or Ministry Capital to support the expansion of schools.



The district continues to prioritize land acquisition near Lantzville subject to funding. In addition, brownfield sites adjacent to active schools continue to be monitored for acquisition.

Recommendation 7

Review catchments and families of schools to determine whether there is any possibility of moving enrolment from schools at/over capacity to schools under or slated to be under capacity.



GREEN LIGHT

The opening of Rutherford Elementary has created adjustments to catchment areas. Fall of 2025 will likely see consultation on additional catchment adjustments associated with Wellington’s expansion.

Recommendation 8

Reviewing programming including French Immersion, International Education and Academies to determine implications for capacity issues.



YELLOW LIGHT

International Education’s enrolment is limited in our secondary schools due to capacity. The district has not yet pursued a review of overall French Immersion programming with the exception of the late French Immersion program at École Quarterway.

Recommendation 9

Prioritize the upgrade of NDSS.



GREEN LIGHT

The board continues to advocate strongly for the replacement of NDSS. Competing priorities of government and the fiscal situation provincially have impacted a successful outcome to date.

Recommendation 10

Align seismic upgrades with other priorities in the facilities plan including environmental upgrades and expansions.



GREEN LIGHT

The district is building on its success with the planning of future elementary programming in Ladysmith. Our capital plan aligns with the recommendation.

Recommendation 11

Explore partnerships with external parties, including BC Housing, while planning seismic upgrades to allow for additional locally sourced amenities.



YELLOW LIGHT

While there has been limited progress on this recommendation, the district is actively promoting this opportunity with our partners including the concept of Neighbourhood Learning Centres associated with new builds or seismic rebuilds.

Recommendation 12

Use “Swing Space” when doing seismic upgrades to limit the disruption of an educational program of a school.



GREEN LIGHT

The district continues to ensure that the Woodlands Secondary site is available for swing space as it readies for the reopening of Rutherford Elementary. Further, the district has slowed planning for the upgrade of École North Oyster to determine if swing space will be available.

Recommendation 13

Ensure upgrades are distributed across jurisdictional boundaries of NLPS.



The district continues to ensure jurisdictional equality. Upgrades are planned in every jurisdiction including the anticipated Ladysmith/CVRD projects, Seaview childcare, Chase River expansion etc.

Recommendation 14

Complete HVAC Upgrade Program to ensure modern health and safety in all facilities. *No change since last update.*



Recommendation 15

Ensure that rental rates for facilities, including childcare, operate on a cost recovery basis at minimum.



This is complete with respect to the newly built facilities. Discussions were held in 2024 regarding rate adjustments and staff will bring proposed rates to a future Strategic Directions Committee of the Board of Education for further review.

Recommendation 16

Advocate for additional Annual Facilities Grant (AFG) funding.



[The Board, through the British Columbia School Trustees Association has advocated on this matter.](#) *No change since last update.*

Recommendation 17

Lower GHG emissions through the acquisition of electric buses and other vehicles for the NLPS fleet.



As of March 2025, the district has reduced yellow fleet emissions by 31 percent. The district operates 9 EV busses (with an additional 1 on order) and eight EV service vehicles (with an additional 1 on order). A funding request is pending with the Ministry for an infrastructure upgrade project to expand the service capacity of the facilities yard for future EV fleet purchases.

Recommendation 18

Review alternate funding sources for immediate environmental upgrades outside of the Child Care behind Ministry of Education and Child Care processes.



Since 2021, the district has received \$1,200,000 incentive funding from BC Hydro, Fortis, Clean BC, Zero Emission Transportation Fund, and the Association of School Transportation Services of BC to help fund various school mechanical upgrades and electrifying yellow and white fleet.

Recommendation 19

That the Board of Education encourage government to make electricity as cost effective for school districts as natural gas.



The energy management teams continue to work BC Hydro and Fortis Gas to participate in programs to help reduce consumption and utility costs. As of March 2025, 66 percent of the schools will have completed continuous optimization of the building automation systems, which in turn will save the district \$95,000 in operational costs and reduce our carbon footprint by 14 tonnes of CO₂e.

Recommendation 20

Incorporate the expansion of outdoor learning spaces and school gardens into NLPS's Annual Facilities Grant and/or local capital planning.



This year the district continued progressing towards completing the recommendation to increase outdoor learning spaces (8) and school gardens (8) with the completion of five new outdoor learning spaces and one garden space. This completes the garden portion of the 2021 investment and leaves three remaining outdoor learning spaces which are planned and ready for construction in the 25-26 fiscal year. Once complete, this will fulfill the board's investment and provided sixteen unique learning spaces to help connect our students to the environment.

Recommendation 21

Create an active transportation plan for staff and students and ensure that walkable neighborhoods are considered when reviewing catchments.



Policy 3.8 'Transportation to and from School' was adopted by the board on February 28, 2024. This policy includes sections on 'active transportation' and 'school pick-up and drop-off', both areas will be further defined by staff in future administrative procedure work.

Travel plans continue at Chase River Elementary and Cinnabar Elementary and a new AST (phase 1) plan was approved to support the opening of Rutherford Elementary. The City of Nanaimo continues to support the district and its schools with both staff time and infrastructure improvements to support traffic management.

Recommendation 22

Partner to bring municipal and regional infrastructure onto sites (e.g. turf fields, childcare, community centres).



The board partnered with the City of Nanaimo to expand all weather facilities at John Barsby Secondary. Further, the board has a variety of partnerships with the Regional District of Nanaimo for facilities and site use, including the former South Wellington site, which will include a community centre and facilities at Cedar Secondary.

Recommendation 23

Continue our work with Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN) at Te'tuxwtun and Qwam Qwum Stuwixwulh childcare. Expand to other opportunities with SFN and our other land and community based First Nations partners.



The childcare facility at Qwam Qwum Stuwixwulh school is nearing completion. Further, the former Woodbank Elementary site is home to a variety of Snuneymuxw First Nation initiatives and the district supports the facility through proactive maintenance. At John Barsby Secondary, Tillicum Lelum operates a childcare facility.

Recommendation 24

Partner with Community Agencies and other Groups to enhance opportunities for our students and the broader community.



The district provides a variety of opportunities for external groups to temporarily utilize district spaces including the Great Nanaimo Toy Drive, Kw'umut Lelum, and the Nanaimo Ladysmith Schools Foundation.

Recommendation 25

Create a District Childcare Strategy.



The district has built childcare (both 0-5 and before and after school care) at a variety of sites including Chase River Elementary, Georgia Ave Elementary, Rock City Elementary, Qwam Qwum Stuwixwulh school, Forest Park Elementary, Ladysmith Primary and are starting work at Seaview Elementary.

In addition, the board has supported the expansion of district-offered before and after school care by over 200 spots for September 2025.

Recommendation 26

Maintain fee simple ownership of all closed sites and consider leasing closed school sites not needed for the foreseeable future to support local capital or the upgrade of the site.



No changes occurred in 2024-25.

Recommendation 27

Removed in 2022-23

Recommendation 28

Removed in 2022-23

Recommendation 29

When applicable, review contemplated legislated changes with respect to accessibility and pursue an accessibility audit that reflects current legislation.



This year the District Learning Services/Facilities working group retained a consultant to develop a tool to help prioritize accessibility work required for the built environment. This tool will provide transparency on how items are prioritized and assist in guiding the district to identify the highest needs for our community members.

Recommendation 30

Develop funding streams for short and medium-term accessibility requirements as identified in internal and/or external audits through allocating operating, AFG, local capital and Ministry funding dollars as required.



The district continues to allocate funding from existing sources for projects specifically focused on removing accessibility barriers at our schools including significant upgrades planned for Wellington. Another example of these efforts is the replacement of two stair lifts at Departure Bay Elementary which removed beyond end-of-life equipment with funding from the Annual Facilities Grant.

Recommendation 31

Continue investments in the Access to Technology Plan (Wi-Fi infrastructure upgrade).



The district has continued to financially support Wi-Fi upgrades. Our secondary schools are complete and overall 55 percent of our district has been completed. Dependent on funding and resources available, the upgrade should be completed during the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school years (two more school years).

Recommendation 32

That when upgrading our facilities, NLPS commit to upgrades that align with modern ways of teaching and learning, including considering flexible spaces and a cross-curricular focus.



While recent expansions at Dover Bay Secondary and École Hammond Bay have met this goal, the limitations of modular expansion will limit significant improvements in learning spaces. However, additional capacity will allow for more amenity space in existing buildings.

Recommendation 33

Create policy and procedure to ensure that staff is more active in influencing local and regional planning.



Recommendation 34

Create a Long Range Facilities Plan Advisory Committee.



RECOMMENDATIONS UPDATE



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