



**NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING
INFORMATION SHEET**

DATE: April 9, 2025
TO: Strategic Directions Committee
FROM: Gillian Robinson, Executive Director of Communications, Privacy and Community Engagement
SUBJECT: 2025-2026 Community Budget Feedback

Background:

The Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools Board of Education is required by the School Act to pass a balanced budget for the upcoming school year by June 30. As part of this process, the district solicits feedback from our community on spending

Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools' annual budget spending and priorities are guided by the district's [Strategic Plan](#). The Strategic Plan lays out three specific goals for the school district:

- **Student success:**
 - Increase literacy success rates for all students
 - Increase numeracy success rates for all students
 - Increase graduation rates for students: who identify as Indigenous, who have disabilities and diverse abilities, and/or are Children and Youth in Care
- **Student and employee wellness:**
 - Increase the number of students who feel welcome, safe and have a sense of belonging in their school
 - Increase the number of employees who feel valued and/or engaged
- **Truth and reconciliation:**
 - Increase awareness of and access to resources available to support hul'q'umi'num language learning
 - Create and share district-wide, Syeyutsus Principles of Teaching & Learning

The Board of Education's role is to ensure that the necessary resources and funding are in place to achieve the goals in a manner that is sustainable over time.

In February, budget discussions began with the presentation to the board of enrolment projections, the 2025-26 draft budget calendar and the presentation of the 2024-25 annual amended budget. The process continues until the board adopts the budget in May 2025.

From February 20 to April 3, 2025, the NLPS Communications department shared a survey soliciting feedback on the district's budget priorities.

Discussion:

District communications staff created an information page on the district website and a survey to provide an opportunity for our learning community to provide their feedback on spending priorities and other feedback related to the district budget. This website was shared via social media, the district and employee newsletters and via direct email to all NLPS caregivers.

164 people completed the survey. This included 121 caregivers/parents, 40 staff and 3 community members.

The majority (56%) said they were somewhat familiar with the district's current budget and spending priorities. 39 per cent said they were not familiar and five per cent said they were very familiar.

Most respondents (68%) said that it is very important that the Board of Education seek public input on budget spending. 28 per cent said that it is somewhat important, and three percent said it is not important.

Respondents ranked the top four spending priorities as:

- Increased literacy and numeracy supports
- Classroom materials and technology
- Mental health, wellbeing and counseling supports for students.
- Facility improvements (e.g., repairs, new buildings)

Respondents said that if additional funding became available, the top priorities they would like to see more spending on include:

- supports for students including EAs,
- counselling, mental health and wellbeing,
- upgrades to buildings and classrooms,
- technology
- and employee wellbeing.

Respondents were asked what areas they felt were under-funded in the district. The responses aligned with the areas people would like to see more spending on if more funding became available.

There were four opportunities for respondents to provide open-ended responses. A full report on all survey responses including those responses is attached to this Information Sheet as Appendix A.