



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

DATE: May 7, 2025
TO: Strategic Directions Committee
FROM: Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer
SUBJECT: Board Committee Structure Review

Recommendation

The Strategic Directions Committee recommends that the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) approve in principle making the Strategic Directions Committee permanent and circulate as a notice of motion for 30 days, Policy 208 – Board Committees Representation and Annual Workplan, utilizing the consultation process as per Board Governance, Section 210 – Policy Development.

Background

In December 2024 the Board pass the following motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) approve the temporary suspension of the Business Committee and Education Committee to be replaced with a single once a month public Committee of the Whole entitled “Strategic Directions Committee” and a monthly Board working session entitled “Professional Learning Working Group” effective January 2025 and that the Board review the temporary structure in May 2025.

This action sheet will provide a brief review of the structure and provides next steps for the Board’s consideration.

Discussion

Staff are of the opinion that the new structure has been successful. The rationale is as following:

Strategic Directions Committee:

The single formal Strategic Directions Committee meeting has successfully addressed all agenda items within the 3 hour timeframe. This combined format has also provided an opportunity for education and operations staff, who may not have attended the separate education or business committee meetings in the past, to gain exposure to a broader range of the district’s functions.

Board Meetings:

Trustees have likely noticed that, to avoid overloading the Strategic Directions meetings, some staff reports of public interest, though informational only, have been included in Board Meetings. This has helped to balance the agendas without reducing opportunities for input or public scrutiny.

Professional Learning Working Group:

The PLWG has also been successful. The meetings have been held off site allowing trustees to visit schools and programs as well as have a number of learning opportunities regarding operational and educational areas of the district that do not involve decision making or oversight but rather assist in building a knowledge base in an informal setting.

Challenges:

At this point no specific challenges have been identified.

Conclusion:

Staff are recommending that the Strategic Directions Committee structure be made permanent. To facilitate consultation on this topic, staff recommend seeking feedback on making the changes to Policy 208 permanent.

Appendices:

Appendix A: Policy 208 - Board Committees Representation and Annual Workplan

