



**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: Revised Policy and Bylaw Recommendations

Recommendations

1. ***The Strategic Directions Committee recommends that the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) adopt the following amended policies:***
 - ***Policy 218 – Role of the Chair and Vice Chair***
 - ***Policy 505 – School Catchment and Student Enrolment***
 - ***Policy 403 – Board Recognition***
2. ***The Strategic Directions Committee recommends that the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) read Bylaw 502 Parent Student Appeals for a third and final time.***

Background

This action sheet outlines the feedback and next steps with respect to Policies 218, 505, 403, and Bylaw 502.

Discussion

Engagement and feedback opportunities on the district's draft policies was shared on the district's website main landing page for just over 30 days. Communications shared links to this page through the district's social media channels, employee and public newsletters (March 14, April 3 and 22) and by a direct email to all families (March 31).

Generally, the Board received minimal feedback on the policies and by-laws. However, it is valuable to address the feedback given the views are likely held by others who have not shared. The Policy Committee has reviewed the feedback and is recommending implementing the policies and by-law without changes. Note that the action sheet outlining the rationale provided at the March Strategic Directions Committee for the Policies and by-law is attached.

Policy 218 - Role of the Chair and the Vice-Chair

There was no feedback on this policy and changes are recommended by the Policy Committee.

Policy 505 – School Catchment and Student Enrolment

The feedback on this policy was specific to French Immersion and changes are not recommended.

Policy 403 Board Recognition

This new policy received limited feedback but it was positive. Upon passage, staff will update administrative procedures to put the requirements of the Policy into place.

Bylaw 502 – Parent Student Appeals

There was two pieces of feedback. The first is related to how difficult it is to raise concerns within a school context. It should be noted that the current AP associated with Appeals incorporates complaints. This creates confusion as the complaint process is not one that is intended to arrive before the Board. Upon approval of the Bylaw the intention to redraft the Appeal AP and redraft the current parent complaint process to clearly delineate the different processes to provide clarity.

In addition, there was feedback expresses concerns about the standard of review being recommended in the by-law as well as the limitations on the issues that can be appealed to the Board. With respect to these concerns, it should be clear that the Bylaw ultimately preserves the ability of the Board to hear an appeal on any matter that it deems to “significantly impact or significantly affects the education, health or safety of a student.” However, the guidance in the Bylaw is intended to be transparent in what issues typically go before the Board. With respect to the standard of review, this change is also intended to provide clarity to appellants and Board members of how the decision of the Board will be made.

If approved, then a guidance document will be created to support parents through the process in addition to a redrafting of the AP to support process.

Appendices:

Appendix A: March Strategic Directions Action Sheet

Appendix B: Community Feedback

Appendix C: Amended Policy 218

Appendix D: Amended Policy 505

Appendix E: Amended Policy 403

Appendix F: Amended Bylaw 502