



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

DATE: May 7, 2025
TO: Strategic Directions Committee
FROM: Jacquie Poulin, Assistant Superintendent and Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer
SUBJECT: Rutherford Update

Background

This information sheet is to provide an update on the re-opening of Rutherford Elementary.

Discussion

Staff have been working with enrolment numbers and the organization of Rutherford Elementary for its opening in September 2025. In addition to catchment area students, we will be utilizing space to meet the needs of district programs.

Elementary Tier 3 Program Revisions for 2025-2026

Staff are in the process of refreshing the Tier 3 program structures for the coming school year. District and school-based staff have been working closely in preparation for next year and have worked to be as responsive as possible to the feedback from schools and parents, as well as to the data collected through Inclusion Outreach over the past couple of years.

Transitions (formerly known as “Elementary Outreach”): Transitions will continue to provide hybrid support for students, in direct partnership with neighbourhood schools. The Transitions classroom will move to Rutherford Elementary from Dufferin for September 2025.

RISE (Resilience, Inclusion, Skills & Engagement): RISE is an emerging intervention program that will be based out of Rutherford Elementary and is being designed for students who experience ongoing barriers to full-time participation in a “traditional” classroom setting. The program is envisioned as a full-time, onsite, cohort-based program serving up to 12 students. It is expected that students will attend for one full school year.

Out of Catchment Requests

At this time the district has been unable to approve out of catchment requests from Rutherford and Frank J. Ney families to maintain enrolment at their previous schools. Staff are monitoring enrolment, particularly with respect to the ability to provide ongoing space and staffing for students at McGirr, Frank J. Ney, Randerson and Departure Bay.

Building Status and Equipment Ordered

A significant amount of work has been done by Learning Services, Rutherford Principal, Mike Lundine, Facilities and Finance to ready the school. There have been some unforeseen delays which mean that finishing touches on the school will be ongoing after opening. However, the school will be ready with sufficient time to prepare.

Logo Unveiling

Mike Lundine has worked closely with the school community through emails and PAC meetings to decide on their new logo. They have had the honour of working with James Johnny, an artist from Snuneymuxw First Nation to create the design.

Parent Advisory Council

The Secretary-Treasurer has drafted a letter confirming the establishment of the PAC. In accordance with the *School Act*, the PAC and the principal will work together to develop the by-laws.

