

LONG RANGE FACILITIES PLAN 2021-2031



NANAIMO LADYSMITH
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Monitoring our Progress

(APRIL 2026 UPDATE)

NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
395 WAKESIAH AVENUE
NANAIMO, BC V9R 3K6
WWW.SD68.BC.CA



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).



In September 2025 the Board of Education reopened Rutherford Elementary. In addition, the expansion at Wellington Secondary will be completed in a few weeks, and Chase River Elementary will be ready for September 2026. Finally, the board is awaiting final approval for a new build in south Ladysmith.

Recommendation 2

Institute a School Site Acquisition Charge (SSAC).



Since the institution of the SSAC, Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools has collected \$698,804.04, from the north (plus \$37,032.49 of interest allocated) and \$54,113.89 in the south (plus \$2,604.98 of interest allocated) for a total of \$792,555.40.

Recommendation 3

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



The school 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 2026-27 school year.

Recommendation 4

Design and Cost Permanent Annexes Built with Portables.



Staff anticipate the recommendation to remove this action to the LRFPA Committee.

Recommendation 5

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



Given the overlap with recommendation 1 – staff anticipate discussing with the LRFPA Committee whether to merge Recommendation 5 with Recommendation 1 for Board consideration.

Recommendation 6

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



The school 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. It should be noted that upgrades to the recently acquired land near Bayview Elementary are nearing completion.

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

With the expansion of Wellington Secondary and softer enrolment near Mountain View Elementary, the LRFP Committee will review whether positive changes may be contemplated in fall of 2026 for implementation in September 2027.

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 school district has not yet pursued a review of overall French Immersion programming.

Recommendation 9

Prioritize the upgrade of NDSS.



GREEN LIGHT

The school 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. The school district was not successful in receiving support from the Ministry of Infrastructure for next year.

Recommendation 10

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



GREEN LIGHT

The school district is building on its success with the plan 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 school district actively promotes this opportunity with our partners, including the concept of Neighbourhood Learning Centres associated with new buildings 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

In the event the school district receives support for a new south Ladysmith facility, the district anticipates building the new facility prior to moving students from LIS.

Recommendation 13

Ensure upgrades are distributed across jurisdictional boundaries of NLPS.



Note that staff intend to recommend to the LRFP Committee that this recommendation be removed.

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.



Staff continue to review and align lease rates as new license and renewals present themselves. Staff have incorporated the new Dufferin Meeting room into the rental inventory and continue to assess demand and rates. Staff plan to address a larger rental review as time permits.

Recommendation 16

Advocate for additional Annual Facilities Grant (AFG) funding.



For the last two years AFG has increased. Given this dynamic, staff intend to recommend to the LRFP Committee that this recommendation be removed.

Recommendation 17

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



As of March 2026, the school district has reduced yellow fleet emissions by 39 per cent. The district operates 10 EV buses (with an additional one on order) and eight EV service vehicles. Furthermore, the infrastructure upgrade project to expand the service capacity of the facilities yard for future EV fleet purchases will complete May 2026.

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, Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools has received \$1,643,000 incentive funding from BC Hydro, Fortis, Clean BC, Zero Emission Transportation Fund, and 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.



Energy management teams continue to work with BC Hydro and Fortis Gas to participate in programs that will 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.

In addition, the board has issued an advocacy letter in support of GHG reduction activities, requesting 10M to align with Clean BC goals of 50 per cent GHG reduction by 2030.

Recommendation 20

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



This year the school district progressed toward the recommendation to increase outdoor learning spaces (eight) and school gardens (eight) with two outdoor learning spaces remaining – one under construction and one in planning.

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 school 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. A new AST (phase 1) plan was approved to support the opening of Rutherford Elementary. The City of Nanaimo continues to support the school district and its schools with both staff time and infrastructure improvements to support traffic management.

This year active transportation planning opportunities have been expanded to all schools in the District.

Recommendation 22

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



The school 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 has been completed and improvements at the John Barsby childcare facility operated by Tillicum Lelum have occurred.

Recommendation 24

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



The school 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.



Given the successful expansion of third-party operated 0-5 childcare, and before- and after-school programming operated by the school district, staff will seek the LRFP Committee's guidance on whether this recommendation is still required.

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 2025-26.

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.



The school district continues to develop and improve methods in which accessibility needs are communicated and addressed in an effort to increase support for emergent needs, and improve the timeline these are met through more efficient systems.

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.



GREEN LIGHT

The school district continues to find ways to allocate existing funding streams toward increasing accessibility at our buildings. This includes a significant allocation of funding from the Annual Facilities Grant to support accessibility. Further, major improvements have been incorporated in capital projects, including Wellington Secondary, that serve to enhance accessibility. Note that bathroom enhancements at Ladysmith Secondary, NDSS (GN) and John Barsby Secondary have also been specific projects that enhance accessibility.

Recommendation 31

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



GREEN LIGHT

The school district's program is anticipated to be complete in the 2026-27 school year. The LFRP Committee will discuss whether the school board should remove this recommendation.

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.



GREEN LIGHT

Both the Chase River Elementary and Wellington Secondary expansions have provided opportunities to ensure modern learning environments that are responsive to local needs have been created. Moreover, the addition of capacity is serving to allow additional amenity space in schools receiving additional capacity.

Recommendation 33

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



COMPLETE

Recommendation 34

Create a Long Range Facilities Plan Advisory Committee.



COMPLETE



RECOMMENDATIONS UPDATE



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2021-2031



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