



NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BUSINESS COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING

INFORMATION SHEET

DATE: February 10, 2021
TO: Business Committee
FROM: Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer
SUBJECT: 2021/22 Enrolment Projection

Background

In order to comply with section 106.3 (2) of the School Act, a board must submit to the Minister, on or before February 15 of each year, an estimate of the number of students who may be enrolled in educational programs provided by the board in the next school year.

Specifically, the following categories must be included;

- September Enrolment Count, including school-age, adult, special needs, Indigenous Education and English Language Learning
- February Enrolment Count, including Continuing Education, Distributed Learning, special needs enrolment growth and newcomer refugees
- May Enrolment Count, including Continuing Education and Distributed Learning

The enrolment estimates received from school districts will be used by the Ministry to facilitate the development of operating grant estimates.

Operating grant estimates for the upcoming school year are announced by mid-March and confirm the districts preliminary funding levels which is the single biggest driver of revenue and expense in the District, and the foundation of the Annual Budget due to Ministry in June.

Grants are then adjusted in December, following the verification of the September 30th student data collection, where funding levels may be increased or decreased depending on actual student enrolment; funding level differentials are presented to the Board, and reflected in the Amended Annual Budget, due each February.

The following information sets out the methodology we use to create the enrolment projection and next steps with the information as gathered. We note that the impact of COVID19 has made projections for the 2021-22 incredibly difficult and likely subject to more variation than in any previous budget cycle.

Discussion:

In early October the district provides our enrolment projection software consultant (Baragar) with the September 30th student data collection information, which is then used in conjunction with demographic trends, school migration trends, birth rates, student participation, and number of other minor factors to produce our districts annual enrolment projection.

While we have engaged another consultant to create longer term projections, Baragar continues to be the basis of our short-term enrollment projections. After we receive the Baragar data, we consult with principals and facilities to determine if the numbers align with local knowledge, we compare Baragar's results with historical student enrolment trends, as well as current enrolment, and then assign projections to schools.

In normal years, we tend to project somewhat conservatively in order to avoid being overfunded by the Ministry and to ensure that we do not issue staffing that is not supported by student enrolment. Staff monitor student registrations very closely however and may add additional staffing if student enrolment exceeds our initial projections, which allows us to respond to the educational needs determined by actual enrolment numbers.

This year, our projections are based on students mostly returning from Distributed Learning (ICE) to bricks and mortar schools. Due to the potential for the vaccine schedule falling behind and students who may have determined that online learning is preferable, these numbers are much less certain than in previous years.

The reason for this directly relates to 2020-21 where we provided staffing to brick and mortar schools, but due to COVID we saw a significant shift to Distributed Learning where staffing levels were not sufficient. This anomaly required the district to add staffing which funding levels did not accommodate. Fortunately, federal funds were provided to support COVID related costs. As it is not anticipated that these funds will be available in future years, we continue to be conservative with this year's projection. If students return from homeschooling, as well as to their bricks and mortar schools, or if the desire for DL continues, we can respond to student needs.

Another COVID related factor that contributed to our conservative projection was the reduced course load seen at the secondary level. As grade 10 through 12 students are funded on the number of courses they take (FTE), not on headcount, there is a conversion factor applied to secondary enrolment projections. The historical three-year average put this headcount to FTE conversion rate at approximately 99% whereas in 2020-21 this was 97%; for 2021-22 we anticipate an increase over this year but with uncertainty, projected at 98%.

Overall however, we are projecting an increase of students from 2020-21 but due to COVID we are not anticipating a total recovery of students until the 2022-23 school year. Further, in the event that it appears that the vaccine schedule will not be met, and alternate student learning scenarios emerge, we can make further adjustments if necessary.

The following table provide the districts three-year enrolment figures as required by Ministry, where the first year provides the funding for the preliminary budget, the following two years are used by Ministry for future planning purposes.

Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools - 3 Yr Enrolment Projection (Feb 15, 2021)	Budget 2020/21	Actual Oct 2020/21	Budget 2021/22	Budget 2022/23	Budget 2023/24
SEPTEMBER ENROLMENT - School - Age Basic Allocation					
K FTE	1084.000	1005.000	1068.000	1090.000	1004.000
Gr. 1 FTE	1073.000	1002.000	1050.000	1128.000	1114.000
Gr. 2 FTE	1118.000	1033.000	1076.000	1085.000	1155.000
Gr. 3 FTE	1110.000	1021.000	1093.000	1111.000	1110.000
Gr. 4 FTE	1134.000	1057.000	1097.000	1115.000	1128.000
Gr. 5 FTE	1124.000	1046.000	1118.000	1130.000	1138.000
Gr. 6 FTE	1132.000	1068.000	1124.000	1155.000	1151.000
Gr. 7 FTE	1137.000	1070.000	1128.000	1166.000	1185.000
Sub Total	8912.000	8302.000	8754.000	8980.000	8985.000
Gr. 8 FTE	1154.000	1137.750	1133.000	1155.000	1192.000
Gr. 9 FTE	1008.000	948.625	1118.000	1135.000	1142.000
Gr. 10 FTE	1005.645	980.000	933.610	1121.360	1116.270
Gr. 11 FTE	930.891	913.250	968.140	937.220	1108.380
Gr. 12 FTE	888.412	809.750	880.240	947.680	898.190
Sub Total	4986.948	4789.375	5032.990	5296.260	5456.840
K-12 FTE Total	13898.948	13091.375	13786.990	14276.260	14441.840
Career Tech (CTC)	65.000	63.000	65.000	65.000	65.000
K-12 Regular Schools	13963.948	13154.375	13851.990	14341.260	14506.840
CE (School Age) FTE	4.500	0.250	0.000	0.000	0.000
Alternate Schools FTE	295.000	237.000	255.000	260.000	265.000
Distributed Learning (K-9) FTE	137.000	831.000	170.000	165.000	165.000
Distributed Learning (10-12) FTE	59.000	80.875	78.625	74.000	74.000
Sub Total	495.500	1149.125	503.625	499.000	504.000
Grand Totals - Sept Basic Student Funded FTE	14459.448	14303.500	14355.615	14840.260	15010.840
<i>Change in Basic Student Enrolment</i>		-155.948	52.115	484.645	170.580
SEPTEMBER ENROLMENT - Unique Student Needs					
Level 1 Special Needs FTE	15.000	16.000	15.000	15.000	15.000
Level 2 Special Needs FTE	439.000	488.000	465.000	465.000	465.000
Level 3 Special Needs FTE	290.000	245.000	245.000	245.000	245.000
English Language Learning FTE	950.000	970.000	920.000	920.000	920.000
Indigenous Education FTE	2300.000	2330.000	2310.000	2310.000	2310.000
Adult Education FTE (Non-Graduates only)	7.750	5.250	4.500	4.500	4.500
Total Adult Education Funded FTE	7.750	5.250	4.500	4.500	4.500
<i>Change in Adult Education Funded FTE</i>		-2.500	-0.750	0.000	0.000
Total Change in September Funded FTE		-158.448	51.365	484.645	170.580
Total FTE for September Operating Grant		14308.750	14360.115	14844.760	15015.340
FEBRUARY ENROLMENT - Continuing Education, Distributed Learning, Special Needs Growth and Newcomer Refugees					
Continuing Education FTE - School-Age	15.000		15.000	15.000	15.000
Continuing Education FTE - Non-Graduate Adults	4.000		4.000	4.000	4.000
Distributed Learning FTE K-Grade 9 (School-Age)	30.000		30.000	30.000	30.000
Distributed Learning FTE Grades 10-12 (School-Age)	95.000		95.000	95.000	95.000
Distributed Learning FTE - Non-Graduate Adults	4.000		4.000	4.000	4.000
Level 1 Special Needs FTE Growth (All Schools)	0.000		0.000	0.000	0.000
Level 2 Special Needs FTE Growth (All Schools)	10.000		10.000	10.000	10.000
Level 3 Special Needs FTE Growth (All Schools)	5.000		5.000	5.000	5.000
Newcomer Refugees FTE (Standard & Alternate only)	6.000		6.000	6.000	6.000
ELL FTE (applies to Newcomer Refugees only)	6.000		6.000	6.000	6.000
February Sub Total	154.000	154.000	154.000	154.000	154.000
<i>February Enrolment Changes</i>		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
MAY ENROLMENT - Continuing Education and Distributed Learning					
Continuing Education FTE - School-Age	6.000		6.000	6.000	6.000
Continuing Education FTE - Non-Graduate Adults	5.000		5.000	5.000	5.000
Distributed Learning FTE K-Grade 9 (School-Age)	15.000		15.000	15.000	15.000
Distributed Learning FTE Grades 10-12 (School-Age)	65.000		65.000	65.000	65.000
Distributed Learning FTE - Non-Graduate Adults	2.000		2.000	2.000	2.000
May Sub Total	93.000	93.000	93.000	93.000	93.000
<i>May Enrolment Changes</i>		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total District Funded FTE for the year	14714.198	14555.750	14607.115	15091.760	15262.340
Total Budgeted Increase/Decrease	-	-158.448	51.365	484.645	170.580

The anticipated impact of the projected enrolment increase is reflected below, however, this is subject to Ministry's confirmation of the per pupil student rates, as well as other funding supplements, in March.

<i>NLPS - 2021/22 Projected Enrolment vrs the 2020/21 Annual Amended Budget</i>							
September Enrolment	2021-22						
	Budget 21/22 FTE	Actual 20/21 AAB FTE	Change	RATES	Budget 21/22 \$	Actual 20/21 AAB \$	Change
Standard (Regular) Schools	13,851.990	13,154.375	697.615	7,560	104,721,044	99,447,075	5,273,969
Continuing Education	-	0.250	(0.250)	7,560	-	1,890	(1,890)
Alternate Schools	255.000	237.000	18.000	7,560	1,927,800	1,791,720	136,080
Distributed Learning	248.625	911.875	(663.250)	6,100	1,516,613	5,562,438	(4,045,825)
Home Schooling	45.000	83.000	(38.000)	250	11,250	20,750	(9,500)
Course Challenges	-	-	-	236	-	-	-
<i>*HS/CH FTE not included</i>	14,355.615	14,303.500	52.115		108,176,707	106,823,873	1,352,834
Level 1 Special Needs	15.000	16.000	(1.000)	43,000	645,000	688,000	(43,000)
Level 2 Special Needs	465.000	488.000	(23.000)	20,400	9,486,000	9,955,200	(469,200)
Level 3 Special Needs	245.000	245.000	-	10,300	2,523,500	2,523,500	-
English Language Learning	920.000	970.000	(50.000)	1,520	1,398,400	1,474,400	(76,000)
Aboriginal Education	2,310.000	2,330.000	(20.000)	1,500	3,465,000	3,495,000	(30,000)
Adult Education	4.500	5.250	(0.750)	4,823	21,704	25,321	(3,617)
Equity of Opportunity Supplement					757,024	757,024	-
Total September enrolment	14,360.115	14,308.750	(0.750)		18,296,628	18,918,445	(621,817)
Other Funding Categories							
Salary Differential Supplement					2,918,143	2,918,143	-
Unique Geographic Factor Supplement					3,305,467	3,305,467	-
Education Plan Supplement					128,563	128,563	-
<i>February Data Count (New SPED/DL/ELL)</i>					977,974	977,974	-
<i>May Data Count (New DL Only)</i>					506,116	506,116	-
<i>2020/21 Full Year Operating Grant</i>					134,309,597	133,578,580	731,017
<i>Indigenous Services Canada Recovery</i>					(1,174,655)	(1,174,655)	-
2020/21 Final Operating Grant					133,134,942	132,403,925	731,017
Total FTE all categories	14,360.115	14,308.750	51.365				
Total School Aged Enrol	14,355.615	14,303.500	52.115				
Total Adult Enrol	4.500	5.250	(0.750)				
Total Enrol	14,360.115	14,308.750	51.365				
Projected to Actual Change			51.365				731,017