

**BUSINESS COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC MEETING**

**INFORMATION SHEET**

DATE: April 14, 2021  
TO: Business Committee  
FROM: Secretary-Treasurer Mark Walsh  
SUBJECT: Long Range Facilities Plan

**Background**

At the February 17, 2021, Special Business Committee meeting, the Business Committee recommended the following motion:

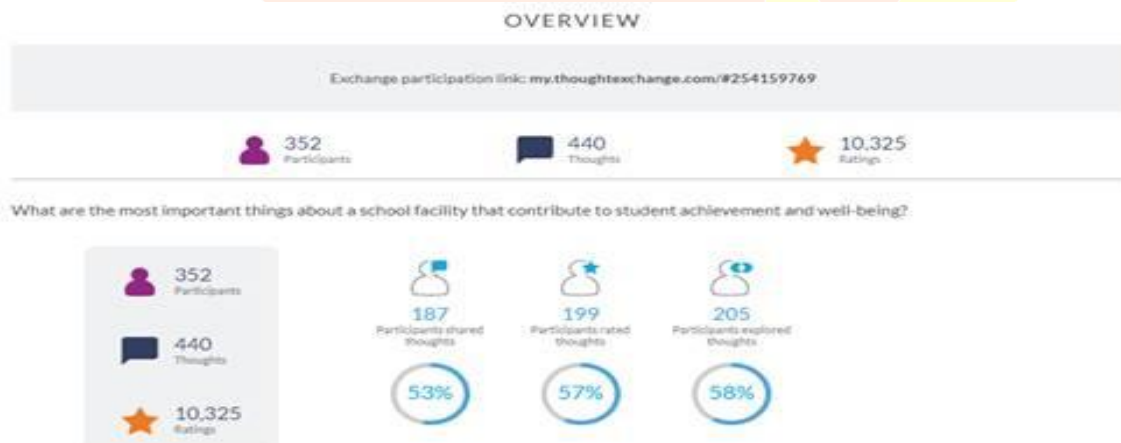
***The Business Committee recommends that staff make the attached draft Long Range Facilities Plan available to the public for consultation immediately and to report back in April at the Business Committee meeting or Special Business Committee meeting, with public feedback and any proposed changes.***

**Discussion**

Following the motion, a number of steps with respect to consultation occurred including:

1. A ThoughtExchange engagement;
2. A virtual student townhall;
3. A virtual meeting organized with DPAC for all PACS;
4. A publicly accessible virtual townhall;
5. Individual meetings between staff at local jurisdictions;
6. Staff meeting with Leaders for Learning;
7. Board to council meeting with the City of Nanaimo;
8. Upcoming Board to council meeting with the Town of Ladysmith;
9. Upcoming staff presentation to the District of Lantzville.

**ThoughtExchange**



– Understanding that you may identify with more than one of the following roles, Please select the role you identify most closely with for the purposes of this exchange.



– In which region do you reside?



### Overall top thoughts

### Employee top thoughts

### Parent/Caregiver top thoughts

### Student top thoughts

### Partner Group top thoughts

### General Community top thoughts

### Areas of focus included:

- Adequate facilities
- Outdoor learning areas and gardens
- Inclusive and accessible learning environments
- Adequate staff to support learning
- Safety and cleanliness
- Air and water quality
- Technology
- Social and emotional supports/learning

### Face to face consultation – General comments

The participation in our various aspects of consultation was very positive. We note that given that school closure was not contemplated in the draft LRFP the number of engagements was likely less than in previous iterations. However, the depth of engagement was positive. Further, we were able to use the process as an opportunity to educate our stakeholders, partners and the general community on the challenges we face over the next decade.

### Student Town Hall (March 2, 2021)

Our students attended the town hall very prepared and provided important feedback and in many ways confirmed the direction of the LRFP. For instance, their continued concerns with respect to access to technology are reflected in the plan. The group expressed concerns about secondary schools becoming too large, which was an issue raised in a number of venues. Further, they expressed a desire for modern learning spaces and amenities. There was also a recognition of the need for NDSS to be replaced.

*DPAC Meeting (March 2, 2021)*

The DPAC meeting was an excellent opportunity to provide background on our District and the mechanisms that the LRFP will rely on to address move the plan forward. Generally, the feedback was supportive of the LRFP with no major suggestions for change.

*Publicly Accessible Town Hall (March 11, 2021)*

Local community and business partners, government representatives and the general public were given the opportunity to ask questions or provide their feedback at the publicly accessible Town Hall. District staff as well as Board members were on-hand to answer any questions relating to the LRFP.

*Leaders for Learning*

District Staff met with the Leaders for Learning on two occasions, the first to discuss the focus of the LRFP and the second to gather feedback on the draft plan. Leaders for Learning was generally supportive of the LRFP. Specifically, there was support of continued partnerships sited on district land with land and community based First Nations partners

*Individual meetings with staff at local jurisdictions*

The meeting between staff focused on our anticipated growth and potential opportunities for partnership. We note that our consultants also met with our local jurisdictions to discuss future growth. We did not receive any requests for changes but rather an openness to work closely together as we grow.

*Board and Council Meetings*

These meetings were also an opportunity for open discussion and dialogue on the challenges and opportunities presented by the District's growth, seismic and environmental issues and our commitment to reconciliation. As in other venues, there appeared to be an openness to working closely together and no specific changes were recommended coming out of these meetings.

**Proposed Changes**

Stemming from the feedback there are two main changes to the proposed plan:

1. Staff is proposing adding the following to the current Recommendation 20:

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

2. There is also an additional recommendation, as follows, to be added as Recommendation 31 (with the current Recommendations 31 and 32 being renumbered):

That when upgrading our facilities NLPS commits to upgrades that align with modern ways of teaching and learning, including considering flexible spaces and a cross curricular focus.

**Rationale:**

NLPS is committed to meeting the needs of all of our students, and the BC curriculum is an important mechanism to achieve this goal. Our infrastructure plans should align with our way of learning. This recommendation, strongly stated by our public in feedback on this plan, will lead our capital planning upon major renovations and/or the creation of new schools by connecting our way of learning and teaching to the buildings in which this work is done.

In addition to these substantive changes, there are minor updates to our enrollment projections (based on further feedback from our partners) and the consultation process is now drafted in the past tense to reflect the completion of the process.

**Next Steps**

The Board of Education will meet to review and consider all feedback. A final draft of the LRFP will be brought forward to the Business Committee in May for final consideration.

