

NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BUSINESS COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC MEETING

ACTION SHEET

DATE: September 15, 2021  
TO: Business Committee  
FROM: Secretary-Treasurer, Mark Walsh  
SUBJECT: Classroom Resources

---

**Recommendation**

***The Business Committee recommends that the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) allocate \$2,000 to each elementary school for classroom resources and that any of these funds unspent as at June 30, 2022 be restricted and returned to the school for future resource allocations.***

**Background**

On May 26, 2021 the Board passed the following motion:

“The Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) request that the Superintendent review the issue of access to resources to classrooms, including consulting with school based staff, and report back to the Board in September. If additional funds are required to support access to classroom resources, to present alternative solutions, including the use of any potential surplus, and to resolve any issues associated with resources.”

In late August elementary school administrators were surveyed in order to determine how elementary classrooms are resourced, how those resources are tracked and to get a determination as to the extent that elementary classrooms might be under-resourced.

**Discussion**

As with most questions posed to school administrators, the situation varies from school to school. Some schools are fairly stable, with little or no change in staffing from year to year, while others have a larger turnover of staff. The level of tracking of classroom resources also varies between schools. A number of schools report that resources are inventoried so that when a teacher retires or transfers to another school it is clearly noted as to what resources must remain in the classroom and what resources may be taken by the teacher who is leaving. In other schools this decision is left to the transferring teacher.

Some schools are growing more rapidly than other schools. This creates more pressure on the budget at a rapidly growing school to resource additional classrooms. While the district provides basic furniture and equipment for new classrooms, with the exception of Kindergarten classes, it is up to the school and the individual teacher to provide additional resources based on the needs of that new classroom. Due to the nature of the resources required for Kindergarten, the district provides startup resources for those classrooms from a standardized list.

It is important to note that almost all schools report that they discuss resourcing allocations with their staff committees.

When asked the question as to whether classroom resources should be standardized there were also mixed results however for the most part it would appear that some standardization would be appreciated however some resourcing decisions should be left to the individual school/teacher.

The level of support each school's PAC provides also varies greatly. Some responses did not mention any PAC support for classroom resources however most indicated that their PAC normally supports classrooms every year. The level of annual PAC support ranges from \$0 - \$800 per classroom.

A theme that is coming out of this survey seems to be that it is not necessarily "new" teachers that need more support in resourcing their classrooms. There were many comments around generally having funds to revitalize/refresh existing resources as well.

Given the vast differences between schools and their ability to resource classrooms, we feel we are not able to come to a conclusion that will address all of the issues. For that reason the recommendation would be an interim measure until such time as staff have time to study the issue in more depth and provide further recommendations for the longer term.

We note that we contemplated recommending a more equitable funding mechanism. For instance, a number of schools have limited access to PAC funds. However, many of these schools with less available funding are also smaller. A \$2,000 allocation, regardless of school size is an attempt to provide an equitable distribution

**Appendix A:** May 19, 2021 Information Sheet