



NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC MEETING ACTION SHEET

DATE: September 29, 2021
TO: Board of Education
FROM: Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer
SUBJECT: South Wellington Public Consultation

Recommendation

That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) apply to the Minister of Education for Ministerial Approval, pursuant to Section 5 of the Disposal of Land or Improvements Order, for a long-term lease of the former South Wellington Elementary School to the Regional District of Nanaimo.

Background

On June 23, 2021, the Board passed a motion to enter into a long-term lease with the Regional District of Nanaimo (the "RDN") with respect to the former South Wellington Elementary School and lands. The motion was as follows:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) approve in principle the attached long term lease of South Wellington to the Regional District of Nanaimo for a period of 25 years subject to public consultation by the Board, support from the electors of the Regional District of Nanaimo, approval by the Minister of Education and final approval by the Board of Education in a public meeting scheduled for September 29, 2021; and that the Board Chair be empowered to provide public announcement in consultation with the Regional District at the appropriate time.

The events preceding this motion are available at the South Wellington Project [website](#).

This Action Sheet is to outline the consultation process required by the *School Act* and to provide a recommended motion to proceed.

Discussion

To dispose of the property, the Board must meet the requires of [AP 504 – Disposal of Property](#) and [Ministerial Order M193/08](#). The AP requires public consultation as follows:

8. The Board shall engage in public consultation before making a final decision regarding the permanent disposition of a Significant Board Property. Once the Board has approved in principle the disposition of a Property, the Board may offer the Significant Board Property for public sale on the terms the Board proposes.

We note that the AP requires review and revision but in the current circumstances, the current process meets the requirements of the AP and the Ministerial Order.

During the public consultation, both its initial phase and following the tentative agreement with the RDN, the public response have been overwhelmingly in support of the Board disposing the land (a lease over 10 years is considered a disposition) for the public benefit. In fact, the clear desire of the public was for the facility to put to use as recreation and/or culture for the community. The proposed use aligns directly with public input.

With respect to the interests of students, the lease allows for the potential future use of the school after the term of the lease. While there is no requirement for a school purpose in our near and middle term projections, it is an unknown whether this area will in-fill. However, if it does it will take multiple decades to do so and the term of the lease protects the District. It also provides that the RDN will upgrade and then maintain the facility. While the District will not receive any revenue from the lease, the upgrades over the term of the lease will be significant.

Staff would also like to recognize the RDN and their staff and the South Wellington community for their work and respectful dialogue throughout the process.

If the recommended motion is approved, the Chair will seek final approval from the Ministry of Education and the Board will be asked to pass a bylaw to complete the disposition.

References

Appendix A: Lease with the Regional District of Nanaimo