

NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING

INFORMATION SHEET

DATE: December 1, 2021
TO: Education Committee
FROM: Tim Davie, Deputy Superintendent
Department of Learning Services Staff
Facilities Department Staff
SUBJECT: 2020-2021 Surplus Funds Update – Outdoor Learning and Syeyutsus Support

Board of Education Strategic Plan – Board Goal

Goal: To be a leader in environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Objective: Increase opportunities for outdoor education and programming in the district.

Strategy: Encourage schools to develop outdoor learning opportunities.

Strategy: Financially support school requested outdoor learning spaces.

Goal: Truth and Reconciliation.

Objective: Implementation of the Syeyutsus Reconciliation Framework in the school community.

Strategy: Increase cultural awareness by identifying opportunities across the district.

Strategy: increase cultural awareness by identifying experienced trainers to deliver training.

Objective: Support innovative indigenous educational and community partnerships.

Strategy: Support the transition of Tsawalk and Nisaika Kumtuks Programs from SD 84 to SD 68.

Background

On September 29, 2021, the Board of Education approved the following re: 2020/2021 Surplus:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) approve the recommendations contained in this Action Sheet to allocate the unrestricted surplus and benefit premium balance to support the Board's goals.

At the September 15, 2021, Business Committee meeting, staff brought forward seventeen recommended actions, two of which were titled **Syeyutsus Support** and **Outdoor Learning**. The intended purposes behind the use of these funds are as follows:

Syeyutsus Support (\$500,000) – These funds would support the deeper knowledge in our schools of the Syeyutsus Policy Framework. Specifically, we would allocate the funds directly to schools to be used for professional development, land-based infrastructure, the inclusion of elders in schools, other resources and to support the healing and honouring the land. Please note that the mechanism for flowing the funds (FTE or per school grant) would be determined after approval (Goals 3 &4).

Outdoor Learning (\$400,000) – These funds would support schools in the creation of outdoor learning opportunities. These funds can be used for the creation of outdoor learning spaces or for professional development and time for staff to gain expertise and/or equipment for such a program. (Goal 1,2,3, and 4) (LRFP Recommendation 20).

School principals are required to submit prioritized Five Year Facilities Plans annually, which include requests for Capital Project upgrades, School/PAC Funded Projects, AFG Funded projects, etc. Facilities staff, along with Department of Learning Services (DLS) staff, review these submissions in relation to supports for Board Goals / Operational Plan Strategies and other facilities priorities noted for a given school, with the objective of identifying priorities for the coming years. In some instances, school staff will coordinate with DLS staff, Facilities staff, and Finance staff in pursuit of grant application submission that support the funding of a school related project.

In an effort to eliminate redundancy of work and minimize additional workload request on school-based administration, DLS and Facilities staff have reviewed the Five Year Facilities Plans and identified a number of school requested projects that strongly support the Board Strategic Goals and align with the intended purpose for the use of these funds. As noted, some of these projects are either school/PAC funded projects or grant supported project requests that may be supplemented through support of these unrestricted surplus funds. In many instances, staff would seek completion of these projects by the end of the 2021-2022 school year. In addition, school administrators and their teams may submit requests for projects that are related to capacity building amongst staff, so they may further enhance the learning opportunities related to classroom and whole-school teachings related to the above noted goal areas.

Recommendations from staff will be brought forth, in a timely manner, to the appropriate committee leads for consideration and input.