



LEADERS FOR LEARNING
Aboriginal Education Leadership Council
NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Year End Report 2016/2017

Early in the 2016-17 school year, Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools (NLPS) found out that they had been selected by the Ministry of Education as one of 6 pilot sites in the province for the Aboriginal Equity Scan Project. NLPS is the only pilot site on Vancouver Island. A meeting was held in Spring 2017 that brought representatives from all 6 districts together to receive an overview of the project:

“In response to the Report of the Office of the Auditor General (2015), the Aboriginal Education Branch at the Ministry of Education has embarked on the construction of an ‘Equity Scanning Tool’ to support School Districts in identifying the barriers that are impacting Aboriginal student achievement and success. ...A framework has been drafted to guide the vision and collaborative work towards a systemic scanning ‘toolkit’ for participating school districts. The Equity Scan concept will provide direction at the district, school, and classroom level and is focused on positively impacting student achievement using four pillars: Policy and Governance, Learning Profile, Learning Environment, and Pedagogical core.”

Ministry representatives made their first visit to NLPS as a part of this project in May 2017. A stakeholders meeting was hosted during this time that included representation from the District, Aboriginal communities, and various other community partners. The pilot project will continue into the 2017-18 school year.

NLPS plans to use the findings of this Equity Scan project to help guide the creation of Aboriginal Education goals that will be part of the District’s overall strategic plan. These goals will replace those in the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement. The most recent AEEA in NLPS expired in June 2016 – the 3rd such agreement in the district - representing 15 years of successful AEEAs in this region. The new Aboriginal Education goals will be co-constructed with Aboriginal community and District representatives.

The NLPS Board of Education announced a 4th district-wide goal this school year: “Reconciliation”. The Board will be working with Aboriginal Education and Aboriginal community representatives to articulate what this goal will mean for our District, schools, and community partners.

Leaders for Learning:

The Leaders for Learning Executive Group – L4L (Aboriginal Education Leadership Council) is comprised of representatives from the three land-based First Nations: Snuneymuxw, Stz'uminus, and Snaw-Naw-As, Tillicum Lelum Aboriginal Friendship Centre, and Mid-Island Metis Nation, along with the Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools Aboriginal Education Department. L4L is unique, in that it is neither governed nor mandated by the NLPS Board of Education. Instead, it is a special partnership between local Aboriginal communities and NLPS themselves through great consultation derived from past NLPS Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreements. The L4L Group continues to meet monthly to receive and discuss updates on key activities in the district and to share information about the communities and organizations they represent.

The following is the Leaders for Learning (“L4L”) 2016-2017 Year End Report.

L4L 2016-2017 Meeting Highlights

L4L met monthly between September 2016 and June 2017 - attending 11 meetings in this time (10 regular monthly meetings plus a L4L Retreat in September 2016).

Agendas and pre-reading packages were provided to the Group in advance of all meetings.

Binders/tabs were also provided that included important reference documents:

- Terms Of Reference
- Calendar of Meeting Dates: September 2016 – June 2017
- Leader Contact Information
- L4L Retreat
- Meeting Agendas, Minutes & Action Items for each month

September to December 2016

- Reviewed & Signed 2016-2017 Terms of Reference
- Approved strategic plan for the 2016/17 year
- Approved L4L 2016/2017 Calendar
- Monthly updates about the new assessment and reporting guidelines
- ABED staffing changes shared monthly
- School-based cultural dollars funding was increased
- L4L and Aboriginal community representatives participated in ‘NLPS 2020 Vision for Learning’ working sessions
- The Satisfaction Survey questions were reviewed and possible new questions were brainstormed
- Temporary shifts to District Administration positions were shared

- Ongoing updates about the Supreme Court of Canada ruling about the teachers' contract and class-size/composition rules and implications in NLPS
- Guests:
 - Oct. 2016: Derek Beeston: Principal, Career Pathways and Learning Alternatives; topic: program updates
 - Nov. 2016: Superintendent John Blain, Mike McKay (consultant), and Shauna Debodt (Executive Assistant – Communications); topic: NLPS 2020 Vision for Learning
 - Dec. 2016: NLPS Assistant Superintendent, Bob Eslinger; topic: "ERASE Bullying" strategy

January to June 2017

Ongoing Updates:

- Monthly updates about the new assessment and reporting guidelines
- ABED staffing changes shared monthly
- Ongoing updates about the Supreme Court of Canada ruling about the teachers' contract and class-size/composition rules and implications in NLPS

New

- Reviewed & Approved 2017/2018 ABED Staffing allocations (Teachers and AEAs)
- Information about the Equity Scan project was shared
- L4L participated in stakeholder's meeting about the Equity Scan project
- Aboriginal 'How Are We Doing' report was reviewed
- Rutherford consolidation info shared
- The idea of having a Trustee attend L4L was discussed (ongoing)
- Year-end L4L meeting with Trustees postponed until the fall
- 2017-2018 L4L Strategic Meeting Plan and Year-End report presented (June 2017)
- 2017-18 ABED Budget and staffing presented (June 2017)
- Guests:
 - Jan. 2017: Assistant Superintendent, Tim Davie provided district updates, including info about centralized registration
 - March 2017: Superintendent John Blain and Secretary Treasurer Carrie McVeigh provided updates about proposed changes to the NDSS property and an overview of the district's budget process
 - April 2017: Superintendent John Blain provided a budget update