

NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

INFORMATION SHEET

DATE: March 15th, 2017

FROM: Superintendent, John Blain

SUBJECT: Relocation of VAST and Career Technical Centre to John Barsby Community School

Staff will explore the option of moving both CTC and VAST to John Barsby Community School by September 2017.

Background:

Alternative education began in Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools (NLPS) in 1967 with the founding of Five Acres Alternate School. Subsequent developments included the formation of Northfield Secondary School in 1972, Thuq' min in 1973, and Vocational Adult Secondary Training (VAST) located on the corner of Needham and Strickland in 1979. From 1979 until present, Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools has seen a variety of Alternate Schools come ago. Although it moved to the Nanaimo and District Secondary School (NDSS) site in 2014 and has undergone some programming changes, VAST has remained intact since its inception. VAST occupies 4 classrooms and 2 portables at NDSS.

The NLPS Career Technical Centre (CTC) offers a unique educational opportunity to students in the district. The CTC enables students to begin post-secondary (university/college) trades and technical programs during Grade 12. The CTC was established at the NDSS site in 1991 and has remained there since that time. The CTC enrolls, on average 90 students per year, employs 3 staff members, and occupies three office spaces at NDSS.

Rationale:

With the recent Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) decision the district must address staffing implications, local collective agreement language, increased enrolment at NDSS and the construction of a new synthetic turf field, it is necessary to reconsider the relocation of VAST and CTC, which are presently situated at NDSS.

The SCC decision will dictate smaller class size thereby requiring the use of more classrooms at NDSS. The construction of the synthetic turf field will require that the two VAST portables be moved to another location. Enrolment at NDSS continues to grow, putting further pressure on the need for more space.

The cost associated with this move will be determined and reported to the Board at the Business Committee meeting on April 12, 2017.

The relocation of 4 classrooms from NDSS to John Barsby Community School;
The relocation of 2 portables from NDSS to John Barsby Community School; and

The relocation of 3 office spaces from NDSS to John Barsby Community School.

John Barsby Community School, while similarly affected by the SCC decision, has more available space than NDSS and will be able to accommodate both CTC and VAST. With the addition of VAST and CTC, coupled with the outcome of the SCC ruling, John Barsby will be at capacity in terms of space utilization. A further benefit will be that students enrolled in VAST will have closer access to the on-site medical centre as well as the daycare located at John Barsby.

Timeline:

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| March 15, 2017 | Staff informs Board of potential move of CTC and VAST. |
| March 15 – April 12 | Staff will determine costs and logistics of move. Information shared with Board and engage in conversation with: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Parents 2) Students 3) Partner groups 4) First Nations 5) School community |
| April 12, 2017 | Staff reports to Board on next steps for moving CTC and VAST to John Barsby. |