



Report from the Education Committee
and Special Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

TOPICS:

Blanket Exercise Follow Up
Foundations Skills Assessment

BLANKET EXERCISE – On August 24, 2017, the Nanaimo Ladysmith Public School’s Board of Education invited Aboriginal community members and district staff to take part in [The Blanket Exercise](#).

Director of Instruction Laura Tait and District Vice-Principal of Aboriginal Education Anne Tenning followed local Coast Salish protocols to call witnesses to reflect on their participation with the blanket exercise.

The blanket exercise is a teaching tool to share the historic and contemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada.

[Watch the presentation.](#)

FSA – Ms. Tait and District Principal Lisa Robinson shared an [overview](#) of BC’s updated Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA).

The FSA is a provincial learning standard to assess literacy and numeracy for all Grade 4 and 7 students across the province. The new FSA has been created by teams of educators and measurement experts.

Results will provide system level info on student performance, district and school info on student performance, and supports decision making for educators.

New features of the FSA include: a group collaboration activity; a choice of reading themes; a variety of engaging question formats; student self-reflection; and the reporting on proficiency scale. This year, the FSA will be administered in October and November, instead of taking place in January and February. This will allow teachers and parents to receive the results earlier.

The FSA will take 4.5 hours to complete and results will be returned in the fall with online results being made available immediately.

At the Special Board meeting held immediately after the Education Committee meeting, the Board rescinded a previous motion that prohibited principals to follow up with parents who chose to excuse their child from FSA exams.

[Watch the presentation.](#)

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