

# School District 63 (Saanich) White Road Property COPACS Session

Wednesday, January 11, 2018

Saanich Schools Education Centre

# The White Road Property

- The property is a 1.73 acre lot located at the intersection of White Road and Veyaness Road
- Donated to the predecessor of SD63 in 1873 by Mr. William Turgoose to “hold and use for public school purposes in the district”
- It was once the location of a school but has been long vacant



# Consultation Approach

The overall question to the community:

*What should the School Board do with the White Road property so that the educational needs of our students and community are best served and the wishes of the donor are respected?*

Details on the consultation to date can be found at: <https://www.sd63.bc.ca/leadership-governance/white-road-consultation>

# How could the property be used by the Board of Education?

- The property is not suitable for a neighbourhood school site given its location and relatively small size
- The property is now zoned residential and is surrounded by residential development. Alternative use would need to be appropriate for a residential neighbourhood.

# How could the property be used by the Board of Education?

- Through this consultation process we will seek input regarding potential alternative educational use of the property within the school district
- Alternative use of the property has to provide tangible benefits consistent with the educational mandate of the School Board

# If there is not a suitable public school use?

- It may not be possible to both “hold” and “use for public school purposes”
- Continuing to hold the property means:
  - public school purposes are not being supported as intended, and
  - SD63 assumes cost and risk inconsistent with its educational mandate

# School Board Policy 2480

When a property is no longer required to serve the needs of the district and will not be required for future educational purposes, then the board shall dispose of the property by sale or lease through a public process.



# Benefits of Selling the Site

- Proceeds could be used to enhance educational facilities, equipment or other resources for students
- Proceeds could be used to create a legacy consistent with the wishes of the donor
- Future use of the property consistent with Central Saanich Community Plan

# Stakeholders

- School Communities
- Descendants of Donor
- Local Residents (neighbours)
- Municipality and Broader Community

# Results of Phase 1

- February 2017 - Consultation begins
- March 2017 - Community open house and survey with good participation from neighbours and descendants
- Recommendations related to outdoor learning/agriculture could align with curricular needs and legacy of the donor
- Many other recommendations were inconsistent with the Board's educational Mandate

# Phase 2 of Consultation

- May 2017 - committee identifies need to increase engagement with school communities and broader community
- May 2017 - consultation postponed to fall (due to impact of MOA)
- October 2017 - revised consultation plan approved

# Phase 2 Consultation Timeline

- Nov/Dec - Administrators complete survey reflecting input from each school
- Jan - COPACS working session / PAC and partner consultation / promotion
- Feb - committee reviews results of school communities consultation
- Feb/March - Public meeting (Feb 21) and community survey to receive feedback on options identified
- April - committee reviews results and considers next steps

# Questions to answer

- How could the property be used if it were retained by the Board of Education?
- If the property were sold, what would be the preferred future use of the property?
- If the property were sold, how should the Board of Education use the proceeds to support the educational needs of students and the community?

# Themes from School Survey Results

## Alternative Use?

- Cultural/Community/Academic Centre
- Indigenous Learning/ Conference Centre
- Outdoor/Agricultural/Community Farm
- Partnership - integrated services
- Meeting Space
- Physical Education / Trades Program
- Student Housing (international) or other revenue generation

# Themes from School Survey Results

Hold vacant property? - mixed response

Use of sale proceeds?

- legacy fund supporting vulnerable students
- Outdoor/agricultural learning centres on school sites / invest in schools
- Replace Saanich Schools Education Centre
- Learning services equipment
- Future projects
- Childcare



# Next Steps

How best to consult with and receive input from parents?