

School District 63 (Saanich) White Road Property Public Consultation Meeting

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

Bayside Middle School

Overview of Open House

- Introductory Comments (7:00pm)
- Presentation and Q&A (7:10pm)
- Activity - Idea Generation Exercise (7:50pm)
- Closing Remarks and Next Steps (8:50pm)
- Adjourn (9:00pm)

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
- Determining if there is an alternative “public school purpose” is a key objective of this consultation

Alternative Use Considerations

Alternative use of the property has to:

- ✓ be for a public school purpose as intended by the donor
- ✓ provide tangible benefits consistent with the educational mandate of the School Board
- ✓ be appropriate for the neighbourhood and the residential zoning of the property

Alternative Use Considerations

- Is the property's central location (within the school district) beneficial to the proposed use?
- Would the proposed function or program be more effective if located on school sites or on other district property?
- Program benefit versus cost? Opportunity for community partnership?

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.

Potential Sale of the Property

- 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

Questions being considered

- 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?

Stakeholders

- School Communities (schools, parents, educational partners)
- Descendants of Donor
- Local Residents (neighbours)
- Municipality and Broader Community

Results of Phase 1

- February 2017 - Consultation begins
- March 2017 - Community open house and community survey
- Recommendations related to outdoor learning/agriculture could align with curricular needs and legacy of the donor

Detailed results are posted in the April 11, 2017 White Road Committee materials on the consultation page

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 restored teacher contract language)
- October 2017 - revised consultation plan approved

Phase 2 Consultation Timeline

- Nov/Dec - administrators complete working session & survey reflecting input from schools
- Jan - COPACS working session and PAC surveys /consultation with partners/ 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

School Community Survey Themes

Detailed school community survey results are posted on the consultation page

Alternative use?

- Community Education Centre - cultural, Indigenous learning, arts, academic, and/or community use (partnerships)
- conference/meeting space
- outdoor learning / agricultural / community farm
- physical education / trades program
- student housing (international) or other revenue generation

School Community Survey Themes

Hold vacant property? - mixed response

Use of sale proceeds?

- legacy fund supporting vulnerable students / learning services equipment
- outdoor/agricultural learning centres on school sites
- replace Saanich Schools Education Centre (conference/meeting) / childcare space
- future projects / invest in schools

Opportunities to Provide Input

- Working session tonight
- Survey distributed following community open house - results compiled March 16th.
- Email to: whiteroad@sd63.bc.ca
- Contact us directly

Idea Generation Exercise

- How could the property be used for public school purpose?
- If a suitable public school purpose is not found, what should the Board of Education do with the property?

Table discussion - record themes on recording sheets and report out at 8:30pm

Questions before we begin the
working session?

Next Steps

- Survey distributed early next week
- April 10th - White Road Committee reviews results and considers next steps
- next steps in the process will be communicated and posted on the consultation page

Thank you for your involvement

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