

Saanich Schools

May 19, 2017

Dear Stakeholders,

Re: Results of Community Open House and Adjustment of the Consultation Plan

Thank you for your participation and contribution to this important consultation process. The White Road Committee (the "Committee") has reviewed and considered feedback received from the community open house on March 16, 2017, the subsequent community survey and from correspondence received. These results and other materials reviewed by the Committee can be viewed in the April and May Committee meeting packages on the consultation webpage (www.sd63.bc.ca/leadership-governance/white-road-consultation). The purpose of this letter is to update you on the consultation process including planned adjustments to the timing and scope.

Subsequent to the open house the following questions from the community were addressed:

- Why is the property zoned residential when it has only been used as a school site?
 - Response: the property's use as a school site predated the incorporation of the District of Central Saanich and initial zoning of the neighbourhood. Further information on the zoning history can be found in the May Committee package.
- Why do historical documents indicate the site was 2 acres, but the current size is 1.73 acres?
 - Response: During the past century the property has been transferred three times - (1) from the South Saanich School District (when it ceased to exist) to the Municipality of Saanich, (2) from the Municipality of Saanich to the District of Central Saanich (when it was formed), and (3) from District of Central Saanich to School District No. 63 (Saanich) in 1964. When the property was transferred to the school district in 1964, the transfer was conditional on a 33 foot strip along the southern edge being retained for roadway.
- The remains of an old car on the property is a safety concern. Can it be removed?
 - Response: We have recently removed the car from the property and appreciate the matter being brought to our attention.

Consultation Process

The Committee considered the recommendations received regarding the consultation process. The Committee recognizes the importance of this consultation and discussed the need to broaden the consultation to include all interested stakeholders and, in particular, our school communities who have not been well represented to date. The committee considered the feedback received related to alternative use of the property or, if the property were sold, how the proceeds should be used. Given the mandate of the Board of Education, allocation of proceeds or alternative use of the property needs to provide tangible benefits to students. Therefore, an

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important objective of the next stage of the consultation will be to increase engagement with our school communities. Committee members noted that recommendations (from the open house and survey) related to outdoor learning could potentially align with the curricular needs of students and provide an opportunity to honor the legacy of the donor.

The committee discussed next steps in the consultation more fully at its meeting on May 9th. A significant consideration in the timing of next steps is the impact of the November 2016 Supreme Court decision that restores teacher contract language related to class size and composition. Given the considerable focus and effort on implementing these new requirements for the fall, it would not be realistic to engage with our school communities in a meaningful way at this time. It is also possible that our view regarding potential alternative use of the property may change as we work through the impact of reduced class sizes on our facility requirements. For these reasons, the Committee decided to postpone the next stage of the consultation to the fall. Therefore, the Final Public Consultation Meeting (previously scheduled to occur June 21, 2017) has been postponed and will be rescheduled to follow the next stage of the consultation.

The objective of the next stage of the consultation will be to increase awareness and engagement with the broader community and to engage in working sessions involving our school communities. A revised consultation plan and timeline will be communicated in advance of recommencing the process in the fall. We welcome feedback and the opportunity to discuss this process at any time. The consultation email inbox (whiteroad@sd63.bc.ca) and webpage will remain active until the conclusion of this process.

We look forward to working with you and seeking your help in shaping the future of the White Road property and how it can best contribute to the School District's public education mandate.

Sincerely,



Jason Reid
Secretary Treasurer

JR/klg