

**Media Release  
School District 63 (Saanich)**

**Saanich School District Seeks Community Input to Inform Future of Property**

The Saanich School District is seeking community input to inform the future of a 1.73 acre parcel of land at the corner of White Road and Veyaness Road in Central Saanich. This land, referred to as the White Road Property, was donated to the predecessor of the Saanich School District in 1873 by Mr. William Turgoose with the condition that it be held and used for public school purposes within the district. The site was the location of a school until approximately 1913 and has long since been vacant. As the property is not in use, the school district is assuming ongoing costs and risks that are inconsistent with its educational mandate.

Following its use as a school site, the property and neighbourhood were zoned for residential use and the property is now surrounded by residential development. The property is not suitable as a modern school site due to its relatively small size and its location. The district is seeking input from the community regarding potential alternative “public school” or educational use of the property. The mandate of the Saanich Board of Education requires that use of the property provides educational benefits for students in the district. Any alternative use of the property also needs to be appropriate given its location within a residential neighbourhood.

If a suitable alternative educational use cannot be identified, it may not be possible to both hold the property and use the property for public school purposes. If this is the case, public school purposes may be best supported by selling the property and using the proceeds to create a legacy consistent with the wishes of the donor. Therefore, the district is also seeking input from the community regarding whether the property should be sold if an appropriate alternative educational use is not found, and, if sold, how the proceeds should be used.

The Saanich School District’s overall question to the community is: *What should the Board of Education 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?*

The community is invited to participate in this process by attending a public consultation meeting at Bayside Middle School on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. At this meeting, the results of the consultation to date will be reviewed and participants will have an opportunity to provide input.

For more information on this consultation process and the results to date please visit:  
<https://www.sd63.bc.ca/leadership-governance/white-road-consultation>

**Media Contact:** Jason Reid  
Secretary Treasurer  
email: jreid@sd63.bc.ca  
phone: 250.652.7304