



December 1, 2017

Dear parents of École J.H. Sissons School students,

RE: Visioning meetings for a new École J.H. Sissons School

As you're probably well aware, Yellowknife Education District No. 1 (YK1) has begun preliminary discussions with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) to discuss the idea of replacing your child's school in the coming years. École J.H. Sissons School has never undergone a major renovation since opening over 40 years ago in 1975. The department also presented the idea of renovating the existing building, but along with ECE, we've decided to further investigate the option of building a brand new school.

We are currently in the very early stages of planning a potential new school. As we move forward with this planning study, we want you to be involved. We are holding public visioning workshops to discuss what your priorities are for a new school.

When

- **Saturday, December 9, 2017, 2:00-4:00 p.m., École J.H. Sissons School gymnasium**
- **Monday, December 11, 2017, 7:00-9:00 p.m., École J.H. Sissons School gymnasium**

Please RSVP to yk1@yk1.nt.ca to let us know which day you will be attending (Saturday or Monday) so we can adequately prepare. If you are unable to find childcare, you are more than welcome to bring your children. If you are not able to attend either workshop, an online survey will be distributed the week of December 11th so you may still provide input.

What will be discussed

At this early stage, we will not be getting into detailed school designs or potential student displacement concerns. Instead, the intent of the visioning workshop is to facilitate a conversation about your "big picture" ideas for a new school. For example: integration of natural light; flexible teaching areas; and creating spaces to facilitate new teaching and learning styles. Ideas generated in the visioning workshop will be incorporated into a conceptual (schematic) design of a new school facility, which will be completed in May of 2018.



Timeline

The development of a new school building is a lengthy process, and we are currently in the very early planning stages. A rough timeline of this process is outlined below:

December 9 & 11	Public Consultation #1 - visioning workshop
Mid-January (date TBC)	Public Consultation #2 – conceptual design discussion
May 2018	Schematic design completed by consultant team

Once the schematic design is completed in May 2018, it goes into the GNWT Capital Plan, and it could take anywhere from one to five years for approval of funding. Once it is approved, the school design will be reevaluated to ensure it reflects any changes in school programming or teaching methodology, and the project will then proceed into detailed drawings and finally, construction.

Our Board of Trustees is looking forward to sharing ideas with you at the visioning workshops.

Sincerely,

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