



June 10, 2014

For Immediate Release

Yellowknife Education District No. 1

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories – Facilities Report Received by Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of YK District 1 received the final report of the Facilities Committee at its meeting on June 10, 2014. The ad hoc advisory committee was created by the Board in February 2014 and was tasked with examining the long-term directions for District programming and facility use.

The 13 member Committee researched relevant data and conducted extensive engagement activities including meeting with the public and District staff, as well as carrying out a survey. “The group worked very hard to balance community input with background information and utilization data. Charting a path forward is a challenging undertaking and I believe this report and the recommendations provide a framework that will allow the Board of Trustees to continue this process and the dialogue with the community,” said Facilities Committee Chairperson Heather Clarke.

The report included eight recommendations to the Board. The recommendations proposed a number of actions to consolidate programs, maintain support for key program initiatives and develop additional information that will be required for long-term planning process. On the matter of school use, the Committee presented facility and grade configurations based on the operation of four or five elementary schools.

The Committee recommends if four schools are operated: a French Immersion JK – 5 school is maintained, Mildred Hall School is operated as JK – 8 school, a middle school is maintained, École J.H. Sissons is closed and all required renovations are completed.

The Committee recommends if five schools are operated adjustments to operations be made including moving Grades 6, 7 and 8 at Range Lake North School to École William McDonald Middle School by the 2016/2017 school year.

The Board of Trustees has now received the report and is preparing its plans for consideration and action on the report’s recommendations in the fall. “The committee members did a tremendous job, providing focused recommendations and advice. However, there is still work that must be done prior to a Board decision on future directions,” said John Stephenson, YK1

Board Chairperson. “We will provide time for all of our stakeholders to review the report and comment. Decisions by the Board will be made that best meets the needs of YK1 students and stakeholders.”

There are no changes planned for the upcoming school year. It is business as usual at all YK1 schools. As expressed in the recommendations, the implementation of any changes will be carefully planned, fully communicated to stakeholders and carried out in a manner that minimizes disruption for students.

The Committee’s report can be found on the YK1 Education District website at www.yk1.nt.ca/Facilities.

For more information contact Metro Huculak, Superintendent at metro.huculak@yk1.nt.ca or 867-766-5064.