

Update: New K-6 School in Sherwood Park (Davidson Creek)

Jan. 15, 2016

On Jan. 4, 2016, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) [announced a new K-6 school](#) to be located in Davidson Creek. The school is in the initial stages of planning and EIPS has hired Stantec Consulting Ltd. to assist with the first phase of the project.

Stantec Consulting Ltd.'s Role

- Stantec Consulting Ltd. has three key roles during the first phase of this new school project:
 - Planning and delivering a community awareness campaign to make local residents aware of the Board's decision regarding the site selection in the Davidson Creek neighbourhood, including the hosting of upcoming community information sessions.
 - Research and recommendation of an attendance area for the school.
 - Creation of a conceptual site layout to illustrate how the school yard could potentially look once construction is complete. However, the actual site layout and design of the school building will be the responsibility of the project architect who will be hired in early 2016.
- Stantec's work will take place from January to March 2016.
- The final component will be a report outlining a summary of the community awareness campaign activities, a summary of the issues identified by project stakeholders during the campaign and the community information sessions, the attendance area recommendation, and the conceptual site layout.
- More information about the community information sessions will be provided as soon as the dates are set.

Phase 1

- The current focus is to raise awareness of the Board's decision regarding the school site in Davidson Creek, including door-to-door visits with immediate neighbours of the school site and upcoming community information sessions.
- This includes any initial issue identification provided by the area stakeholders. Stantec is gathering this information, which will be provided to EIPS and the eventual project architect.

Phase 2

- In the next phase of the project once an architect is in place, there will be opportunities to engage and inform the public regarding site layout, school design, construction timelines, school opening, school naming, and attendance boundaries. As soon as these opportunities are identified, information will be shared with the community.

School Site Selection

- A key consideration in selecting a site was a location that would alleviate current and projected elementary enrolment pressures in the near future. Proximity to major transportation corridors, student safety, and arterial/collector roads were also all considerations.

- Strathcona County has identified five sites as “Municipal Reserve.” Municipal reserve land can be used for schools. The five sites are:
 - Cloverbar Ranch
 - Davidson Creek Park
 - Florian Park
 - Heritage Hills
 - Summerwood
- After analyzing the suitability of available sites, it was determined that the Davidson Creek property would be the most appropriate location for a new EIPS K-6 school.
- A traffic assessment will be conducted by the architect as part of the design phase.
- Alberta Infrastructure has previously and continues to build schools on similar or smaller sites.

K-6 vs. K-9

- Currently, there are 1,780 K-6 EIPS students residing in the northeast quadrant of Sherwood Park (Baseline Road to Highway 16, and Sherwood Drive to Highway 21).
- Lakeland Ridge (K-9) is the only EIPS school in northeast Sherwood Park. Its official capacity is 880 students (elementary and junior high).
- There is available junior high space in Sherwood Park. Our enrolment pressure is at the elementary level.
- EIPS received final funding approval and commitment from Alberta Education for a K-6 school.
- Although this will be a neighbourhood school, its attendance area has not yet been finalized.

Planning and Construction Phases

- EIPS will be the project manager for the new school.
- An architect Request for Proposal (RFP) will soon be tendered. It is anticipated that the architect will be in place by spring 2016.
- A general contractor Request for Quotation (RFQ) will be tendered in late spring 2016.
- The construction method for the Davidson Creek School will be the traditional *Design-Bid-Build*.
- Anticipated school opening is in the fall of 2018.