

## Frequently Asked Questions—Grande Cache Community High School

### General

- Q When will the modernization be completed?** The modernization project is scheduled to be completed by September of 2017.
- Q Will the new facility still include the SonRise Christian Program?** There are no plans to move the program out of the facility and the project was designed to accommodate the SonRise program in the facility.
- Q Will there still be community usage space available in the modernized school?** Yes, GCCHS will still offer after-hours community use. School availability is determined in consultation with the school and the Town of Grande Cache.

### Communication

- Q Was any public consultations or engagement efforts conducted for the design of the replacement school?** Yes, GCCHS gathered input from a variety of stakeholders on important features to consider in the design of the modernized sections. Stakeholder representatives (parents, students, school staff, community library staff, local school board trustee, and division personnel) worked with an architect on design options for the modernization. Alberta Infrastructure outlines the requirements and specification for the design of any new school or modernization project. The final design of the modernized school incorporated the input of stakeholders within the parameters of the Alberta Infrastructure school-design templates.
- Q How will parents continue to be updated on the school construction process and important information relating to the project?** Grande Yellowhead will post regular updates on their website at [www.gypsd.ca](http://www.gypsd.ca) including news, photos and other important information about the project. Alternatively, visit [www.projects.alberta.ca](http://www.projects.alberta.ca). The Government of Alberta recently launched a new interactive mapping website that tracks the progress of all new schools, replacement schools, and modernization initiatives taking place throughout the province, including GCCHS.

### Planning and Construction

- Q Are drawings or rendering of the project available for the public view?** They are posted on the division's website. <http://www.gypsd.ca/documents/general/Grande%20Cache%20HS%20Presentation.pdf>.
- Q Why did GYPSD decide to renovate the current facility rather than replace the structure?** When an existing school is being considered for a modernization project, a needs assessment is automatically conducted by division Facility Services staff, Alberta Education, and Alberta Infrastructure. A cost analysis then follows on all required modernization work. If the cost of modernization is more than 75 per cent of the cost of building a replacement school, the school jurisdiction can choose to prioritize the project as a replacement school capital project rather than a modernization. In the case of GCCHS, GYPSD and government representatives determined it was more efficient, and more cost effective, to modernize the current facility as opposed to the cost of a new replacement facility.
- Q Do the plans for the modernized school take into account future growth rates for the community?** Both the latest population projections and Area Structure Plans for the region were shared with Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure. The government analyzed that data to determine the total amount of funding dollars it would grant GYPSD for the project.

**Q How will students be impacted during the construction of the replacement school?**

Classes will continue throughout the construction process. Six modular classrooms were placed onsite earlier in the project to allow students to move into the new classrooms during the various construction phases.

Q **What size are the classrooms?** Each classroom in the school will be, on average, 80 square metres in size and designed to follow the provincial standard.

Q **What are some of the special features the modernized school will have?** The existing school will be fully modernized and will provide the best learning environments for students. The school is currently a combination of additions ranging from the original construction in 1969 through to the last addition in 1989. The high school will be fully modernized which includes a new gymnasium and support areas, a new atrium and gathering space in the school's main entrance, and a separate wing of six modular classrooms that will be the new home for the SonRise Christian program. The local library will also continue to be housed in the school with each facility having a new highly visible entrance. Other construction highlights include the renovation and reconfiguration:

- Of existing spaces to accommodate two Science Classrooms;
- To improve the current C.T.S space design of the Home Economics Classroom and to provide access to the new Student Gathering Space via a new Servery;
- To increase the functionality of the current Cosmetology Classroom, and
- To adapt the existing Wood Shop's configuration and practicality.

A complete overhaul of the existing mechanical and electrical systems is also included in the modernization plans and a new drop-off/pickup zone and sidewalks to provide a universal design access to the main entrance of the school and the entrance to the Public Library will also be constructed.

## Student Transportation

Q **Will school bus pickup and drop-off locations change?** GYPSD Student Transportation provides bus service at no cost to eligible students who are attending their designated school. There are currently no plans to change pick-up or drop-off locations during the construction of the project.

Q **Will there be a new parking lot designed?** The design of the modernized facility and surrounding area includes the development of a parking lot and restructuring traffic flow around the school. Student safety and efficient traffic flow are key considerations in the design of the roadways, parking lots, and drop-off/pickup zones around the school. These designs are included with the architects' renderings of the modernized facility.