

## frequently asked questions

June 18, 2014

Updated June 25, 2014

### Christine Meikle Replacement School

The following questions have been received from public over the past 2 weeks. The question and answer documents reflect current information and will be updated on a regular basis.

**Q1. What is Christine Meikle School?**

Christine Meikle School provides educational programming for secondary school-age students who have moderate to severe developmental disabilities/delays with complex learning, medical and emotional needs. The school is extremely important to the students and families it serves and is a vital component in the CBE's commitment to providing inclusive and personalized learning.

The program draws junior/senior high school students who are 12 to 19 years of age from across Calgary. Programming components include: functional academics, work experience, activities of daily living, adaptive physical education, fine arts, assistive technology, augmentative communication and sensory motor development.

**Q2. How many students and staff will be using this facility?**

The Christine Meikle School is being designed for 125 students supported by 70 staff. Currently, there are 75 students enrolled.

**Q3. Why has this site on Varna Crescent been selected?**

This school site is a favourable location for the school because of its proximity to the Alberta Children's Hospital. The community of support for these students and their families is centred around the Alberta Children's Hospital, Vecova, University of Calgary, Ronald McDonald House, the Child Development Centre, and Sinneave Family Foundation's Ability Hub, which provides assistance to students with Autism Spectrum Disorders, their families and CBE staff. The location surrounding the new site offers a variety of opportunity for work experience, leisure and daily living skills development.

**Q4. Is there a possibility of Vecova partnering with the CBE to build the new Christine Meikle facility?**

The Calgary Board of Education and Vecova have a long-standing and positive relationship. We have been in conversation with Vecova regarding this matter. Accessing land for schools is a process between the province and school boards. The Vecova site is not suitable for this school.

**Q5. Are there any other locations which are possible for this facility? Why not on the extensive land of West Campus, right adjacent to the Alberta Children's Hospital with easy access from main roadways?**

The Varsity location was selected because it is a CBE school reserve site and because of its proximity to the Alberta Children's Hospital and the community of

support for these students and their families. There are currently no approved development plans for West Campus. As a result, the availability of a school site on the West Campus is seven to 10 years away. The need for a new Christine Meikle School is immediate and Provincial funds are available now.

**Q6. Why can't you use Jerry Potts School? It is a CBE site that could be renovated for this purpose.**

At the request of Alberta Education, ownership of the Jerry Potts School property was transferred to the Francophone School Board in 2013. The Francophone School Board has occupied Jerry Potts School for many years.

**Q7. This is a designated School site (created in 1971, when the neighbourhood was new) - but does that guarantee the approval of a School being built on this site?**

The CBE works with the City of Calgary and developers to establish land for school reserve sites. There is no guarantee when the Government of Alberta will provide funds to build a school on any school sites.

**Q8. When, specifically, does the CBE and related parties plan to address the building of Christine Meikle School with the residents of Varsity?**

The Area Director connected with the Varsity Community Association (VCA) May 26, 2014 and arrangements were made for her to attend the next VAC executive board meeting (Wednesday, June 18). In addition to this meeting two public events have been planned:

Wednesday, June 18 open house at Calgary Board of Education Centre

Thursday, June 19 open house at F.E. Osborne School

The public is also welcome to provide comments on a dedicated project page on the CBE website at:

[http://www.cbe.ab.ca/schools/underdev/Christine\\_Meikle/christine\\_meikle.asp](http://www.cbe.ab.ca/schools/underdev/Christine_Meikle/christine_meikle.asp)

The page provides background and current project information and is updated as new information becomes available. Questions and comments received at the public forums will be compiled and shared on this site.

**Q9. Traffic concerns?**

We do not anticipate a large increase in traffic as students arrive at school via Handi-bus and are not dropped off by parents as is the case with other community schools. We anticipate that the current traffic flow cul-de-sac will remain in place. In accordance with City of Calgary requirements a traffic impact assessment will be completed as part of the development permitting process.

**Q10. How are parking spaces determined and where is the parking lot going to be situated?**

We will build parking spots according to the City of Calgary bylaws. The staff and visitor parking stalls are being designed to be onsite and meet code requirements. Where the parking lot is situated has yet to be determined.

**Q11. What process does the school board follow to complete a building project?**

The CBE follows the City of Calgary permitting process. The CBE is currently working with the City of Calgary and the Government of Alberta on 16 capital projects of which Christine Meikle School is one. All projects will follow the City of Calgary building permitting process. It is anticipated that the Development Permit Application will be submitted in August of 2014. Please see timeline below:

Christine Meikle School Pre-Construction Timelines

<b>Date</b>	<b>Milestone</b>
January 21, 2014	Public Ministerial Announcement of Project
February 12, 2014	Functional Programme Value Management Design Charette
February 14, 2014	Ministerial Letter to the CBE Confirming Project Approval.
February 25, 2014	Project Kickoff Meeting with Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure
March 27/28, 2014	Prime Consultant Proposals Received
April 16, 2014	Prime Consultant (Marshall Tittlemore Architects) Appointed
April 29, 2014	CBE Steering Committee Kickoff Meeting
May 20, 2014	Project Management Proposals Received
May 2014	Commencement of Functional Programme Development/Site Options & Investigations/ Preliminary Urban Planning Schematics
June 2, 2014	Appointment of Project Manager (Stantec Consulting Ltd)
June 2014	Interested and Affected Parties School and Public Community Engagement
June 2014	Preliminary Design Options/Massing/Access & Traffic Assessment
July 2014	Design Development and City Pre-Planning Issues
August 2014	Development Permit Application
August/September/ October 2014	Development of Construction Documentation
November 2014	Tender and Award
December 2014	Construction Commencement

**Q12. What will be done to ensure that the site can support the development from an environmental perspective?**

Stability of the site is being evaluated by an engineering assessment. The school site is located away from the embankment overlooking the river; community access to these natural areas will not be impeded by the project.

**Q13. Will the facility utilize the West Memorial Sanitary Trunk sewage line?**

The West Memorial Sanitary Trunk line upgrade project is scheduled to be completed September 2016, the same time the school facility will be completed; therefore it is not an issue.

**Q14. Will the old-growth trees that line the edges of the park be removed?**

It is our intent to keep as many of the existing trees as possible.

**Q15. Will the site be excavated? The proposed site is currently much higher than our property.**

The amount of grading is to be determined by the approved conceptual site plan. Final grading and storm retention will comply with the City of Calgary bylaws.

**Q16. Is funding for this School coming directly and only from CBE's pockets? Have donations from outside sources, or a P3 partnership been considered or sought out?**

Funding for this school is provided by the Government of Alberta.

