

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
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### **HELP NAME THE NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN SOUTH LANGFORD**

**LANGFORD, BC** – The Sooke School District Board of Education has launched the engagement period to collect suggestions to help choose a name for the new Elementary School in South Langford.

The Board will be utilizing Thought Exchange, an online platform where participants can share their ideas and rate the ideas from other participants anonymously. The Thought Exchange is open now until January 31, 2023. In addition to the online engagement, the Board will host an open house at Happy Valley Elementary on February 15, 2023, to share the top name suggestions collected from the Thought Exchange.

In recognition of its commitment to truth and reconciliation, the Board will also be engaging with the local Indigenous Nations to hear their suggestions and ideas for the naming of the new elementary school. “Preserving and revitalizing Indigenous languages is one of the calls to action in the Truth and Reconciliation report,” said Ravi Parmar, Chair of the Sooke School District Board of Education. “Whenever we can, we must consider how we can help move the calls to action forward and that is why hearing from our local Indigenous Nations is an important part of this process.”

The Board of Education is pleased to share that the civil contract for the construction of the new school was awarded to local West Shore company, Draycor Construction Ltd. The leveling and grading work of the school site has already begun, and construction is expected to begin later this spring. “Families in South Langford are only a few short years away from having a new elementary school in their neighbourhood. As we begin construction later this spring, it is time that we start thinking about naming our new school,” said Parmar.

“The population of the South Latoria and Happy Valley neighbourhoods continue to grow and adding another elementary school will address some of our immediate capacity needs,” said Scott Stinson, Superintendent of the Sooke School District. “Since I took on this role in 2018, we have grown by roughly 2000 new students, and we need to continue to build new schools to account for the region’s growing population.

The Board of Education will be choosing the school name in early March following the completion of the engagement process. The school is estimated to open in fall of 2025 with room for 480 students. The school will also include a neighbourhood learning centre for community programming and child care.



Link to participate in the Thought Exchange:

<https://my.thoughtexchange.com/scroll/828916788/welcome>

*Details for the groundbreaking ceremony will be released at a later date.*

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