

# K-12 school on track for September 2020 opening

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The board released the latest update on the Atikokan K - 12 school project last week.

It has submitted drawings and specifications for a Class C estimate. Per the Canadian Institute of Quantity Surveyors, a Class C estimate is based on a comprehensive list of requirements and assumptions, including a full description of the preferred schematic design option, construction/design experience, and market conditions.

Once it is ready, the building committee will discuss any implications it will have on the project. Specifically, will the design being contemplated fit within the \$22.1 million the province is providing for the project? (That includes \$2.4 million for the new day care and family centres.)

Barring anything unforeseen, the committee will go ahead to develop a Class A estimate, which is generally expected to be within five or ten percent of the actual contract award price for new construction. Once this is in hand, the board will seek Ministry of Education approval to proceed; only when that approval is granted will tenders be called.

The process remains on track for construction to start in the spring, with completion in time to have the school open in September, 2020. (Some exterior work

won't be completed until 2021.)

The building committee met on November 14, when it provided feedback on progress to date and reviewed the draft construction phasing and temporary student accommodation plans. (Those plans won't be made public until they are finalized.) The committee and its advisory team includes five board officials as well as AHS/North Star principal Beth Fairfield and AHS vice-principal Brad Gascoigne, trustee Jeff Lehman, student rep Samantha Ribey, AHS teacher Graeme Bond, North Star teacher Corinna Bolen, parent council reps Jennifer Learning (AHS) and Mellisa Gallagher (North Star), and community rep (and former AHS principal) Bleddyn Williams.

It reviewed a draft plan for how students could be accommodated during the construction process, and how construction could be phased to minimize classroom disruption.

The board currently has four major construction projects in progress, and rather than contracting for project management services has hired a lead for capital projects, Aimee Matheson. A mechanical engineer by training (Bachelor of Applied Science, University of Toronto, 2004), Matheson has owned and operated Rainy Lake Technical Solutions since 2012.