

# COLLABORATION IS KEY

Delivering the Best in Design-Build Projects



thinkspace60  
1963-2023 YEARS

NORTHERN FRONT  
STUDIO  
Architecture • Interiors • Design



Chilliwack  
School District

# INTRODUCTION

## Mary Ellen Read



- Principal of Northern Front Studio
- Based in Whitehorse, Yukon
- Member of AIBC, NWTAA and AIA Alaska
- Doctor of Design candidate at U Calgary SAPL



# INTRODUCTION

## David Lee Blanchard



- Partner at Thinkspace Architecture  
Planning Interior Design Ltd.
- Based in Surrey, BC
- Member of AIBC, AAA





# INTRODUCTION

## Allan Van Tassel



- Director of Facilities & Transportation,  
Chilliwack School District #33 (2015 - present)
- Director of Operations, Peace River South District #59  
(2008 - 2015)



Chilliwack  
School District



# AGENDA

Case study 1 – CSSC Mercier

Case study 2 – Stitós Lá:lém Totí:lt

Commentary on DB Projects

Q & A Session



# CSSC MERCIER

- Completed in 2020, in Whitehorse, YT
- New French school, 150 grades 7-12 students
- Community space plus 21<sup>st</sup> century learning design
- Single level, concrete & steel construction
- 3,570 sq m gross floor area
- Funding from Canadian Heritage



# SITE

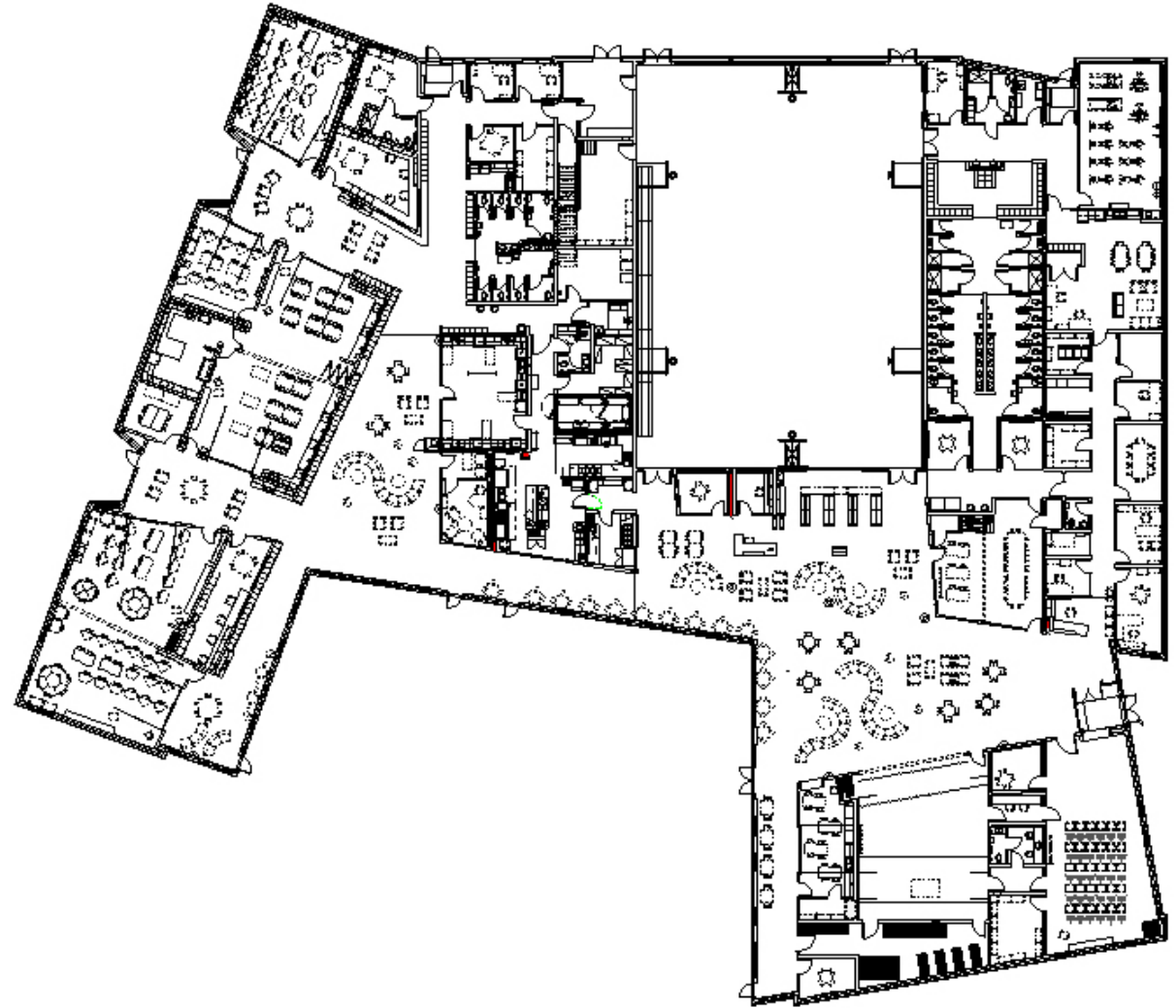
- Whitehorse, capital of Yukon
- 28,200 people, 70% bilingual
- Part of a larger school campus
- Shared amenities with existing high school and elementary school
- Track field, skate park, basketball courts
- Riverdale neighbourhood, southeast of downtown, near Yukon River and extensive trail system





# PROGRAM

- Six learning studios
- Community commons
- Three common learning areas connected to outdoors
- Regulation gymnasium
- Music room
- Commercial kitchen
- Theatre studio that opens to the commons
- Recording studio
- Print media and resource centre
- Offices and staff rooms
- Gender neutral washrooms and change rooms



# TEAM

- Yukon Government, Department of Education
- *Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon (CSFY)*
- Design team for design development and Statement of Requirements (SOR), responsible for the overall program
- Owner's advisory team during construction, responsible for assisting with contract interpretation, project management
- Design-builder team, responsible for implementing and completing the project
- Peer review, responsible for design-builder team and SOR compliance
  
- Process of design from client, public perspective
- Balance of local knowledge and school design expertise

# DESIGN-BUILD

- Architecture as both design and implementation
- Progressive design-build, value-added negotiated procurement, and building trust
- Resolving the SOR, ability to pivot







Learning Commons





Learning Commons





Gymnasium





Gender-neutral washrooms



STEAM Lab





Learning Commons



# DESIGN-BUILD

- Our role as Project Architect and Interior Designer



# DESIGN-BUILD

- Design-builder's approach to collaboration
- Willingness to continue to develop the work
- Appetite to improve, bringing their expertise to problem solving
- Values and lessons





# INNOVATION

- Energy performance: 25% reduction of NECB 2015 baseline
- GHG emissions: 50% reduction of the reference building
- Consideration for future alternative energy, PV and biomass
- Energy modelling and monitoring
- Heating recovery strategies
- Energy efficient lighting
- Energy recovery ventilators 90% efficient
- Innovation in building envelope





# PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- Schedule management, despite COVID
- Project management innovations, including first BIM, online communication platforms



# SUMMARY

- Where is the design-builder relationship now?
  - Whistlebend Elementary, to be completed 2023-24
- Where is Yukon now re. new school long-term planning?
  - Replacing Whitehorse Elementary
  - Takhini Elementary School
  - Burwash Landing
  - Robert Service School Expansion
  - New First Nations School in Whitehorse
- First Nation School Board started in 2022, responsible for eight Yukon schools
  - delivers BC curriculum through a Yukon First Nation cultural lens





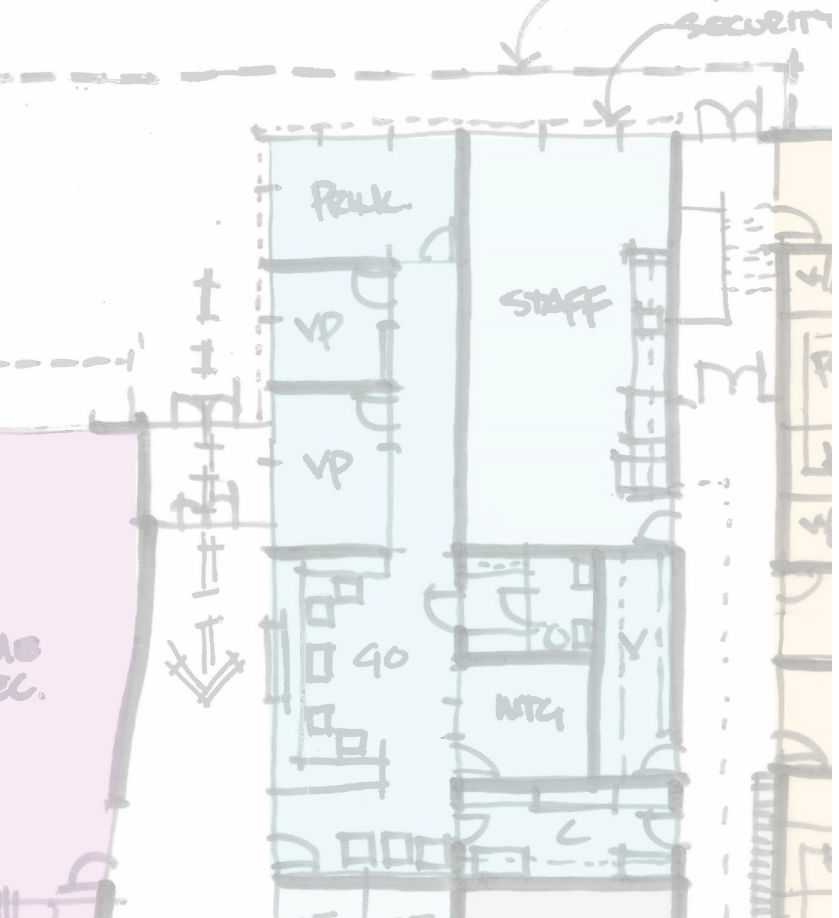
# STITÓS LÁ:LÉM TOTÍ:LT

Elementary/Middle School

- Stitós – “place of crossing”
- Completed Sept. 2022, located in Chilliwack BC (SD#33)
- K-8 (850 students + 80 kindergarten)
- Neighborhood of learning / 21<sup>st</sup> century learning
- Two-storey interconnected; concrete, steel, mass timber
- 9,300 sq m gross floor area



# PROJECT SCHEDULE



## Design

100% Design Complete  
October 2020



## Build

Construction Complete  
June 2022



## Learn

School Opening  
Fall 2022



# TEAM



- Client (SD33) + advising team
- Design-builder – DGS Construction
- Architect – Thinkspace Architecture  
Planning Interior Design Ltd.
- City of Chilliwack
- Structural: Bush Bohlman & Partners
- Mechanical: Rocky Point Engineering Ltd.
- Electrical: Jarvis Engineering Consultants
- Civil: Aplin Martin



# PROJECT OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES

- Hub of community pride
- Ensure efficient, safe site design
- Incorporate flexibility in design to accommodate changing needs over time
- Enhance technology levels in buildings and infrastructure
- Create facility that reflect sustainable design best practices
- Includes energy efficiency, and building surrounded by as much green space as possible
- Maximize operational efficiencies to minimize long term operating and maintenance costs
- Ensure natural physical flow and logical, comfortable ergonomic design
- Provide safe and secure facility for staff and students
- Create adequate social space for students
- Provide suitable facilities to accommodate all modes of transportation to and from school

## **Neighborhood of Learning**

- Expanded gymnasium space
- Daycare plus pre-school





**School Site**  
5.0 ha (12.4 acres)

Rotary Trail

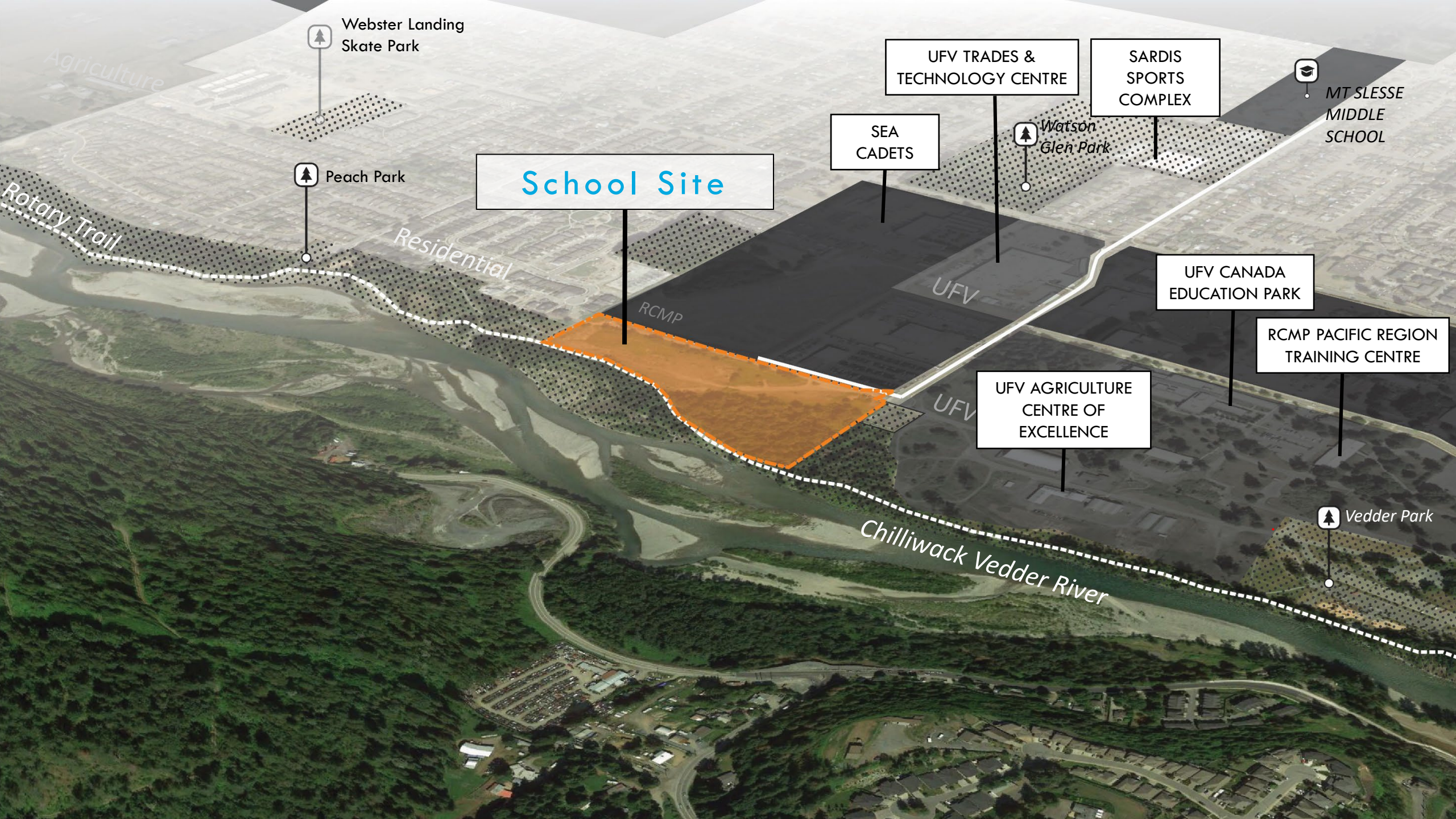
Petawawa Road

Tyson Road

Chilliwack Vedder River







Webster Landing  
Skate Park

Peach Park

School Site

SEA  
CADETS

UFV TRADES &  
TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

SARDIS  
SPORTS  
COMPLEX

MT SLESSE  
MIDDLE  
SCHOOL

UFV CANADA  
EDUCATION PARK

RCMP PACIFIC REGION  
TRAINING CENTRE

UFV AGRICULTURE  
CENTRE OF  
EXCELLENCE

Vedder Park

Agriculture

Rotary Trail

Residential

RCMP

UFV

UFV

Chilliwack Vedder River

Watson  
Glen Park





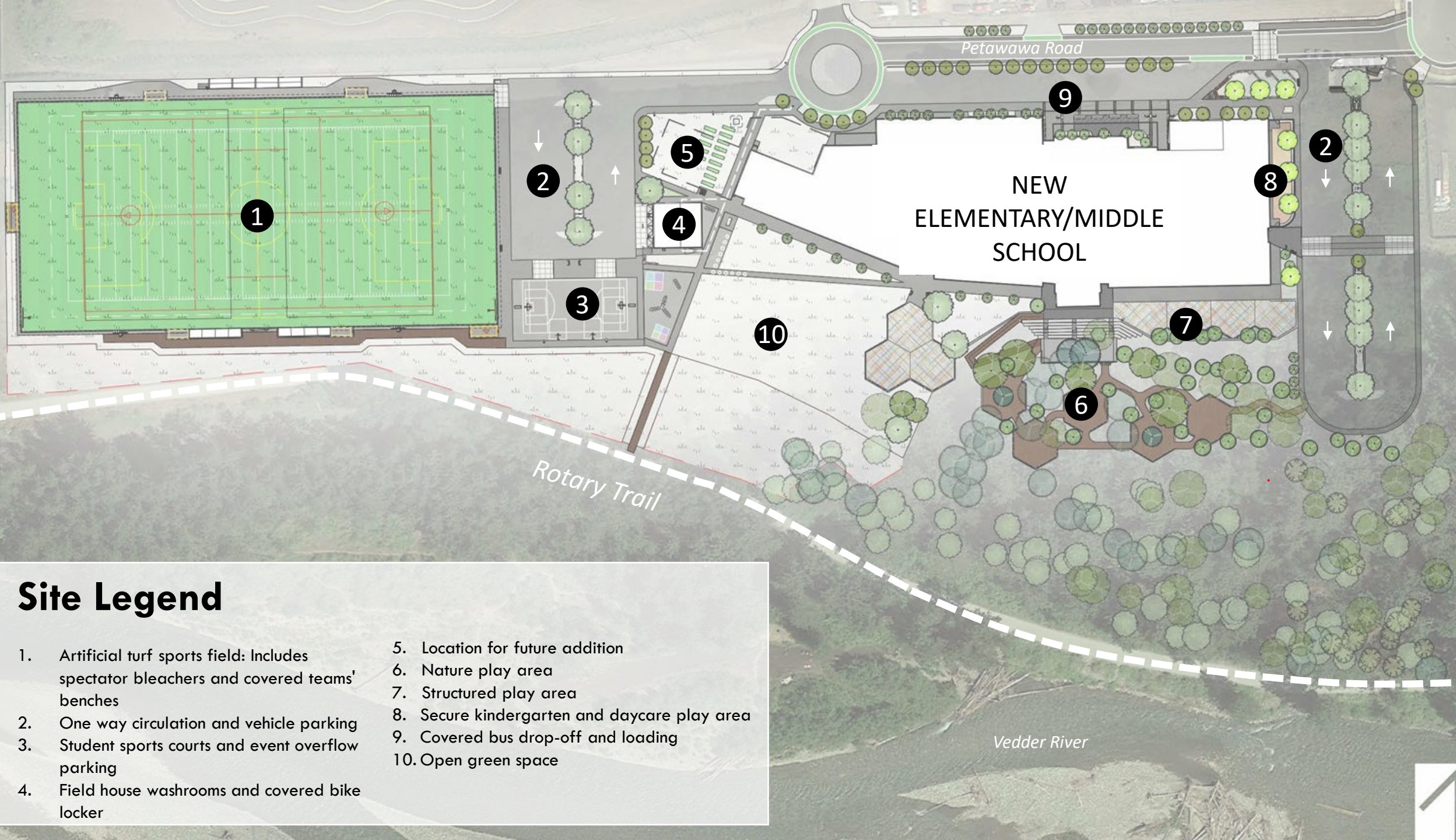




Rotary Trail

Petawawa Road





Petawawa Road

NEW  
ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE  
SCHOOL

Rotary Trail

Vedder River

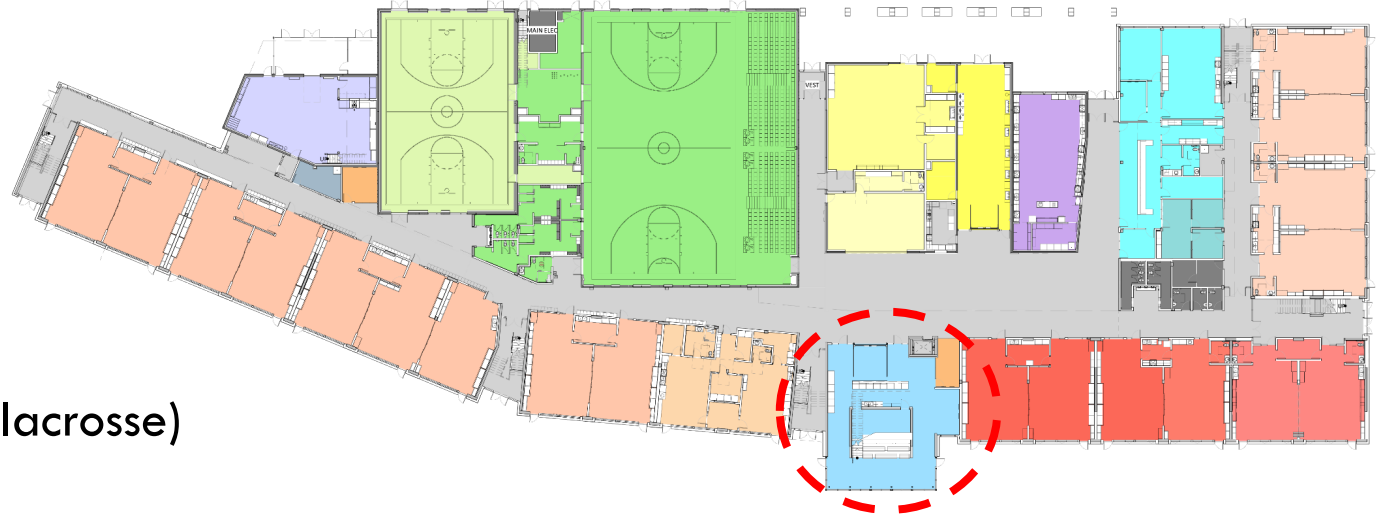
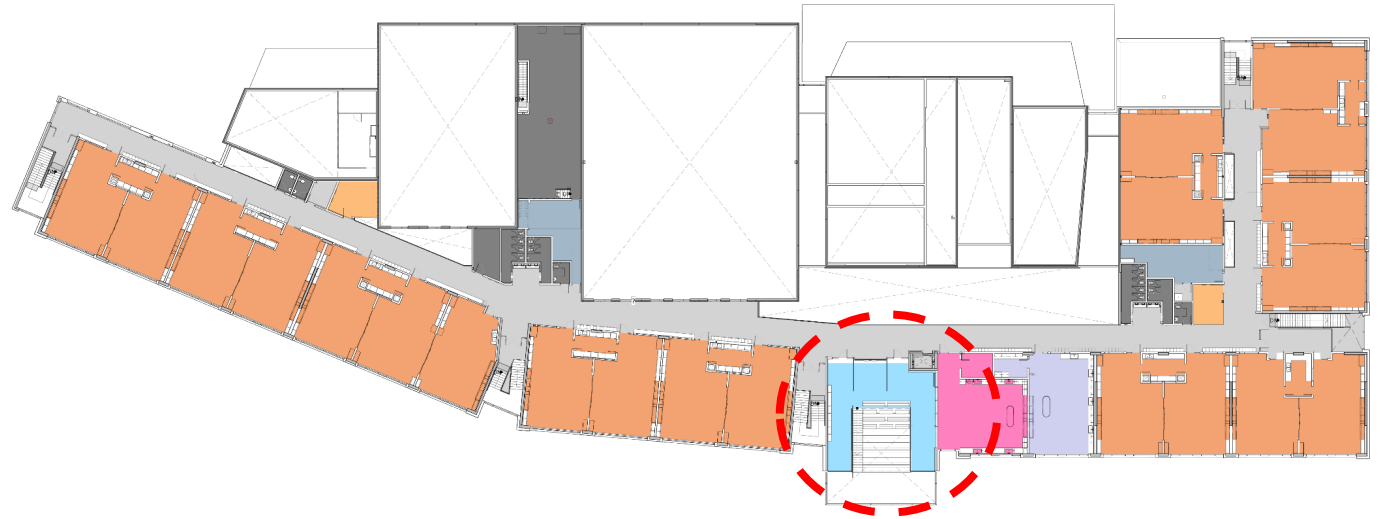
## Site Legend

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Artificial turf sports field: Includes spectator bleachers and covered teams' benches | 5. Location for future addition              |
| 2. One way circulation and vehicle parking   | 6. Nature play area                          |
| 3. Student sports courts and event overflow parking                                      | 7. Structured play area                      |
| 4. Field house washrooms and covered bike locker   | 8. Secure kindergarten and daycare play area |
|  | 9. Covered bus drop-off and loading          |
|  | 10. Open green space                         |

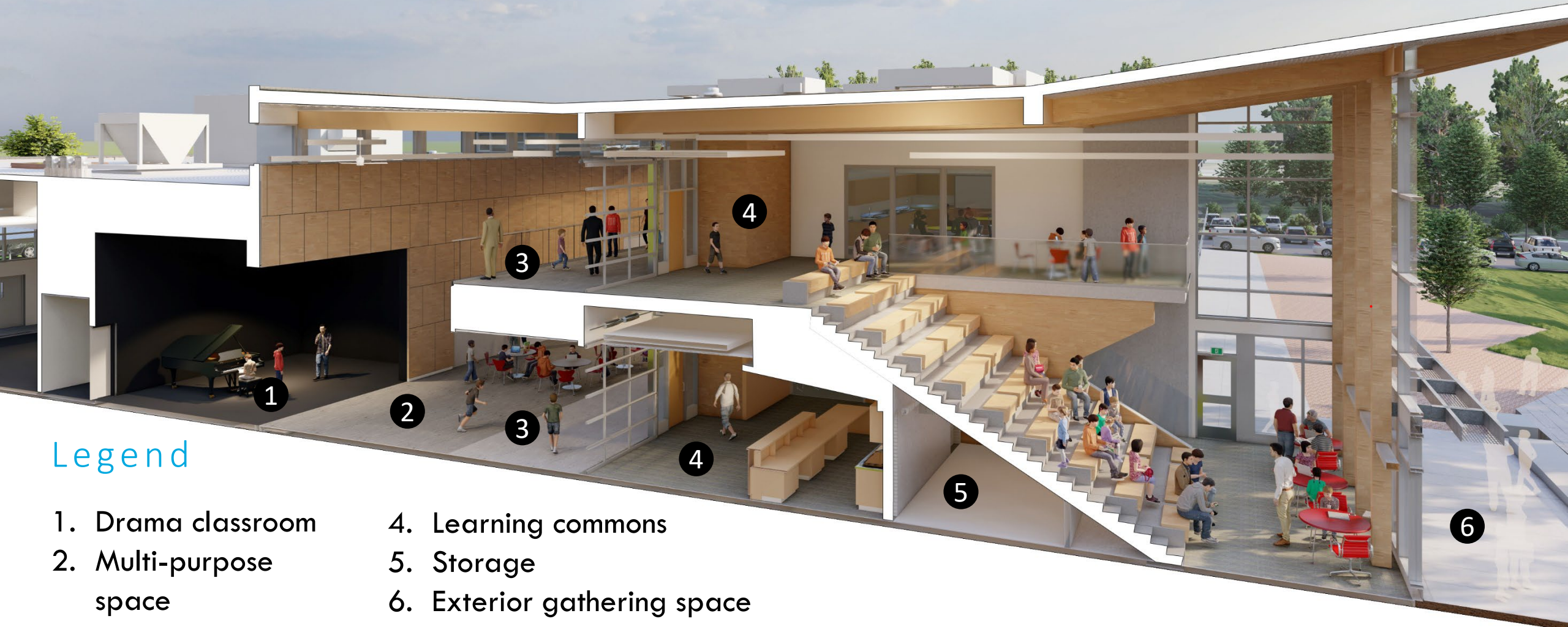


# PROGRAM

- Two gymnasias (Main & NLC)
- 41 classrooms (paired)
- Home Ec/ Foods / Drama /Band
- Multi-purpose spaces
- Two-storey learning commons
- Science / maker space
- Before/after-care classrooms
- Office/ counselling
- Field house (washrooms / bike storage)
- Bus shelter
- Artificial turf sports field (football, soccer, lacrosse)
- Flood plain considerations (FCL)
- After-hours use



# LEARNING COMMONS



## Legend

- 1. Drama classroom
- 2. Multi-purpose space
- 3. Corridor
- 4. Learning commons
- 5. Storage
- 6. Exterior gathering space









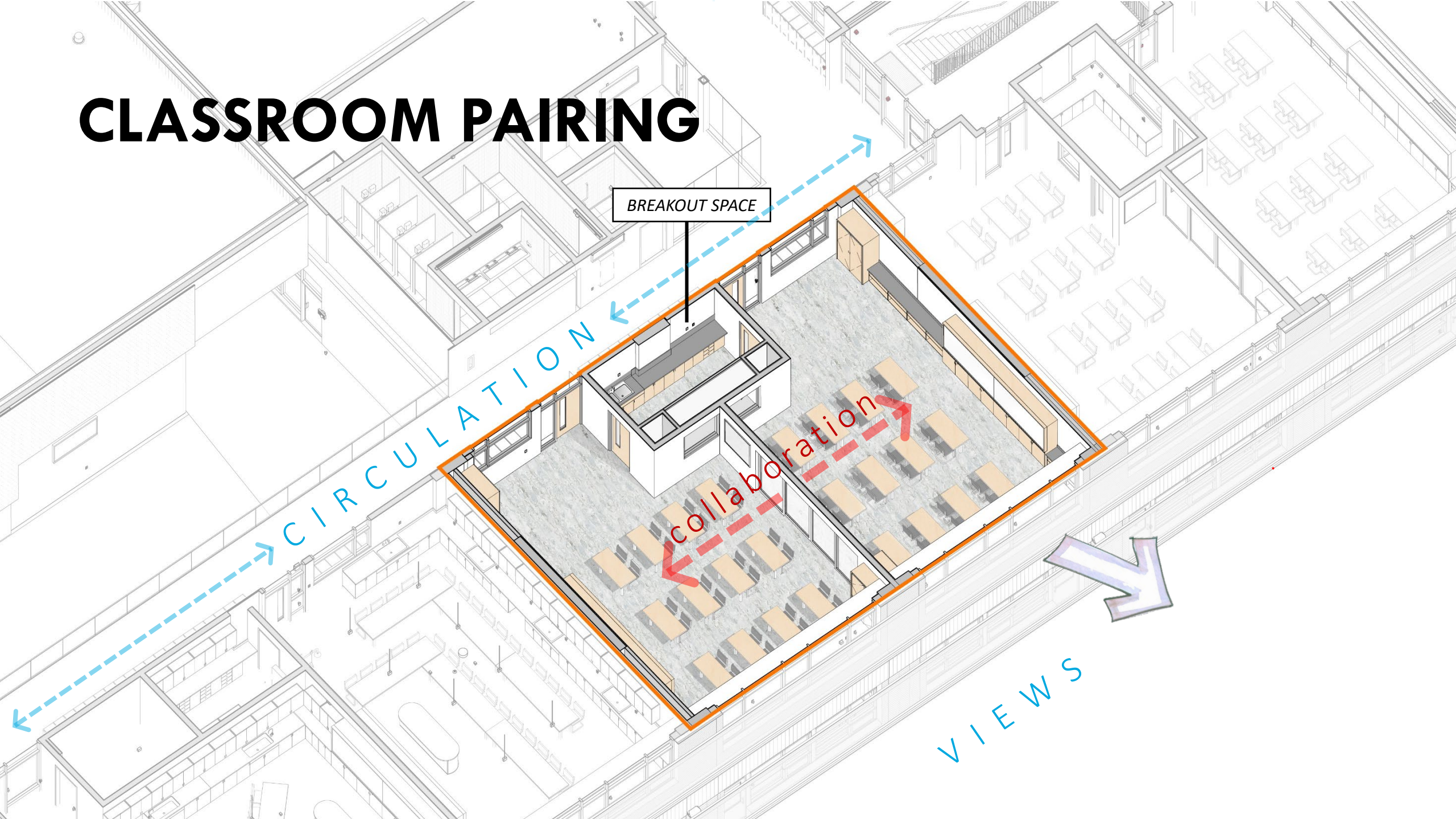




Sifto's  
Leden Toffel  
537 Tyson Road



# CLASSROOM PAIRING



BREAKOUT SPACE

CIRCULATION

collaboration

VIEWS



# COVID + “THE GREAT FLOOD” (Nov 15, 2021)

- Collaboration + transparency
- Willingness to continue to develop the work
- BIM, online meetings (innovations)
- Supply chain
- Involving AHJs





# INNOVATION

- Enhanced building envelope
- Maximum design Total Energy Use Intensity (TEUI) of 140 ekWh/m<sup>2</sup>
- Maximum design Thermal Energy Demand Intensity (TEDI) of 45 ekWh/m<sup>2</sup>
- Meet LEED Gold v4
- Maximum air leakage value of above-grade walls and roof of 0.25 L/s/m<sup>2</sup> at 5 Pa
- Minimum above-grade wall effective R-value of RSI 1.76 m<sup>2</sup> K/W
- Energy performance: 50% reduction of NECB 2017
- GHG emissions: 50% reduction of the reference building
- Energy modelling and monitoring dashboard
- Heating recovery strategies
- Flood protection strategy
- Integrated daylighting + solar mitigation strategies
- Energy recovery ventilators 90% efficient
- LEED Innovation – Implementation of Well standards, including Nature & Beauty in Design



# COMMENTARY ON DB - STITÓ:S + MERCIER

1. What was the School District's rationale for going DB with Stitó:s?
2. Outline the DB process from the School District's perspective.
3. What are the advantages or disadvantages of the DB process?
4. What kind of design opportunities presented themselves?
5. How did SD33 take advantage of them? And at Mercier?
6. Where there any construction opportunities or challenges?
7. How did the architect challenge the original Statement of Requirements (SOR)?
8. How did the design-builder contribute to the project?
9. Are there any lessons learned or take aways from the DB process?
10. What, if any, are the short comings of the DB process?





# DISPELLING DESIGN-BUILD MYTHS

A modern school building with large glass windows and a playground area in the foreground. The building has a mix of wood paneling and glass. In the foreground, there are concrete steps leading up to the building, a metal railing, and a playground area with blue safety fencing. A tall, modern light pole stands in the middle ground. The background shows trees and a clear sky.

1. Owners and architects will lose control of the design
2. All design decisions are final
3. Design-build is too expensive
4. The risk to the owner is higher
5. Speed over quality
6. No transparency in the process



# FINAL THOUGHTS – WHAT'S NECESSARY FOR A SUCCESSFUL DB?





# THANK YOU!

## Questions?

