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Royal Bay school moves closer

[Carla Wilson \(/authors?author=Carla Wilson\)](#) / Times Colonist

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The new Royal Bay Secondary School is moving forward after the Sooke School District issued a request for qualifications for the planned facility.

The school district is looking for applications for those qualified for the design-and-build project in Colwood. The deadline to apply is Jan. 31. A short-list of up to three proponents will be drawn up and asked to bid on the job.

Plans call for the school to be built on a 15-acre site on Latoria Road in Colwood and to be constructed to LEED Gold standards.

The proponent is expected to be chosen in June and the contract awarded that month.

Royal Bay and a planned Glen Lake Secondary School will replace existing Belmont High. Both new schools are slated to be finished in 2015. A request for qualifications for the Glen Lake school was issued in November.

Royal Bay will run courses for students in Grades nine through 12, the request document states.

The school will also have a neighbourhood learning centre which will include a childcare facility, health and wellness screening office, education centre for post secondary programs, community kitchen and inter-generational multipurpose room. It will also accommodate an aboriginal longhouse and an elders meeting room.

The school's drama program will feature a 350-seat school theatre as part of the neighbourhood learning centre.

Royal Bay will also feature a new rubberized athletics track.

The school is being developed within the planned new community of Royal Bay on 419 acres of waterfront land. B.C. Investment Management Corp. purchased the property, once a massive gravel operation, from Lehigh Heidelberg last year.

GWL Realty Advisors, on behalf of the B.C. Investment Management, issued a request for qualifications for master

planning and design services to map out the long-term development of the site. Responses are due next week.

The Royal Bay community is expected to have 2,800 new homes, a community centre and parks. The Sooke School District bought the secondary school property in 2009.

Construction has started on road and services for the new school. The school property is on what was once gravel sediment ponds, the request document says. "A portion of the site has been upgraded with structural fill in anticipation of the school. The remainder of the site consists of soft soil with a two-metre cap which has been preloaded and is considered suitable for surface structures such as the playfields and parking," it says.

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