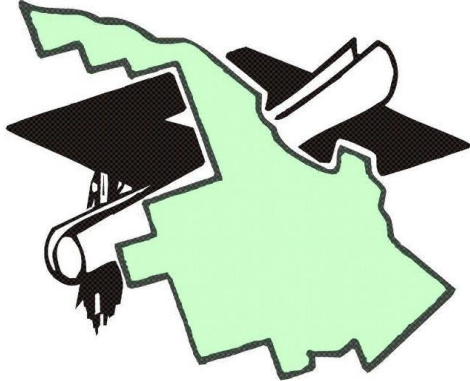


# Tender to build K-12 school in Petawawa awarded

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Petawawa's K-12 school project is continuing to roll on, as the Renfrew County District School Board awarded the tender to construct the building.

During a special meeting held on Tuesday, trustees voted to award lowest bidder Percon Construction Inc. of Toronto a contract of \$21,940,000. This will include the addition of a \$499,830 tech shop, which the board decided to include in the final plans of the school.

Percon has built 15 secondary schools in the province, and is a full service contractor/builder with the capability, knowledge and expertise to take on mid to large sized industrial, commercial and institutional projects.

The company was one of four prequalified companies who bid on the project.

Trustee Barbara Basso was the sole person to vote against the awarding of the contract, explaining she felt it should have went to a local firm, M. Sullivan and Son Limited of Arnprior, even though it wasn't the lowest bidder.

The rest of the school board who were present voted to award the contract, namely Chairman Dave Kaiser, Vice-Chairman Dave Shields, and Trustees Norm Hazelwood, Wendy Hewitt, and Therese Hein.

Doering said the building committee deserves credit for its hard work in making sure a tech shop was included, which will be of great benefit to Petawawa students.

The new kindergarten to Grade 12 school will be a two-storey, 126,000 square foot building with the capacity for 1,460 students - 860 elementary and 600 secondary.

Located at 19 Leeder Lane in Petawawa, the school combines all three Base Petawawa schools - General Panet High School, Pinecrest and General Lake Public School - under one roof in a brand new facility, after studies determined the three schools would be too expensive to renovate.

Site preparation happened this fall, generating much controversy as the surrounding neighbourhood was disrupted by the dynamic compaction operations - whereby pounders weighing 10 to 40 tons were released in free or quasi-free fall from a height of 10 to 30 metres. Laurentian Drive residents have complained the tremors from the pounding caused walls to shake and objects to rattle, and some have reported cracks in walls, ceilings and floors as a result of vibrations.

That operation wrapped up in December.

Construction of the building is expected to begin in the spring, with the school scheduled to be accept students by fall of 2014.

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