The Community Has Spoken,  
New School Name Chosen in Cut Knife

Cut Knife Community School (CKCS) is the official name of the amalgamated school in Cut Knife scheduled to open its doors in the new school year. The Board of Education approved the school name proposal at the June 12th Regular Board Meeting.

To ensure they chose a school name that was inclusive of everyone who will be involved in the new school, the Rebranding Committee reached out to the Cut Knife community and surrounding First Nations. The consultation process included a survey and face to face conversations. Staff, students, parents and community members identified Cut Knife as a place with rich and diverse history, where people feel safe and welcome, and where a sense of community resonates. The chosen name, Cut Knife Community School, clearly reinforces the identity as an inclusive space that welcomes everyone. The use of the word community evokes a strong sense of belonging and care, while delivering a feeling of fellowship with others.

The consultation process also assisted the committee in choosing new school colours and a mascot that reflects their commitment to community. The new mascot, the Kodiak Bear, symbolizes strength, courage and leadership. The bear has a very traditional and symbolic purpose in the First Nations culture. The bear is seen as the protector of the animal kingdom and possesses great power. The name Kodiaks was chosen, with a resoundingly positive student response because of the rhythmic repetition (Cut Knife Kodiaks!) and the ferocity that is conjured by saying it. The new school colours selected include turquoise, grey, black and white. Turquoise was chosen because it is a combination of blue (Cut Knife Elementary School colour) and green (Cut Knife High School colour). Also, in First Nations communities, turquoise is a colour that symbolizes the sky and water and is considered very powerful.

The next step in the rebranding process is to hold a school logo contest. Stay tuned for details on the contest!

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In June 2018, the CKES School Community Council unanimously voted to consolidate the elementary and high schools in Cut Knife to create one viable thriving K-12 school in their community. The new amalgamated school, Cut Knife Community School, will serve students from Prekindergarten to Grade 12 and is scheduled to open in the 2019-20 school year.

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