



Kincardine Elementary School – Facilities Development Plan

May 2021

The Ministry of Education released memorandum 2021: B09 - *Capital Funding for the 2021-22 School Year*, allowing school boards to apply for funding to address capital costs for school renewal and planning capacity.

In preparation for this opportunity, Bluewater District School Board staff continue to look at long term projections, as well as population and enrolment growth across the district. In June 2020, a [5-Year Facility Planning Strategy](#) was completed with recommendations based on board enrolment projections using current trends along with information on municipal and building developments. Staff were able to focus on areas where student enrolment pressures are projected to meet or exceed school capacities in the near future.

In May 2021, Bluewater District School Board submitted a business case to address the accommodation pressures in the Kincardine area. The business case outlined the need for additional elementary student space due to increased enrolment at all three elementary schools in Kincardine: Kincardine Township-Tiverton Public School, Elgin Market Public School, and Huron Heights Public School. Through the recent grade re-location of Grade 7 and 8 students to Kincardine District Senior School, the board was able to address short term enrolment pressures by using surplus space at the secondary location. However, enrolment pressures continue at all three elementary sites. The business case proposes to replace the three existing elementary schools with one combined dual-track Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 configuration. In partnership with the County of Bruce Children's Services, additional funding has been requested for the construction of a childcare facility on the same site.

The Ministry of Education will provide an update later in 2021 on successful funding requests for all submitted business cases. Should funding be granted for the proposal, a new elementary school would be constructed in the town of Kincardine to accommodate current and future growth in the area for students in JK-6. The location of this school has yet to be determined. However, the opportunity to share amenities with the new senior school to be constructed in Kincardine would be advantageous to families. During a public survey in the fall of 2020, parents/guardians of the current Kincardine District Senior School and area residents were asked about the importance of having an elementary school close to the new senior school. The majority of respondents (62%) indicated it would be important to have the elementary and senior schools within close proximity.

A full report on the [Facility Planning Strategy – Kincardine Area](#), was presented to the Board of Trustees during the Business Committee of the Whole Board meeting held on December 1, 2020. The report can be found on the board's website by visiting the appropriate meeting date or by using the above link. Details are still being determined and will meet the requirements of the Ministry of Education's funding application specifications. More information will be released publicly at our Business Committee of the Whole Board meetings in the coming months as the business case progresses.

For media inquiries or for more information, please contact:
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