

Facility Planning Strategy – Saugeen Shores and Area Schools

Background

As part of Bluewater District School Board's (BWDSB) facility planning, staff have identified enrolment growth in the Saugeen Shores area schools. Staff have examined the future projected enrolment in the Saugeen Shores area in order to plan appropriately and ensure sufficient pupil spaces exist in the area. Northport Elementary School programs for JK to grade 6 for English programming, Port Elgin - Saugeen Central School programs for grades JK to grade 6 for English and French Immersion, and Saugeen District Senior School programs for grade 7 to grade 12 for English and French Immersion. Other schools in the immediate area are G.C. Huston Public School that programs JK to grade 8, and Paisley Central School that programs for JK to grade 8.

Current Status

The current October enrolment at the three Saugeen Shores schools is at 104% utilization: 119% at Northport Elementary School, 90% at Port Elgin-Saugeen Central School, and 119% in the elementary panel at Saugeen District Senior School. Portables are being used to accommodate the over utilization:

- Northport Elementary School currently has four portables on site
- Port Elgin-Saugeen Central School currently has no portables on site
- Saugeen District Senior School currently has two portables on site

Individual school details are in Table 1.

Table 1 - Saugeen Shores Area Schools 2022-23 Current Enrolment (October 31,2022)

	Northport Elementary School (JK-6)	Port Elgin-Saugeen Central School (JK-6)	Saugeen District Senior School (7-8)
Capacity (OTG)	410	683	216
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	486	617	256
Utilization	119%	90%	119%
Surplus Space/Space Shortage (-)	(76)	66	(40)
2022-23 Temporary Accommodation	92	0	46

Projected Status

Enrolment in the Saugeen Shores area is expected to increase in the coming years due to a high level of new construction. For 2023-24, the utilization of the three Saugeen Shores schools is expected to increase to 109%.

Individual school details are in Table 2.

Table 2 - Saugeen Shores Area Schools 2023-24 Enrolment Projections (ADE) with expected growth

	Northport Elementary School (JK-6)	Port Elgin-Saugeen Central School (JK-6)	Saugeen District Senior School (7-8)
Capacity (OTG)	410	683	216
Average Daily Enrolment (ADE)	539	630	264
Utilization	131%	92%	122%
Potential Surplus Space/Space Shortage (-)	(129)	53	(48)
2022-23 Temporary Accommodation	92	0	46

In the short term, BWDSB believes that the schools can meet the need of projected student enrolment with the placement of portables and the option of converting additional space within the school to temporary classroom space; however, a plan is required for beyond the short term.

BWDSB will be submitting a business case to the Ministry of Education for a larger replacement school for Northport Elementary School. Further communication with the municipality will reaffirm their endorsement for this plan.

Looking at the next several years, alternate accommodation strategies may need to be considered to accommodate enrolment in the area. Boundary reviews or the designation of holding schools outside the current boundaries for new developments could be considered to alleviate the pressure at Northport Elementary School.

Individual school details are in Table 3.

Table 3 - Saugeen Shores Area Schools 2026-27 Enrolment Projections (ADE) with expected growth

	Northport Elementary School (JK-6)	Port Elgin-Saugeen Central School (JK-6)	Saugeen District Senior School (7-8)
Capacity (OTG)	410	683	216
Average Daily Enrolment (ADE)	641	651	302
Utilization	156%	95%	140%
Potential Surplus Space/Space Shortage (-)	(231)	32	(86)
2022-23 Temporary Accommodation	92	0	46

Recommendation

That the Business Committee of the Whole receive the 'Facility Planning Strategy - Saugeen Shores and Area Schools' report for information.

Submitted to
 Bluewater District School Board
 Business Committee of the Whole
 January 10, 2023

For further information, please contact
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 Services and Treasurer