

Beavercrest Community School – Additional Classrooms

Background

Bluewater District School Board is currently constructing a new 328 pupil school to be placed in the town of Markdale to replace the current Beavercrest Community School. The funding amount supported by Capital Priorities, Child Care Capital and EarlyON Capital for the school, two child care and EarlyON spaces is more than \$19 million.

In a recent scheduling update from the contractor, the targeted completion date forecast as September 2024 for building occupancy will not be obtained due to a delayed construction start. A new school opening target date will need to be established as construction continues and will be shared when confirmed.

Also noteworthy is enrolment at Beavercrest has increased by over 100 students since ministry approval was initially received. The school had an enrolment of 314 at the October 31, 2023 ministry count date. The development information received from the municipality and the local developers has indicated to planning staff that enrolment will continue to increase over the current year and beyond given the construction of the current and planned developments in the area. The immediate addition of two additional classrooms would be beneficial in accommodating the expected increase of students for the opening.

The construction of two additional classrooms as part of the project, with the general contractor and trades actively building, provides the following benefits:

- quick design drawings repeating the core build details
- open pricing from the contractor
- design team review of all costs
- no future site disturbance with an addition
- right-sizing the school for projected number of students upon opening

Staff will work with the ministry for approval regarding additional funding once quotes have been received. The board has some financing options from other funding sources if required.

Recommendation:

That the Business Committee of the Whole receive the 'Beavercrest Community School – Additional Classrooms' for information.

Submitted to
Bluewater District School Board
Business Committee of the Whole
December 5, 2023

For further information, please contact Lori Wilder,
Director of Education or John Bumstead,
Assistant Manager of Plant Services