



Community Partnerships and Available Unused School Space

Bluewater District School Board's (BWDSB) primary purpose in carrying out its Multi-Year Strategy Plan is to support student achievement and well-being. It further recognizes that cooperative and collaborative partnerships with community partners are part of the foundation of a strong, vibrant and sustainable publicly funded education system.

Annually, BWDSB hosts a Community Planning and Partnership (CPP) meeting. Through consultation with stakeholders, it was decided that this year's meeting will be held virtually on April 9, 2024 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.. As part of the CPP meeting and in accordance with Administrative Procedure 2360-D Community Planning and Partnerships, information regarding unused space in open and operating schools, that is not surplus, but is available for partnerships will be provided to potential partners through the following notification process. A resolution of the board will support this process by:

- Posting information on Bluewater District School Board's website regarding new builds, significant renovations and any space that is available for partnerships. This information is to be updated annually in the case of space in existing schools and as needed in the case of co-building opportunities.
- Following newly released Ontario Regulation 374/23: Acquisition and Disposition of Real Property

Attached as Appendix A is a listing of BWDSB schools with less than 70% utilization based on 2023-2024 estimated average daily enrolment (ADE) that could potentially support a community partnership. Schools with utilization less than 60% are strong initial candidates for community partnership opportunities. The criteria identified in section 2.6 of AP 2360-D provides additional considerations when determining the appropriateness of community partnership within BWDSB schools.

As the board continues to see an overall increase in enrolment, the number of schools reported with potential unused space has decreased from 18 schools in 2019. Currently, there are eleven schools that have available unused space to accommodate an appropriate community partnership.

In addition, BWDSB is currently engaged in building two new replacement schools: a JK-8 school in Markdale to replace Beavercrest Community School and a grade 7-12 school in Kincardine to replace Kincardine District Senior School.

We encourage interested groups, municipalities and others that would be interested in a community partnership to contact board staff regarding opportunities and to participate in the meeting held April 9.

Recommendation:

That the Business Committee of the Whole recommend to the board that it approve the list of schools with available unused space that could be made available for appropriate community partnerships.

Submitted to
Bluewater District School Board
Business Committee of the Whole
March 5, 2024

For further information, please contact
Andrew Low, Superintendent of Business
Services and Treasurer

APPENDIX A

School	2023-24 ADE*	Available Capacity*	Utilization	Unused Pupil Spaces	Community
St. Edmunds PS (JK-3)	16	84	19%	68	Tobermory
Peninsula Shores CS (JK-12)	403	749	54%	346	Wiaraton
Lucknow Central PS	167	283	59%	116	Lucknow
Hillcrest Central PS	146	245	60%	99	Teeswater
Normanby CS	197	317	62%	120	Ayton
Kincardine Township-Tiverton PS	235	375	63%	140	Kincardine
Hepworth Central PS	364	568	64%	204	Hepworth
Mildmay-Carrick CS	174	268	65%	94	Mildmay
Grey Highlands SS	675	1011	67%	336	Flesherton
Sullivan CS	163	236	69%	73	Desboro
Chesley District CS	347	502	69%	155	Chesley

Figures have been rounded for the purpose of this report

Source: 2023-2024 Revised Estimates for ADE

*Available Capacity is On the Ground (OTG) less currently leased spaces