

New Kincardine District Senior School Update

Background

Bluewater District School Board (BWDSB) was approved for funding by the Ministry of Education to support a new Kincardine District Senior School, under the 2019 - 2020 Capital Priorities Funding program. The ministry has committed \$26,450,989 in funding to build an 881-pupil school to replace the current Grade 7-12 Kincardine District Senior School.

In March 2021, staff presented a report on attributes of an ideal new school site that included insights and preferences of 1,100 surveyed respondents, staff planners and educators. In May 2023, trustees voted in favour of a modified repeat design for the development of the space template based on recently constructed John Diefenbaker Senior School in Hanover.

Update

Staff has had discussions on potential sites and utilized a land appraiser to evaluate a potential site prior to discussing an offer with the ministry and owner. A land appraisal has been provided to the board. As an option, staff are looking at two parcels of land in order to support a potentially successful future JK-Grade 6 business case under the Capital Priorities Program.

Staff have received a final version of an Engineering Feasibility Study which outlines significant roadworks and servicing options of a potential site. Initial schematic plans of a two-school site layout have been created. The hiring of a dedicated Project Management firm to assist with service requirements as well as design and construction oversight is now in place.

Next Steps

As previously reported, a few decision points are still required prior to submitting an 'Approval to Proceed' with a land purchase to the ministry. The following is a sampling of some next steps:

- initial archaeology and geo technical has been completed with a second sampling planned for autumn once crops have been harvested
- land use planning process requirements and timelines
- re-zoning and possible official plan amendments
- optimal locations on the site are being reviewed for a single school and/or an additional elementary school

Recommendation:

That the Business Committee of the Whole receive the 'New Kincardine District Senior School Update' report for information.

Submitted to
Bluewater District School Board
Business Committee of the Whole
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For further information, please contact
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