



Beavercrest Community School Update

Background

Bluewater District School Board (BWDSB) received approved funding for a new 236 pupil school to be placed in the town of Markdale to replace the current Beavercrest Community School. Funding in the amount of \$6.4 million will be used for a new school with additional funding of \$2.1 million used to create two child care rooms and two EarlyON rooms at the same location.

On November 6, 2020 the ministry approved the facility space template that was submitted to the ministry for review and approval. The approval indicates that the total number of pupil places being planned for is consistent with the ministry approved scope for this school. In addition, the child care space identified on the space template falls within the child care space requirements.

Update

Staff continue to work with the architect, the adjacent land developer, and the ministry to move this project forward. The webpage will continue to be updated.

To recap, on April 8, 2021, the purchase of the additional lands was finalized and BWDSB has an agreement in place with the land owner for construction access to the site. This will allow the existing school to continue to operate without sharing the existing site with construction vehicles.

School designs prepared by +VG Architects have been shared with the public. Questions and responses are available on the BWDSB website. An updated detailed design has been provided and is also posted to the site.

Financial Impact

As previously reported current estimates are expected to be higher than the funding commitment given the construction environment and the impact of Covid-19. The project team has worked with the ministry to determine feasible options to move forward. An Approval To Proceed (ATP) was submitted to the ministry with BWDSB lead letter and Architect comments on cost saving measures taken to date. The ministry is currently reviewing the information and will provide direction in the upcoming weeks. Once the ATP is received, the board will proceed to tender. The construction tender is targeted for January 2022.

Recommendation:

That the Business Committee of the Whole receive the 'Beavercrest Community School Update' for information.

Submitted to
Bluewater District School Board
Business Committee of the Whole
January 4, 2022

For further information, please contact
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Services and Treasurer