

FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Presented to: Board of Trustees
Submitted on: February 13, 2024
Submitted by: Jen Edwards, Chair, Finance and Facilities Committee
Committee Date: January 23, 2024
Report No.: FF24-01

Members: Jen Edwards (Chair), Katherine Hauser, Ralf Mesenbrink

The Finance and Facilities Committee held a hybrid meeting on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 7:00pm. Chair Edwards presided the meeting. There were no conflicts of interest declared.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Primrose ES Boundary Review – Final Report

The Primrose ES Boundary Review - Final Report was presented for consideration by the Finance and Facilities Committee. The report contained the options under consideration and the impacts on projected enrolment for each option. Discussion took place regarding the public consultation process with municipalities and the school community and the rationale for the recommendations.

The Committee recommended:

THAT the Board approves an enrolment cap at Primrose ES of 23 classes starting the 2024-25 school year;

THAT following the Elementary Staffing process each year, staff determine if the 23-classroom cap has been breached and send communication to the affected families when the student will need to be redirected to Centennial Hylands ES with transportation provided;

THAT siblings of affected students be provided an option to either continue to attend Primrose ES or move to Centennial Hylands ES;

THAT an acknowledgement form be provided to the families for all new students (JK to Gr 8) during registration to advise of the enrolment cap and potential redirection to Centennial Hylands ES;

THAT staff monitor the enrolment projections at Primrose ES and Centennial Hylands on an annual basis through the Annual Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) Report. If required, Staff will bring forward an alternate interim solution report to Trustees to address the accommodation pressures;

THAT staff continue efforts to improve the Primrose site to support the additional enrolment; and

THAT the school board continues the efforts to secure a new school site to support a long-term solution for enrolment pressure.

ITEMS FOR MONITORING

2. Capital Projects Update

A verbal report was provided regarding the new South Guelph Secondary School and the new Centre Wellington Elementary School. Approval to proceed forms have been submitted to the Ministry of Education for the new South Guelph Secondary School. Incorporated in the submission are carbon reducing mechanical systems that utilize electric systems as the main source of heating and for water heating. Natural gas is designed as a supplemental system primarily for extreme cold days where an electric heat pump would be ineffective regardless of the amount of power allocated to the heat pumps. Building automation system is designed to manage lighting and mechanical systems effectively and efficiently. Staff are continuing to work with the City of Guelph for site plan approval. The tender for the new Centre Wellington Elementary School has been released to pre-qualified bidders and the design also includes carbon reducing mechanical systems. Construction for both schools is targeted for this spring pending Ministry and municipal approvals.

3. Electric Vehicles Information

A presentation was provided regarding Electric Vehicles for school buses and the school board's fleet of vehicles. Discussion took place regarding key considerations of upfront capital investments, infrastructure requirements for charging the vehicles and the changing landscape related to electric vehicles overall. A key next step is to determine baseline metrics for the school board's vehicles to support the evaluation of changes to electric vehicles in comparison to other sustainability investments. These baseline metrics will be presented at an upcoming Finance and Facilities Committee meeting.