

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**REGULAR BOARD MEETING****PUBLIC SESSION****MEETING AGENDA – WEDNESDAY, NOV. 22, 2023 - REVISED**

PUBLIC SESSION will commence at 6 P.M., followed immediately by the **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE** in **CLOSED SESSION (ROY EDWARDS ROOM)**. **PUBLIC SESSION** will resume at 7 P.M.

THE BOARD MEETING WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED. A RECORDING OF THE MEETING WILL ALSO BE POSTED ON THE SIMCOE COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC WEBSITE.

- A.**
- (1) Land Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory
 - (2) O Canada
 - (3) Statement of Respect
 - (4) Roll Call
 - (5) Approval of Agenda
 - (6) Approval of Minutes - see Consent Agenda (D-2)
 - (7) Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

CLOSED SESSION

- B.** Committee of the Whole
- (1) Property Matters
 - (2) Personnel Matters

PUBLIC SESSION

- C.**
- (1) Report from Student Trustees
 - (2) Trustee Tribute - Nil
 - (3) Delegations
Parents Against Racism Simcoe County –
Natasha Shakespeare and Natalie McNabb
Re: Culturally Affirming Supports and Policy Additions

D. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- (1) Report from the Closed Session of the Board in Committee of the Whole
- (2) Consent Agenda
 - (a) Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held Oct. 25, 2023
 - (b) Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board held Nov. 8, 2023
 - (c) Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the Board held Nov. 20, 2023

- (3) Matters Arising from Previous Meeting:
 - Motion(s) for which notice was given at previous Board Meeting - Nil
- (4) Notice of Time Sensitive Motions from Statutory Committees - Nil
- (5) Committee Minutes/Reports - Items for Decision - Nil
- (6) Staff Reports - Items for Decision
 - (a) Special Education Advisory Committee Member Appointment
- (7) Committee Minutes/Reports - Items for Information
 - (a) Report of the Human Resources Standing Committee Meeting held Nov. 8, 2023
 - (b) Report of the Program Standing Committee Meeting held Nov. 8, 2023
 - (c) Report of the Business and Facilities Standing Committee Meeting held Nov. 1, 2023
 - (d) Report of the Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Oct. 24, 2023
 - (e) Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held Oct. 2, 2023
- (8) Staff Reports - Items for Information
 - (a) 2023-24 Operational Plan

E. OTHER MATTERS

- (1) Reports from Liaison Members
- (2) Questions and Comments from Trustees
- (3) Notices of Motion for Next Meeting
- (4) Professional Development Seminars Attendance
- (5) Reports/Update from Staff
- (6) Correspondence
 - (a) Letter from SCDSB
 - (b) Letter from Thames Valley District School Board
 - (c) Letters from SCDSB to Mayors at City of Barrie, Clearview Township, Township of Essa, Town of Innisfil, Town of New Tecumseth, and Town of Wasaga Beach
 - (d) Letter from Township of Essa
 - (e) Letter from Town of Wasaga Beach

F. FUTURE BUSINESS OF THE BOARD, STANDING COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Business and Facilities Standing Committee Meeting – Dec. 6. 2023 at 6 p.m.
Special Education Advisory Committee – Dec. 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
Program Standing Committee Meeting – Dec. 13, 2023 at 6 p.m.
Human Resources Standing Committee Meeting – Dec. 13, 2023 following Program Meeting
Regular Meeting of the Board – Dec. 20, 2023 at 6 p.m., followed immediately by the Committee of the Whole in Closed Session, Public Session will resume at 7 p.m.

G. ADJOURNMENT

**SIMCOE COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
PUBLIC SESSION
RECOMMENDED ACTION – WEDNESDAY, Nov. 22, 2023 – REVISED**

REPORT	FYI	Decision Req.	MOTION
A-1			Land Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory
A-2			O Canada
A-3			Statement of Respect
A-4			Call meeting to order. Roll call
A-5		√	That the agenda be approved as printed.
A-6 Approval of Minutes		√	See Consent Agenda (D-2)
A-7			Declaration of conflicts of interest.
MOTION		√	That we go into Closed Session of the Committee of the Whole.
PUBLIC SESSION			
C-1 Report from Student Trustees	√		
C-2 Trustee Tribute			Nil
C-3 Delegations	√		Parents Against Racism Simcoe County – Natasha Shakespeare and Natalie McNabb Re: Culturally Affirming Supports and Policy Additions
D-1			Report from the Closed Session of the Board in Committee of the Whole.
D-2 Consent Agenda (a) Regular Board Minutes Oct. 25, 2023 (b) Special Board Minutes Nov. 8, 2023 (c) Organizational Board Minutes Nov. 20, 2023		√ √ √	That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023 be approved as printed. That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board held Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023 be approved as printed. That the Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the Board held Monday, Nov. 20, 2023 be approved as printed.
D-3-a Matters Arising from Previous Meeting			Nil
D-4 Notice of Time Sensitive Motions from Statutory Committees			Nil

SIMCOE COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
 RECOMMENDED ACTION - 2
 NOV. 22, 2023

D-5 Committee Minutes/Reports – Items for Decision			Nil
D-6-a Special Education Advisory Committee Member Appointment		√	That the Board appoint to the SCDSB SEAC, effective Dec. 1, 2023, Amanda Burton as the SEAC member representing DSASC, as set out in Report No. D-6-a, Special Education Advisory Committee Member Appointment, dated Nov. 22, 2023.
D-7-a Human Resources Nov. 8, 2023	√		
D-7-b Program Nov. 8, 2023	√		
D-7-c Business and Facilities Nov. 8, 2023	√		
D-7-d Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Oct. 24, 2023	√		
D-7-e Special Education Advisory Committee Oct. 2, 2023	√		
D-8-a 2023-24 Operational Plan	√		
E-1 Reports from Liaison Members			
E-2 Questions and Comments from Trustees			
E-3 Notices of Motion for Next Meeting			
E-4 Professional Development Seminars Attendance			
E-5 Reports/Update from Staff			
E-6 Correspondence	√		
Future Business			
Adjournment		√	Motion to Adjourn

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the
Simcoe County District School Board

FROM: The Secretary

SUBJECT: **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD HELD OCT. 25, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) was held on Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023 at the Education Centre.

The Board meeting was live-streamed. The meeting was also recorded and is available for the public.

A.

- (1) **Land Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory**
- (2) **Statement of Respect**
- (3) **Roll Call**

PRESENT: Donna Armstrong, Sarah Beitz, Debbie Connors, Mike Foley,
Trustees Liz Grummett, Jodi Lloyd (Chairperson), Lynn Strachan,
Dana Powell, Brandy Rafeek (Vice-chairperson),
Robin Talbot, Lisa-Marie Wilson.

Student Trustees Lucy Duncan, Allia Majid, Ayesha Maryam.

Administration John Dance, Lisa Coffey, Kristen Fennell,
Greg Jacobs, Sarah Kekewich, Dean Maltby, Iain McMeekin,
John Playford, Lisa Sander, Dawn Stephens, Charlene Scime,
Susan Sidlofsky, Corry Van Nispen, Matthew Webbe, Scott Young.

**Electronic
Participation
Administration** Tahmena Bokhari.

Recording Secretary Jennifer Henry.

REGRETS
Trustees Anne Harrigan.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

- (4) **Approval of Agenda**

MOTION

Moved by Robin Talbot
Seconded by Mike Foley

That the Agenda be approved as printed.

CARRIED

(5) **Approval of Minutes** - See D-2-a.

(6) **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest** - Nil

B. Committee of the Whole

Moved by Liz Grummett
Seconded by Dana Powell

That the Board move into Committee of the Whole in Closed Session at this time.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Duncan, Majid and Maryam left the meeting at this time.

The Public Session of the Board re-convened at 7 p.m.

Student Trustees Duncan, Majid and Maryam returned to the meeting at this time.

Trustee Wilson entered the meeting at this time.

C. (1) Report from Student Trustees

Student Trustee Maryam provided an update on behalf of the student trustees. Student Trustee Maryam shared that the student trustees attended the OSTA-AECO Fall General Meeting where they had the opportunity to meet Minister Lecce and Cathy Abraham, president of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, and discuss the importance of student voice at the Board table. Student Trustee Maryam reported that they held their second Student Senate meeting virtually and that the meeting was well attended by students from across the SCDSB.

Student trustees responded to questions from trustees at this time.

(2) **Trustee Tribute** - Nil

(3) **Delegations**

Parents Against Racism Simcoe County Re: Annual Report (PARSC) 2022-2023

Trustees asked questions of clarification.

Chair Lloyd accepted the delegation as information.

D. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

(1) **Report from the Closed Session of the Board in Committee of the Whole** - Nil

(2) **Consent Agenda**

Moved by Lynn Strachan
Seconded by Lisa-Marie Wilson

That the following items included on the Consent Agenda be approved:

(a) **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held Sept. 27, 2023 (D-2-a)**

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023 be approved as printed.

(b) Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board held Oct. 4, 2023 (D-2-b)

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board held Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023 be approved as printed.

(c) Minutes of the Education Development Charges By-Law/Special Board Meeting held Oct. 16, 2023 (D-2-c)

That the Minutes of the Education Development Charges By-Law/Special Board Meeting held Oct. 16, 2023 be approved as printed.

CARRIED

(3) Matters Arising from Previous Meeting:
Motion(s) for which Notice was Given at Previous Board Meeting

Notice of Motion from the Sept. 27, 2023 Board Meeting Re:
The creation of an active transportation policy (D-3-a)

Moved By Lynn Strachan
Seconded by Mike Foley

#BP-2023-10-25-78

That the Board approve the following motion:

That the Board approve that staff create an active transportation policy with a general aim to support and encourage students, their families and staff to travel safely to school through the use of modes of active transportation. And further that the staff consult with community partners, students and families in the creation of the policy, and finally that the draft policy be brought to the appropriate committee for trustee input and discussion prior to the summer recess.

Trustee Strachan spoke to the motion. She noted that the board currently has a transportation policy that contains criteria for walk zones. Trustee Strachan would like to see a policy that specifically addresses active transportation, confirming our board's commitment to helping students and families get safely to and from school using various modes of active transportation. She spoke to the many benefits that active transportation has for mental health, physical health, and impacts on climate change. Trustee Strachan also spoke to the barriers of walking to school such as infrastructure, socioeconomic, and perceptions of safety. She spoke to a paper that Western University released in 2022 entitled Investigation of Supportive Policy for Active School Travel and noted that our board is quoted in that paper for some of our existing policies. The paper presents recommendations on what school boards can do in conjunction with partners, such as municipalities and local health units to create policy parameters that will help our children and their families in active transportation. Trustee Strachan spoke to the board's strategic priorities and how an active transportation policy aligns with the priorities. She feels that taking a collaborative approach in establishing a framework that is not overly prescriptive, could help us advocate for safer routes to and from school.

The floor was open for discussion at this time.

Trustees sought clarification on the need for an active transportation policy, and discussed whether active transportation warrants its own policy or should be contained within the current transportation policy as an additional section. Trustee Armstrong suggested that the motion be amended to include active transportation as an additional section in the current transportation policy, so that all of the information is contained in one place for ease of reference. Vice-chair Rafeek referenced Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) Administrative Procedures Memorandum (APM) A1240 - Active School Transportation, and noted that it appears to encompass the components being sought with the intent of the motion. Chair Lloyd spoke to the research she did in preparing to discuss the motion and noted that other boards rather than having a

policy, have created a charter on active transportation, which accomplishes the same thing. The charters referenced contain a statement of principles that recognize the value of active modes of transportation for the journey to and from school. Chair Lloyd suggested that the Board may want to consider creating a charter as opposed to a policy.

Further discussion ensued regarding the difference between policies and procedures. Trustee Strachan noted that the Board of Trustees is responsible for creating policy. She spoke to governance, the elevated level of importance and re-affirming the board's commitment to providing options that are safe. She noted that having a policy specifically for active transportation would allow the board to put processes and procedures into place to help streamline and add consistency. Concern was expressed that not all of our students get the opportunity for active transportation because a large population of SCDSB students live in rural areas, and that creating such a policy would be difficult to enforce. Student Trustee Duncan added student perspective and spoke to the challenges that her secondary peers have with making time for active transportation to and from school.

AMENDMENT

Moved by Donna Armstrong
Seconded by Liz Grummett

#BP-2023-10-25-78A

That the Board approve that staff create an active transportation section to be inserted in Policy 2410 – Transportation of Students with a general aim to support and encourage students, their families and staff to travel safely to school through the use of modes of active transportation. And further in the creation of the section that the staff consult with community partners, students and families in the creation of the policy section, and finally that the draft updated policy be brought to the appropriate committee for trustee input and discussion prior to the summer recess.

Trustee Armstrong spoke to the rationale for the amended motion and suggested that the additional section be added to the existing transportation policy near the section pertaining to walk zones. Further dialogued ensued. It was noted that many of the requirements for safe modes of active transportation, such as sidewalks and bike lanes, are municipal responsibilities which fall outside of the board's jurisdiction. Chair Lloyd spoke to an active transportation initiative that Orchard Park Public School participated in this fall in collaboration with the local health unit. Actions and items for their school community that would help promote active transportation were identified and presented to the municipality. Trustees spoke to their support of the amended motion. Vice-chair Rafeek noted that APM A1240 -Active School Travel, doesn't appear to be linked to the Transportation Policy and suggested that a link be added. Dawn Stephens, Associate Director, spoke to the APM. She noted that it was created in 2022 in consultation with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit as part of well-being and commitment to promoting active school transportation. She spoke to the committee work that Greg Jacobs, Superintendent of Education, continues to be involved with and confirmed that a link could be added, should the amendment be passed.

Chair Lloyd called the question.

AMENDMENT CARRIED
AMENDED MOTION CARRIED

(4) Notice of Time Sensitive Motions from Statutory Committees - Nil

(5) Committee Minutes/Reports – Items for Decision - Nil

(6) Staff Reports – Items for Decision

Special Education Advisory Committee Member Appointments (D-6-a)

Chris Samis, Superintendent of Student Achievement (K-6) and Special Education, spoke to the report.

(1)

Moved by Brandy Rafeek
Seconded by Sarah Beitz

#BP-2023-10-25-79

That the Board appoint to the SCDSB SEAC, effective Nov. 1, 2023, Brianne Whiteside as the SEAC member representing Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions, as set out in Report No. D-6-a, Special Education Advisory Committee Member Appointments, dated Oct. 25, 2023.

(2)

Moved by Sarah Beitz
Seconded by Robin Talbot

#BP-2023-10-25-80

That the Board appoint to the SCDSB SEAC, effective Nov. 1, 2023, Eran Devine as the SEAC member and Shawna Ballick as the SEAC alternate member representing CADDAC, as set out in Report No. D-6-a, Special Education Advisory Committee Member Appointments, dated Oct. 25, 2023.

CARRIED

Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Designated Voting Member and Alternate Voting Member (D-6-b)

Susan Sidlofsky, Superintendent of Education, spoke to the report and Chair Lloyd called for nominations for the representative to serve as the designated voting member for the Nov. 23, 2023 Simcoe County Student Transportation AGM.

(1)

Moved by Sarah Beitz
Seconded by Brandy Rafeek

#BP-2023-10-25-81

That the Board appoint Trustee Lynn Strachan to serve as the designated voting member for the Nov. 23, SCSTC AGM, as set out in APPENDIX A of Report No. D-6-b, Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium Annual General Meeting (AGM) Designated Voting Member and Alternate Voting Member, dated Oct. 25, 2023

CARRIED

(2)

Moved by Brandy Rafeek
Seconded by Lisa-Marie Wilson

#BP-2023-10-25-82

That the Board appoint Trustee Jodi Lloyd to serve as the designated alternate voting member for the Nov. 23, SCSTC AGM, as set out in APPENDIX A of Report No. D-6-b, Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium Annual General Meeting (AGM) Designated Voting Member and Alternate Voting Member, dated Oct. 25, 2023.

Chairperson Lloyd deferred the role of Chair to Vice-chairperson Rafeek at this time.

Trustee Lloyd indicated that she would stand.

There being no further nominations, Trustee Lloyd was acclaimed to serve as the designated Alternate voting member for the Nov. 23, SCSTC AGM, as set out in APPENDIX A of Report No. D-6-b, Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium Annual General Meeting (AGM) Designated Voting Member and Alternate Voting Member, dated Oct. 25, 2023.

CARRIED

Chair Lloyd assumed the role of Chair at this time.

(7) Committee Minutes/Reports – Items for Information

Report of the Human Resources Standing Committee Meeting held Oct. 11, 2023 (D-7-a)

This report was provided for information.

Report of the Program Standing Committee Meeting held Oct. 11, 2023 (D-7-b)

This report was provided for information.

Report of the Business and Facilities Standing Committee Meeting held Oct. 4, 2023 (D-7-c)

This report was provided for information.

Report of the Equity Advisory Committee Meeting held Sept. 18, 2023 (D-7-d)

This report was provided for information.

Trustee Wilson commented on the meeting and the addition of two new representatives to the committee.

Trustee Wilson responded to questions from trustees.

Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held Sept. 11, 2023 (D-7-e)

This report was provided for information.

Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting held May 29, 2023 (D-7-f)

This report was provided for information.

(8) Staff Reports – Items for Information - Nil

E. OTHER MATTERS

(1) Reports from Liaison Members

Trustee Strachan provided an update regarding the SCSTC first quarter meeting that she attended as the Trustee representative on that committee. She shared highlights of the work the SCSTC is doing pertaining to student and rider safety. She spoke to the First Rider and Bus Tag programs which have had excellent participation from students and their families and create a level of comfort for first time riders.

Chair Lloyd provided an update on lunch time professional development sessions that OPSBA is offering and noted that there is an upcoming session scheduled for November.

(2) Questions and Comments from Trustees

Trustee Beitz inquired if there were any updates pertaining to Policy Program Memorandum 168 that was issued in the summer. This is new legislation regarding a student achievement plan that the ministry is implementing. It requires boards to survey and receive parent/community feedback within the first two months and last two months of the school year. Superintendent Samis responded that the SCDSB has not yet received the student achievement plan. Once received, the board will put together a committee through the parent involvement committee (PIC), SEAC and other committees.

Trustee Foley commented on the rise of islamophobia and antisemitism that has been seen provincially in the last few weeks and inquired if the board has taken any action to address these issues or create a teachable moment for students. Chair Lloyd responded that the Minister of Education did talk about this during the weekly conference call that was held with Board Chairs on Oct. 24. She noted that Minister Lecce very clearly indicated that he expected zero tolerance for any of those incidents.

Dean Maltby, Superintendent of Student Achievement (7-12), added that a message did go home to caregivers and staff around supporting our students, which contained links to resources available for dealing with challenging world events. He spoke to the work that is done in the Well-being department with School Mental Health Ontario, noting that we link directly to their resources, which are evidence, researched-based supports for students. Superintendent Maltby also spoke to the well-established referral process for social workers and child and youth worker support within our board. Trustee Beitz shared positive feedback that she received when referring a caregiver to the resources available on the board's Human Rights and Equity website.

Trustee Grummett reported that local government week was celebrated last week. She noted that she attended Forest Hill Public School and Hillsdale Public School with Scott Young, Superintendent of Education, and Jennifer Coughlin, Mayor of Springwater Township, and thanked the administrators at both of those schools for allowing them to visit Grade 5 classes, which have government as part of their curriculum.

Trustee Talbot inquired about only reading the Land Acknowledgment once if there are multiple meetings in one evening. Chair Lloyd responded that a Notice of Motion would be required in order to amend the current by-laws if that is the wish of the table.

Trustee Connors reported that Marshview Public School held their grand opening on Oct. 19. She noted that it was a wonderful celebration and a well-attended event.

(3) Notices of Motion for Next Meeting - Nil

(4) Professional Development Seminars Attendance - Nil

(5) Reports/Updates from Staff

John Dance, Director of Education, highlighted the developments at the SCDSB Education Centre as it transforms to an Outdoor Education Centre with programming for students and team building activities for staff. Director Dance commented on the crisis in the Middle East, and specifically the conflicts in Israel and Gaza. Director Dance noted that the SCDSB Human Rights and Equity Office is preparing a Responsive Dialogue session for parents/guardians as well as a session on dealing with trauma for students that will be communicated to SCDSB families in the coming weeks. Director Dance shared this month's video feature, which highlights initiatives that are taking place in our schools that link directly to the SCDSB Strategic Priorities.

(6) Correspondence

Chair Lloyd noted the correspondence provided in the Board package and forwarded to trustees at the time of receipt.

F. FUTURE BUSINESS OF THE BOARD, STANDING COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Business and Facilities Standing Committee Meeting – Dec. 6, 2023 at 6 p.m.

Special Education Advisory Committee – Dec. 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Program Standing Committee Meeting – Dec. 13, 2023 at 6 p.m.

Human Resources Standing Committee Meeting – Dec. 13, 2023 following Program Meeting

Regular Meeting of the Board – Dec. 20, 2023 at 6 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Moved by Lisa-Marie Wilson

Seconded by Sarah Beitz

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

CARRIED

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the
Simcoe County District School Board

FROM: The Secretary

SUBJECT: **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD HELD NOV. 8, 2023**

The Special Meeting of the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) was held on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023 at the Education Centre.

The Special Board meeting was live-streamed. The meeting was also recorded and is available for the public.

A.

- (1) **Land Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory**
- (2) **O Canada**
- (3) **Statement of Respect**
- (4) **Roll Call**

PRESENT: Donna Armstrong, Sarah Beitz, Liz Grummett,
Trustees Jodi Lloyd (Chairperson), Lynn Strachan,
Brandy Rafeek (Vice-chairperson),
Robin Talbot, Lisa-Marie Wilson.

Electronic
Participation Debbie Connors, Anne Harrigan.

Student Trustees Lucy Duncan, Ayesha Maryam.

Administration John Dance, Lisa Coffey, Kristen Fennell,
Greg Jacobs, Dean Maltby, Iain McMeekin,
John Playford, Dawn Stephens, Charlene Scime,
Corry Van Nispen, Matthew Webbe, Scott Young.

Electronic
Participation
Administration Tahmena Bokhari, Susan Sidlofsky.

Recording Secretary Jennifer Henry.

REGRETS
Trustees Mike Foley, Dana Powell.

Student Trustees Aalia Majid.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

(5) Approval of Agenda

MOTION

Moved by Liz Grummett
Seconded by Brandy Rafeek

That the Agenda be approved as printed.

CARRIED

(6) Declaration of Conflicts of Interest - Nil

B. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Committee Minutes/Reports

Report of the Audit Committee Meeting held October 30, 2023 (B-1-a)

Corry Van Nispen, Superintendent of Business and Facility Services, welcomed and introduced external auditor Andrea Nauss, Senior Manager, from BDO Canada LLP and Holly Landry, SCDSB Controller. He thanked SCDSB staff, as well as BDO Canada LLP staff for another successful financial year end, and their work in preparing the 2022-23 financial statements being presented to the Board of Trustees.

Ms. Nauss provided a brief overview of the audit process and the results of the audit. She reported that BDO did not encounter any issues in completing the audit procedures. Ms. Nauss stated that BDO received full cooperation of management staff during the audit and found the books and records to be in good order. Ms. Nauss shared that BDO attended the Audit Committee meeting on Oct. 30, 2023, to review the results of the audit in detail and address any questions raised by the audit committee. Ms. Nauss referred to BDO's formal audit report, noting that BDO has provided a clean audit opinion, and is in agreement with the board's financial statements as presented.

Controller Landry provided highlights from the financial statements. She reviewed the Statement of Financial Position as well as the Statement of Operations and provided some high level comments on the variances and terms used throughout the financial statements.

Controller Landry noted that the SCDSB has no new long-term debt in the current year and that the current board debt has been guaranteed and funded by the ministry. She noted that new to the financial statements this year, is the financial liability related to asset retirement obligation. As per a public sector accounting directive, there is the requirement to recognize the liability related to future obligations of retirement of capital assets which includes the remediation of existing and non-conforming items. Also new this year, is the separate recognition of the value of ministry personal protective equipment (PPE), that was on hand as of Aug. 31, 2023. Controller Landry noted that the use of PPE has significantly decreased in the last year.

Superintendent Van Nispen responded to questions from trustees at this time.

Controller Landry spoke to the Consolidated Statement of Operations as it relates to changes in revenue and spending year-over-year. She noted that grants are up over the prior year and spoke to student enrolment increases year-over-year. It was noted that student generated funds are up over the previous year and are much closer to

pre-pandemic activity. Controller Landry also spoke to Education Development Charges (EDCs) and noted that revenue for EDCs is recognized when used rather than when collected. Controller Landry reported that transportation costs are down predominantly due to changes that were made to bus routes in order to facilitate cost savings. In terms of overall expenditures, it was noted that 85 per cent of expenditures continue to come from staff salaries, wages and benefits.

Controller Landy spoke to accumulated surplus and reported that cumulatively, the board has added an average of 1.2 million dollars per year over the past five years, which has been driven by the board's Strategic Priorities.

Trustees thanked staff for their work. Chair Lloyd noted that the board's strong fiscal position the past number of years is a good news story. She reported that Minister Lecce has been complimentary during his conference calls with Board Chairs to boards that are effectively managing their resources and budget.

(1)

Moved by Sarah Beitz

Seconded by Donna Armstrong

#SBP-2023-11-08-83

That the Board approve the audited financial statements for the year ended Aug. 31, 2023, as set out in APPENDIX B of Report No. AUD-D-1, Audited 2022-23 Financial Statements, dated Oct. 30, 2023.

CARRIED

(2)

Moved by Sarah Beitz

Seconded by Robin Talbot

#SBP-2023-11-08-84

That the Board approve the Annual Audit Committee Report: Year End Aug. 31, 2023, as set out in Report No. AUD-D-2, Annual Audit Committee Report: Year End Aug. 31, 2023, dated Oct. 30, 2023.

CARRIED

Superintendent Van Nispen spoke to the Proposed Regional Internal Audit Plan 2023-25. He spoke to the audit plan for this current year and noted that work for the second year has not yet been identified.

Superintendent Van Nispen responded to questions from trustees at this time. He addressed a question regarding the minor recommendations that were made pertaining to the Health and Safety Compliance Assessment and noted that the board is constantly evaluating health and safety compliance to identify any gaps.

(3)

Moved by Robin Talbot

Seconded by Brandy Rafeek

#SBP-2023-11-08-85

That the Board approve the Proposed Regional Internal Audit Plan 2023-25, as set out in APPENDIX A of Report No. AUD-D-3, Internal Audit Update, dated Oct. 30, 2023.

CARRIED

C. FUTURE BUSINESS AND ADJOURNMENT

Regular Meeting of the Board – Dec. 20, 2023, at 6 p.m., followed immediately by the Committee of the Whole in Closed Session, Public Session will resume at 7 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Moved by Donna Armstrong
Seconded by Brandy Rafeek

That the meeting be adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

CARRIED

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the
Simcoe County District School Board

FROM: The Secretary

SUBJECT: **MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD HELD NOV. 20, 2023**

The Organizational Meeting of the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) was held on Monday, Nov. 20, 2023 at the Education Centre.

The Organizational Board meeting was live-streamed. The meeting was also recorded and is available for the public.

A.

- (1) **Land Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory**
- (2) **O Canada**
- (3) **Statement of Respect**
- (4) **Call to Order**

The Secretary of the Board, Director John Dance, called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Director Dance welcomed trustees to the meeting and requested the recording secretary take the roll call.

Roll Call

PRESENT: Donna Armstrong, Debbie Connors, Liz Grummett,
Trustees Jodi Lloyd, Dana Powell, Brandy Rafeek,
Robin Talbot, Lisa-Marie Wilson.

Electronic Participation Mike Foley, Lynn Strachan.

Student Trustees Lucy Duncan, Aalia Majid.

Administration John Dance, Kristen Fennell, Greg Jacobs,
Sarah Kekewich, Dean Maltby, Iain McMeekin,
John Playford, Chris Samis, Lisa Sander,
Susan Sidlofsky, Dawn Stephens,
Corry Van Nispen, Matthew Webbe, Scott Young.

Electronic Participation Administration Tahmena Bokhari.

Recording Secretary Jennifer Henry.

REGRETS:
Student Trustees Ayesha Maryam.

ABSENT:
Trustees Sarah Beitz, Anne Harrigan.

(5) Approval of Agenda

MOTION

Moved by Robin Talbot
Seconded by Liz Grummett

That the Agenda be approved as printed.

CARRIED

(6) Election of Board Chairperson

Director Dance explained the process that would be used for the election of the Chairperson and Vice-chairperson, as well as the election of the third member of the Trustee Selection Committee.

Director Dance appointed Associate Director Stephens and Superintendent Samis to count the ballots, if required.

The Director called for nominations for the office of chairperson.

Moved by Lisa-Marie Wilson
Seconded by Robin Talbot

That Trustee Lloyd be nominated for election as Chairperson of the Simcoe County District School Board for the upcoming year.

Trustee Lloyd indicated that she would stand.

The Director called three times for further nominations for the office of the chairperson. There being no further nominations, Trustee Lloyd was acclaimed as Chairperson of the Board.

Chairperson Lloyd assumed the Chair at this time.

(7) Election of Board Vice-chairperson

Chairperson Lloyd called for nominations for the office of vice-chairperson.

Moved by Liz Grummett
Seconded by Lisa-Marie Wilson

That Trustee Rafeek be nominated for election as Vice-chairperson of the Simcoe County District School Board for the upcoming year.

Trustee Rafeek indicated that she would stand.

Chairperson Lloyd called three times for further nominations for the office of vice-chairperson. There being no further nominations, Trustee Rafeek was acclaimed as Vice-chairperson of the Board.

Trustee Rafeek assumed the position of Vice-chairperson at this time.

(8) Election of Third Member of the Selection Committee

As outlined in Article II: Meetings of Board of Trustees, Section 2.5 of the Board By-laws, Chairperson Lloyd called for nominations for the third member of the Trustee Selection Committee.

Moved by Liz Grummett
Seconded by Dana Powell

That Trustee Wilson be nominated as the third member of the Trustee Selection Committee. Trustee Wilson indicated her willingness to serve.

Chairperson Lloyd called three times for further nominations for the third member of the Trustee Selection Committee. There being no further nominations, Trustee Wilson was acclaimed as the third member of the Trustee Selection Committee.

Moved by Donna Armstrong
Seconded by Dana Powell

#SBP-2023-11-20-83

That Trustee Lisa-Marie Wilson be elected as the third member of the selection committee, as stipulated in Article II, Item 5 of First Meeting in a Non-election Year of the Board By-laws, as set out in Report No. 5, Election of Third Member of the Selection Committee, dated Nov. 20, 2023.

CARRIED

The Committee will consist of Chairperson Lloyd, Vice-chairperson Rafeek and Trustee Wilson.

(9) Inaugural Address

Chairperson Lloyd delivered her Inaugural Address to the Board. She thanked trustees for their ongoing support and commitment to facilitate the work of the Board in a professional, respectful and meaningful way, and noted her commitment to working collectively as a Board. Chair Lloyd spoke to the numerous challenges impacting school communities and the importance of supporting students to ensure that their futures are bright, healthy, and sustainable. Chair Lloyd pointed to the need for schools to be community hubs that meet the needs of all students. She spoke to the significant work that is required to address discrimination and racism that is present in society and the crucial role that education plays in combatting these issues and ensuring that schools are safe and welcoming environments. Chair Lloyd noted the many accomplishments over the last year, including the development of the Employment Equity Action Plan, the implementation of the renewed Strategic Priorities 2022-27, actioning the recommendations of the Right to Read inquiry report, and establishing the Education Centre as an outdoor learning hub.

(10)

**FUTURE BUSINESS OF THE BOARD, STANDING COMMITTEES
AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

Business and Facilities Standing Committee Meeting – Dec. 6, 2023 at 6 p.m.

Special Education Advisory Committee – Dec. 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Program Standing Committee Meeting – Dec. 13, 2023 at 6 p.m.

Human Resources Standing Committee Meeting – Dec. 13, 2023
following Program Meeting

Regular Meeting of the Board – Dec. 20, 2023 at 6 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Moved by Lisa-Marie Wilson
Seconded by Donna Armstrong

That the meeting be adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

CARRIED

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the
Simcoe County District School Board

FROM: Superintendent of Student Achievement (K-6) and Special Education

SUBJECT: **SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER APPOINTMENT**

1. Background

O. Reg. [464/97: Special Education Advisory Committees](#) sets out the requirement that school boards establish a Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). SEAC is a committee of a school board that provides a consultative role on special education to further the interests and well-being of groups of exceptional students. SEAC may make recommendations to the Board on any matter affecting the establishment, development and delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional students.

2. Current Status

The Simcoe County District School Board's (SCDSB) SEAC currently has 12 members representing 'local associations' as defined in O. Reg. 464/97, section 1. The regulation permits school boards to approve a maximum of 12 'local associations' to further the interests and well-being of one or more groups of exceptional children or adults.

As per O. Reg. 464/97, section 8, "*If a seat or position on a special education advisory committee becomes vacant, the board that appointed the person whose seat or position has become vacant shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term of the person whose seat or position has become vacant*".

Down Syndrome Association of Simcoe County (DSASC) is a community-based volunteer group that works to increase public awareness and acceptance of people with down syndrome, while also supporting and enhancing their lives. DSASC's goals are to provide support and information, promote increased knowledge and understanding of down syndrome to the broader community, and to assist families in accessing services.

Through the SEAC nomination process for the January 2023 – December 2026 term, DSASC nominated Mark Bryan as their agency member representative. DSASC has now provided the following nomination to carry out the remainder of the term effective Dec. 1, 2023:

- i. Amanda Burton as the SEAC member.

The nomination meets the criteria for selection as the member for DSASC.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board appoint to the SCDSB SEAC, effective Dec. 1, 2023, Amanda Burton as the SEAC member representing DSASC, as set out in Report No. D-6-a, Special Education Advisory Committee Member Appointment, dated Nov. 22, 2023.

Respectfully submitted by:

Chris Samis
Superintendent of Student Achievement (K-6) and Special Education

Approved for submission by:

John Dance
Director of Education

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the
Simcoe County District School Board

FROM: Human Resources Standing Committee

SUBJECT: **REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SESSION OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD NOV. 8, 2023**

The Human Resources Standing Committee met in public session on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023, at the Education Centre.

PRESENT:

Committee Members Donna Armstrong, Sarah Beitz, Liz Grummett (Chairperson),
Jodi Lloyd, Brandy Rafeek, Lynn Strachan, Robin Talbot,
Lisa-Marie Wilson (Vice-chairperson).

Electronic Participation Debbie Connors, Anne Harrigan.

Student Trustees Lucy Duncan, Ayesha Maryam.

Administration Lisa Coffey, John Dance, Kristen Fennell, Dean Maltby,
Iain McMeekin, John Playford, Chris Samis, Charlene Scime,
Dawn Stephens, Corry Van Nispen, Matthew Webbe,
Scott Young.

Electronic Participation Susan Sidlofsky.

Recording Secretary Debbie Deeth.

REGRETS:

Committee Members Mike Foley, Dana Powell.

Student Trustees Aalia Majid.

Chairperson Grummett called the meeting to order at 7:54 p.m.

1. **Land Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory**
2. **Statement of Respect**
3. **Roll Call**
4. **Approval of the Agenda**

MOTION

Moved by Brandy Rafeek
Seconded by Lisa-Marie Wilson

That the agenda be approved as printed.

CARRIED

5. **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest** - Nil

MOTION

Moved by Sarah Beitz
Seconded by Lisa-Marie Wilson

That the Human Resources Standing Committee move into closed session.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Duncan and Maryam left the meeting at this time.

The Human Resources Standing Committee reconvened in public session at 8:15 p.m.

Student Trustees Duncan and Maryam returned to the meeting at this time.

Items for Decision - Nil

Items for Information - Nil

Correspondence - Nil

Other Matters - Nil

Notices of Motion for Next Meeting - Nil

MOTION

Moved by Lisa-Marie Wilson
Seconded by Sarah Beitz

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

CARRIED

Report Status

This report is provided for information.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dawn Stephens
Associate Director

Approved for submission by:

John Dance
Director of Education

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the
Simcoe County District School Board

FROM: Program Standing Committee

SUBJECT: **REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SESSION OF THE PROGRAM STANDING
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD NOV. 8, 2023**

The Program Standing Committee met in Public Session on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023, at the Education Centre.

PRESENT:

Committee Members

Donna Armstrong, Sarah Beitz (Chairperson), Liz Grummett (Vice-chairperson, Jodi Lloyd, Brandy Rafeek, Lynn Strachan, Robin Talbot, Lisa-Marie Wilson.

Student Trustees

Lucy Duncan, Ayesha Maryam.

Electronic Participation:

Committee members

Debbie Connors, Anne Harrigan.

Administration

Lisa Coffey, John Dance, Dean Maltby, Iain McMeekin, Kristen Fennell, John Playford, Chris Samis, Charlene Scime, Dawn Stephens, Corry Van Nispen, Matthew Webbe, Scott Young.

Electronic Participation:

Administration

Susan Sidlofsky.

Staff

Marci Duncan, Lisa Newton, Jason Pino.

Recording Secretary

Tina Bazuk.

REGRETS:

Committee Members

Mike Foley, Dana Powell.

Student Trustees

Aalia Majid.

Sarah Beitz, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. **Land Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory**
2. **Statement of Respect**
3. **Roll Call**
4. **Approval of the Agenda**

MOTION

Moved by Brandy Rafeek
Seconded by Robin Talbot

That the agenda be approved as printed.

CARRIED

5. **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest** - Nil

6. **Presentations/Delegations** - Nil

Closed Session - Nil

Items for Decision - Nil

Items for Information

1. **2022-23 Grade 8 Exit Survey (PRO-I-1)**

Dean Maltby, Superintendent of Student Achievement (7-12), invited Jason Pino, Principal of Student Achievement (7-12), and Lisa Newton, Manager of Research and Decision Support, to the table to provide an update on the 2022-23 Grade 8 Exit Survey.

The survey provides Grade 8 students the opportunity to share their experiences connected to learning, which allows the board to better understand, reflect, and improve practices for student achievement and well-being as students transition to secondary.

Superintendent Maltby and Manager Newton responded to questions from trustees at this time.

This report was provided for information.

2. **2022-23 Grade 12 Pathways Survey (PRO-I-2)**

Superintendent Maltby invited Principal Pino and Manager Newton to the table to provide an update on the 2022-23 Grade 12 Pathways Survey.

The survey provides Grade 12 students the opportunity to share their intended pathways and experiences with various programs and supports, which allows the board to reflect, improve, and increase awareness of programs and supports to better equip students as they plan for life after secondary.

Superintendent Maltby, Principal Pino, and Manager Newton responded to questions from trustees at this time.

This report was provided for information.

3. **2022-23 Achievement Results and Trends Over Time (PRO-I-3)**

Chris Samis, Superintendent of Student Achievement (K-6) and Special Education, and Superintendent Maltby provided an overview of the 2022-23 achievement results and trends.

During the 2022-23 school year, students in the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) participated in Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessments in reading, writing, and math (Grades 3 and 6), de-streamed math in Grade 9, and the Ontario Secondary School Test (OSSLT) in Grade 10. The SCDSB's participation rate for each of the assessments was slightly higher than the provincial average.

The SCDSB continues to demonstrate strengths in literacy (Grade 3, 6, and the OSSLT), which confirms the positive impact that explicit instructions and strategic interventions have across the system.

Math continues to be an area of need in the SCDSB and across the province. To address the need for math improvement system wide, the SCDSB has developed professional learning for educators, developed resources, hired staff to work directly with students at designated schools, provided additional qualification courses in math, and hired an assistant superintendent to focus exclusively on math and to develop a detailed Math Achievement Action Plan (MAAP).

Superintendents Samis and Maltby responded to questions from trustees at this time.

This report was provided for information.

4. Math Achievement Action Plan 2023-24 (PRO-I-4)

Kristen Fennell, Assistant Superintendent of Student Achievement K-12 – Math, invited Marci Duncan, Principal of School Effectiveness and Improving Student Performance in Math, to the table to provide an overview of the MAAP for 2023-24.

The Ministry of Education has identified three priority math actions that are expected to be prioritized for the 2023-24 school year. The three priority actions include:

- i. ensuring that instruction and assessment align with the Ontario Math Curriculum and the use of evidenced-based practices that have been proven to support student learning;
- ii. ensuring educators continue to build their math content knowledge for teaching; and,
- iii. addressing the need for relevant and responsive instruction. Educator knowledge about their students' strengths, needs, interests, and identities informs which tasks and activities are used.

Consistent with Ministry of Education expectations, the SCDSB has identified system, school, and classroom strategies aligned with the three priority math actions, which have been used to develop, communicate, implement, and monitor a MAAP that includes meaningful and measurable key performance indicators, or progress measures.

Assistant Superintendent Fennell responded to questions from trustees at this time.

This report was provided for information.

Correspondence - Nil

Other Matters

1. Board Chairperson Lloyd thanked the Outdoor Education department for providing trustees the opportunity to participate in the Outdoor Education program set up at the Education Centre. On April 6, 2024, the SCDSB will be hosting the Regional Meeting for the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) and will be able to showcase the work completed to establish a successful Outdoor Education program.
2. Trustee Rafeek thanked Matthew Webbe, Superintendent of Education, for the opportunity to visit Tosorontio Central Public School and Adjala Central Public School to view the positive work of educators in the schools.

Notices of Motion for Next Meeting - Nil

MOTION

Moved by Brandy Rafeek
Seconded by Lisa-Marie Wilson

That the meeting be adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

CARRIED

Report Status

This report is provided for information.

Respectfully submitted by:

Chris Samis
Superintendent of Student Achievement (K-6) and Special Education

Approved for submission by:

John Dance
Director of Education

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the
Simcoe County District School Board

FROM: Business and Facilities Standing Committee

SUBJECT: **REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SESSION OF THE BUSINESS AND FACILITIES
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, NOV. 1, 2023**

The Business and Facilities Standing Committee met in public session on Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2023, at the Education Centre.

PRESENT:

Committee Members Donna Armstrong (Chairperson), Sarah Beitz, Debbie Connors, Jodi Lloyd, Dana Powell (Vice-chairperson), Brandy Rafeek.

Electronic Participation Mike Foley, Robin Talbot.

Student Trustees Lucy Duncan, Ayesha Maryam.

Electronic Participation Aalia Majid.

Administration Lisa Coffey, John Dance, Kristen Fennell, Greg Jacobs, Dean Maltby, Iain McMeekin, Chris Samis, Susan Sidlofsky, Dawn Stephens, Corry Van Nispen, Matthew Webbe, Scott Young.

Electronic Participation Tahmena Bokhari.

Recording Secretary Charleen Croft.

REGRETS:

Committee Members Liz Grummett, Anne Harrigan, Lynn Strachan, Lisa-Marie Wilson.

Chair Armstrong called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

1. **Land Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory**
2. **O Canada**
3. **Statement of Respect**
4. **Roll Call**
5. **Approval of the Agenda**

MOTION

Moved by Brandy Rafeek
Seconded by Jodi Lloyd

That the agenda be approved as printed.

CARRIED

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest - Nil

Presentations/Delegations - Nil

Closed Session

MOTION

Moved by Brandy Rafeek
Seconded by Sarah Beitz

That the Business and Facilities Standing Committee move into closed session.

CARRIED

Student Trustees left the meeting at this time.

The Business and Facilities Standing Committee reconvened in public session at 6:35 p.m.

Student Trustees returned to the meeting at this time.

Items for Decision - Nil

Items for Information

1. Contract Awards Within Approved Budget (BF-I-1)

Corry Van Nispen, Superintendent of Business and Facility Services, summarized the report that contained the awarded contracts within approved budget and provided additional information on the projects included in the report.

Superintendent Van Nispen responded to questions from trustees at this time.

Board Chairperson Lloyd inquired about the paving project and the use of portables at the Coldwater site, as an addition has been proposed to the ministry.

Superintendent Van Nispen responded that the Coldwater project is a short-term plan until the capital priority is in place. He reported that there is an immediate need to expand the parking.

This report was provided for information.

Correspondence - Nil

Other Matters

Trustee Beitz inquired about school vandalism, and the costs associated with it, especially in school washrooms.

Superintendent Van Nispen responded that vandalism continues to be a concern in our schools and across the province, especially within washrooms. He reported that the board has installed new partitions, soap dispensers and other items that are less destructible, and these items continue to be installed when repairs are required at a school. Superintendent Van Nispen noted that the board is beginning to pilot vaping monitors in washrooms as well.

Superintendent Van Nispen noted that the costs associated with vandalism are tracked. He indicated that a report will be brought forward to trustees.

Board Chairperson Lloyd noted that the board has recognized vandalism as an ongoing concern and has tried to reduce it by creating a vandalism reduction plan, which was created several years ago. It includes restitution by the students and their families, unfortunately, washrooms continue to be the highest area of vandalism, as they cannot be monitored by security cameras.

Board Chairperson Lloyd shared that Maple Ridge Secondary School's grand opening is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 21, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and invited those who had not had an opportunity to visit the school to do so that evening.

Trustee Beitz shared that she attended the youth police symposium held at Banting Memorial High School on Thursday, Oct. 25, 2023. Trustee Beitz reported that it was very educational and had a focus on human trafficking. Trustee Beitz inquired about the board's human trafficking policy and resources.

Superintendent Young responded that the board has an Anti-sex Trafficking policy and there are age-appropriate lesson plans available to teachers on the StaffWeb, which begin at Grade 7.

Board Chairperson Lloyd commented that human trafficking prevention was a Ministry of Education requirement and work is being conducted provincially.

Trustee Connors shared that the parent involvement committee (PIC) hosted a school council Connections event at Bear Creek Secondary School on Monday, Oct. 23, 2023. There were several vendors, fundraisers, guest presenters and PIC representatives available to learn about school council initiatives.

Notices of Motion for Next Meeting - Nil

MOTION

Moved by Sarah Beitz
Seconded by Brandy Rafeek

That the meeting be adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

CARRIED

Report Status

This report is provided for information.

Respectfully submitted by:

Corry Van Nispen
Superintendent of Business and Facility Services

Approved for submission by:

John Dance
Director of Education

Nov. 22, 2023

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the
Simcoe County District School Board

FROM: Sustainability Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: **REPORT OF THE SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD TUESDAY, OCT. 24, 2023**

A meeting of the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) was held virtually via Teams on Oct. 24, 2023.

PRESENT:

Voting Members

Brenda Armstrong, Trustee Mike Foley, Nicole Hamley, Angela Leitch, Renee Recoskie, Katie Thompson, Laura Wensink.

Non-voting Members

Student Trustee Lucy Duncan, Daniel Macdonald, Mahindra Mahabir, Corry Van Nispen, Vandita Watts.

Recording Secretary

Mary Cannell.

Guests

Greg Jacobs, Denise McLafferty.

ABSENT:

Sarah Kekewich.

REGRETS:

Robin Dashnay, Dean Maltby.

Corry Van Nispen, Superintendent of Business and Facility Services, called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

A. Welcome and introductions

1. Welcome

(a) Land Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

(b) Roll Call

(c) Welcome and Member Introductions

Superintendent Van Nispen welcomed the committee members.

(d) Election of Chairperson

Superintendent Van Nispen outlined the virtual election process and designated Dan Macdonald, Principal of Well-being and Outdoor Education, to act as teller and to count the emailed ballots, if required.

Superintendent Van Nispen called for nominations for the office of Chairperson of the SAC.

Brenda Armstrong offered to fulfil the role as Chairperson of the SAC.

Superintendent Van Nispen called for further nominations.

There being no further nominations, Superintendent Van Nispen called the question if the committee was in favour of the nomination. There were no objections and Brenda Armstrong was acclaimed as Chairperson of the SAC.

CARRIED

Brenda Armstrong assumed the Chair at this time.

(e) Election of Vice-chairperson

Chairperson Armstrong called for nominations for the office of Vice-chairperson of the SAC.

Katie Thompson offered to fulfil the role as Vice-chairperson of the SAC.

Chair Armstrong called for further nominations.

There being no further nominations, Chair Armstrong called the question if the committee was in favour of the nomination. There were no objections and Katie Thompson was acclaimed as Vice-chairperson of the SAC.

CARRIED

Katie Thompson assumed the Vice-chair at this time.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Laura Wensink
Seconded by Trustee Foley

That the agenda be approved as printed.

CARRIED

3. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest - Nil

B. Presentations

1. Wasaga Beach Climate Action Team - Denise McLafferty

Denise McLafferty, Wasaga Beach Climate Action Team, described the efforts the team is making to involve students and schools in establishing a collective of ideas for moving forward with climate change action planning. She indicated that there are currently student representatives from Stayner Collegiate Institute and Worsley Elementary School, and that the team would like to present at an upcoming student senate meeting.

Items for Decision - Nil

C. Items for Information

1. School Board Climate Change Action Planning – Vandita Watts

Vandita Watts, Environment and Sustainability Coordinator, provided an update on climate action planning in the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB). In an effort to create an SCDSB climate action plan process, she is collecting data from school board staff. Vandita indicated that once she compiles the data, she will reach out to department managers to gather more information on how climate change is affecting their work.

2. EcoSchools/Ophea – Superintendent Greg Jacobs

Greg Jacobs, Superintendent of Education, indicated that the environmental issues and healthy eating goals of EcoSchools and the healthy schools' goals of Ophea overlap significantly, and that work is underway to align the two programs. He stated that all SCDSB schools were registered with Ophea last year and the goal is that all will register for EcoSchools in 2023-24.

Discussion took place related to the certification process, how points are awarded, and student involvement in the two programs.

Nicole Hamley, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, and Angela Leitch, County of Simcoe, offered support to Vandita Watts as the EcoSchools representative for SCDSB.

3. Community Partner Updates and Poll

Vandita Watts requested that SAC members complete a survey seeking input about the work and future direction of the committee. The survey link was forwarded to committee members.

Community partners provided brief updates on the sustainability projects they are working on in their individual roles.

- E. **Correspondence** - Nil
- F. **Other Matters** - Nil
- G. **Notices of Motions for Next Meeting** - Nil
- H. **Motion to Adjourn**

Moved by Laura Wensink
Seconded by Nicole Hamley

That the meeting be adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

CARRIED

The next meeting will be held on Jan. 23, 2024, at 3 p.m.

Report Status

This report is provided for information.

Respectfully submitted by:

Corry Van Nispen
Superintendent of Business and Facility Services

Approved for submission by:

John Dance
Director of Education

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the
Special Education Advisory Committee

FROM: Chairperson of the Special Education Advisory Committee
Superintendent of Student Achievement (K-6) and Special Education

SUBJECT: **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD OCT. 2, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held on Monday, Oct. 2, 2023 at the Education Centre.

Roll Call

PRESENT:

SEAC Members

Kristen Baumann, Kevin Berry (Vice-chairperson), Mark Bryan, Rose-Ann Marchitto, Lindsay Massicotte, Brandy Rafeek (Chairperson), Robin Talbot (Trustee).

SEAC Alternate

Tamara Lavender (Acting member).

Electronic Participation:

SEAC Members

Elizabeth Noble.

SEAC Alternate

Liz Renshaw (Acting member), Megan Suggitt.

Staff

Linda Blom, Peter McLean, Hailey Mills Knapp, Chris Samis.

Guests

Dr. Howard Bloom, Ashley Knight, Laura Lee Millard Smith, Erica Pereira, Helga Sirola.

Recording Secretary

Tina Bazuk.

REGRETS:

SEAC Members

Tamara Hannon, Pamela Libralesso, Stephanie Vocino.

ABSENT:

SEAC Members

Sarah Beitz (Trustee).

Brandy Rafeek, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

A. Welcome and Introductions

(1) Welcome

(a) Land Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

(b) Introductions

Chairperson Rafeek welcomed committee members, staff, and guests and shared regrets for the evening.

(c) SEAC Statement of Beliefs (A-1-c)

Chris Samis, Superintendent of Student Achievement (K-6) and Special Education, read the SEAC Statement of Beliefs.

Kevin Berry entered the meeting at this time.

(2) Approval of Agenda

Moved by Tamara Lavender
Seconded by Mark Bryan

That the agenda be approved as printed.

CARRIED

(3) Approval of Minutes

(a) Minutes of the regular SEAC Meeting held Sept. 11, 2023 (A-3-a)

Moved by Rose-Ann Marchitto
Seconded by Kevin Berry

That the minutes be approved as written.

CARRIED

(4) Declaration of Conflicts of Interest - Nil

B. Presentations

(1) (a) Sweet Charity (B-1-a)

Superintendent Samis invited Laura Lee Millard Smith, Director of Operations at Sweet Charity, Ashley Knight, Chair of Sweet Charity, and Dr. Howard Bloom, Interim Coordinator and Professor at Georgian College, to the table to provide an overview of Sweet Charity's Canine Ambassador Program.

Sweet Charity's Canine Ambassador Program evaluates and trains teams of pet dogs and their school board staff partners, to work in educational settings as an additional tool to support the social/emotional well-being of students in schools. Currently, there are Canine Ambassador Program teams in 50 Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) schools with the goal to expand across the province.

Once teams are deployed to schools, researchers and students from Georgian College and the SCDSB's Research and Decision Support team evaluate/survey participants regarding how the program has impacted their experience in school. Feedback continues to be positive.

Superintendent Samis, Ashley Knight, and Dr. Bloom responded to questions from SEAC members at this time.

Trustee Talbot entered the meeting at this time.

(b) Learning Disabilities Association of York Simcoe (B-1-b)

Linda Blom, Principal of Special Education, invited Helga Sirola, Executive Director at Learning Disabilities Association of York-Simcoe (LDAYS), and Erica Pereira, Senior Manager at LDAYS, to the table to provide an update on the program and services offered to support students with learning disabilities and their families in Simcoe County.

LDAYS provides leadership in learning disabilities for advocacy, research, education and services, and to advance the full participation of children, youth, and adults with learning disabilities.

Helga Sirola and Erica Pereira responded to questions from SEAC members at this time.

C. Items for Decision - Nil

D. Items for Information

(1) Follow-up from Previous Meeting - Nil

(2) Staff Reports

(a) Revisions to Administrative Procedures Memorandum A8540 – Gifted Screening and Identification Process (D-2-a)

Peter McLean, Principal of Special Education, and Hailey Mills Knapp, Family of Schools' Consultant for Special Education, provided an overview of the changes made to Administrative Procedures Memorandum (APM) A8540 – Gifted Screening and Identification Process.

APM A8540 was recently updated to ensure it reflects current assessment practices/procedures, the screening process, and the criteria for identification. During the review process, the title for APM A8540 was changed to Universal Otis-Lennon School Ability Test Screening and Gifted Identification Process.

The Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) is used by the SCDSB to screen students for giftedness. Last spring, to ensure the gifted screening process was equitable and representative of the entire student population, the SCDSB completed a pilot project at six schools to screen all Grade 3 students. With the success of the pilot project, moving forward, all Grade 3 students will have the opportunity to participate in the universal OLSAT screening and gifted identification process.

Superintendent Samis, Principal McLean, and Hailey Mills Knapp responded to questions from SEAC members at this time.

This report is provided for information.

(3) Committee Reports - Nil

(4) SEAC Member Updates

(a) Association/Agency Updates – All (D-4-a)

The following updates were provided by SEAC members:

- i. Mark Bryan – Down Syndrome Association of Simcoe County, shared that October is Down Syndrome awareness month.
- ii. Tamara Lavender – Catulpa Community Support Services:
 - a) Oct. 20, 2023, is the Sibshop event for brothers and sisters that have siblings with special education needs. The event takes place at South Simcoe One Roof; and,
 - b) Website has been refreshed.

(5) Board Member Updates

(a) Updates from Board Meetings (D-5-a)

Chairperson Rafeek advised SEAC members of the following update from Board:

- i. The SCDSB will be submitting a capital priorities list of 13 schools to the Ministry of Education.

(6) Golden Buzzer

1. Principal McLean shared the Golden Buzzer moment for Oct. 2023.

E. Correspondence - Nil

F. Other Matters - Nil

G. Notices of Motion for Next Meeting - Nil

H. Adjournment

Moved by Rose-Ann Marchitto
Seconded by Kevin Berry

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

CARRIED

The next meeting date is Nov. 13, 2023.

Report Status

This report is provided for information.

Respectfully submitted by:

Chris Samis
Superintendent of Student Achievement (K-6) and Special Education

Approved for submission by:

John Dance
Director of Education

Nov. 22, 2023

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the
Simcoe County District School Board

FROM: Associate Director

SUBJECT: **2023-24 OPERATIONAL PLAN**

1. Background

On June 15, 2022, the Board of Trustees approved the renewed Strategic Priorities 2022-27 which guide the Simcoe County District School Board's (SCDSB's) work over a five-year period.

The Operational Plan for the 2023-24 school year outlines the actions the board will take in order to achieve the goals of the SCDSB Strategic Priorities. The actions within the Operational Plan provide an overview and offer accountability as to how the board's priorities are being addressed by staff.

Together, the Strategic Priorities and Operational Plan constitute the board's Strategic Plan.

2. Current Status

The Operational Plan allows the public to see the wide scope of activities that are being undertaken throughout the school year in support of student achievement and well-being, as well as overall board operations. Following the presentation at the Regular Meeting of the Board, the Operational Plan will be posted on the SCDSB website. It is important to note that the Operational Plan is not intended to include every aspect of staff work, rather, it serves as a tool to report on the implementation of key goals under the strategic priorities that have been established.

3. Next Steps

The Operational Plan, including our progress to date (see APPENDIX A), will be presented to the Board of Trustees on an annual basis at the Regular Meeting of the Board. Detailed reports on priority topics will continue to be presented at various board committee meetings throughout the school year.

4. Report Status

This report is provided for information.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dawn Stephens
Associate Director

Nov. 22, 2023

APPENDIX A – Pages 1 to 24

2023-24 OPERATIONAL PLAN

OPERATIONAL PLAN

Lisa Coffey
Superintendent of Education

Well-being:

Goal: Establish a succession plan strategy for leadership positions to ensure the continuation of service, knowledge transfer, and seamless transitions.

Actions:

- Continue to develop comprehensive mentorship programming in alignment with the SCDSB Strategic Priorities.
- Collaborate with the Human Resources department on the delivery and promotion of a leadership certificate course.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

Goal: Support New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) teachers in fostering safe and inclusive learning spaces.

Actions:

- Recruit NTIP mentors who prioritize equity, inclusion, and well-being.
- Provide NTIP teachers with professional learning focused on equitable instruction practices.
- Expand mentorship opportunities to external candidates.

23-24

OPERATIONAL PLAN

Lisa Coffey
Superintendent of Education

Community:

Goal: Enhance the sense of community and belonging at SCDSB schools.

Actions:

- Arrange opportunities for administrators to collaborate and share best practices for establishing a sense of community in SCDSB schools.
- Implement coaching program focused on building meaningful and inclusive community connections at all SCDSB schools.

Excellence in Teaching and Learning:

Goal: Ensure high quality professional learning and support for New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) teachers.

Actions:

- Support central staff and central leaders with building and delivering professional learning in alignment with the SCDSB Strategic Priorities.
- Ensure NTIP teachers acquire the skills and information needed to advocate for their success.

23-24 OPERATIONAL PLAN

Greg Jacobs
Superintendent of Education

Well-being:

Goal: Prioritize student and staff well-being through the creation of healthy learning and working environments.

Actions:

- Ensure that administrators and managers complete mandatory health and safety training and implement practices in their work location.
- Ensure that members of the Joint Health and Safety Committee meet on an ongoing basis to collaborate on strategies that will mitigate health and safety concerns.
- Expand upon healthy school initiatives by leveraging resources available through Ophea.
- Align Ophea Healthy Schools certification programs with EcoSchools strategies.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

Goal: Further develop student and staff understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion through an integrated character education approach.

Actions:

- Include the Seven Grandfather Teachings of the Anishinaabe in the character education program as reflected in the revised character education attributes.
- Ensure that character education plaques are displayed in all schools.
- Incorporate character education into the First 20 Days of learning with lessons and input from the Indigenous Education and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion departments.
- Promote, recognize, and celebrate character with students, staff, and parents/guardians as partners in SCDSB schools.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

Greg Jacobs
Superintendent of Education

Community:

Goal: Collaborate with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit on initiatives that promote health and well-being.

Actions:

- Share positive and preventative health messages from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit with families through the monthly school newsletter.
- Attend Active School Travel committee meetings and support related initiatives and communication campaigns.

Excellence in Teaching and Learning:

Goal: Ensure that all SCDSB schools register as an Ophea Healthy School and achieve gold level certification.

Actions:

- Support school staff with ensuring completion of the Four-Step Healthy Schools Process.
- Review school plans for achieving certification.
- Ensure applications for certification are complete and submitted within the established timelines.

23-24 OPERATIONAL PLAN

Sarah Kekewich
Manager of Communications

Well-being:

Goal: Expand opportunities for staff recognition and celebrations.

Actions:

- Conduct a consultation with all staff to gain input related to staff recognition and possible programs.
- Utilize findings from the consultation to develop a staff recognition program to be facilitated through the Staff Wellness committee.
- Highlight staff achievements through SCDSB Celebrates.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

Goal: Ensure communications strategies align with year-one actions outlined in the Employment Equity Action Plan.

Actions:

- Collaborate with the Research department to further explore data collected through the SCDSB Workforce Census.
- Develop a comprehensive communication plan that builds cultural awareness and celebrates the diversity and identity of all SCDSB employees.
- Establish a process for system implementation and awareness of the SCDSB Employment Equity Action Plan.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

Sarah Kekewich
Manager of Communications

Community:

Goal: Provide partners and stakeholders with regular updates and information about the business of the SCDSB in alignment with the SCDSB Strategic Priorities.

Actions:

- Develop a bi-monthly newsletter for distribution to community partners and stakeholders.
- Develop a communications plan to promote the newsletter and encourage subscribers.

Excellence in Teaching and Learning:

Goal: Recognize and celebrate the success of students in the skilled trades and apprenticeship pathway.

Actions:

- Collaborate with the Student Success department on the delivery of a board-wide promotion campaign.
- Support the promotional activities outlined in the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program business plan for the 2023-24 school year.

23-24 OPERATIONAL PLAN

Dean Maltby
Superintendent of Student Achievement (7-12)
Kristen Fennell, Assistant Superintendent

Well-being:

Goal: Establish the Education Centre as an outdoor learning hub with outdoor spaces that inspire curiosity, foster innovation, and provide students and staff with a natural context for acquiring leadership skills.

Actions:

- Construct an outdoor classroom and install a low-ropes course and storage facility on the Education Centre property.
- Develop leadership programming for Grade 7 students that incorporates Indigenous ways of knowing and well-being strategies.
- Schedule programming dates for the 2023-24 school year and arrange transportation.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

Goal: Increase student and staff access to identity-affirming, evidence-based mental health and well-being supports and strategies.

Actions:

- Provide educators with professional learning regarding promotion and prevention strategies related to mental health and well-being.
- Facilitate the mental health literacy course for educators, administrators, and senior staff.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

Dean Maltby
Superintendent of Student Achievement (7-12)
Kristen Fennell, Assistant Superintendent

Community:

Goal: Enhance educators' understanding of the skilled trades and apprenticeship pathway, and the benefits of a career in the skilled trades.

Actions:

- Coordinate and provide experiential professional learning opportunities for guidance counsellors, graduation coaches, special education, resource, and Career Studies teachers.
- Expand community partnerships with skilled trades employers and local organizations to support professional learning opportunities for educators.

Excellence in Teaching and Learning:

Goal: Engage educators in a variety of professional learning opportunities related to mathematics.

Actions:

- Plan and facilitate system-wide Mathematics Learning and Leadership Regional Network (M2LRN) sessions.
- Support school leaders and math leads in the planning and facilitation of professional learning communities (PLCs).
- Through mathematics instruction and assessment facilitators, support educators in identified classrooms with planning and providing relevant and responsive learning opportunities for students.

23-24 OPERATIONAL PLAN

John Playford
Superintendent of Education

Well-being:

Goal: Continue to improve the sense of belonging of Indigenous students and staff.

Actions:

- Increase opportunities for Indigenous staff to have a voice through the establishment of an affinity group for Indigenous staff.
- Provide school-wide Indigenous-focused cultural activities for all students.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

Goal: Ensure representation of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples throughout the SCDSB.

Actions:

- Ensure First Nation, Métis, and Inuit representation in resources, practices, staffing, and language across the SCDSB.
- Expand recruitment of Indigenous peoples to all roles within the SCDSB.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

John Playford
Superintendent of Education

Community:

Goal: Continue to build collaborative leadership with the Indigenous community.

Actions:

- Continue to foster relationships with Indigenous community leaders through the First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Advisory Committee and the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee.
- Create a network of community resources to improve supports and outreach to Indigenous families

Excellence in Teaching and Learning:

Goal: Support the revitalization of the Anishinaabemowin language.

Actions:

- Expand Anishinaabemowin language programs within elementary schools in the Midland/Penetanguishene and Orillia areas.
- Provide supports to Indigenous staff members wishing to enroll in Indigenous teacher education programs.

23-24 OPERATIONAL PLAN

Chris Samis
Superintendent of Student Achievement (K-6)/Special Education

Well-being:

Goal: Increase use of responsive and direct instructional practices related to music instruction, with an intentional focus on the positive impacts of music on student well-being and sense of belonging.

Actions:

- Plan and facilitate system-wide professional learning for music teachers who are new to the role.
- Collaborate with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, French, and Indigenous Education departments to facilitate culturally relevant and responsive repertoire within classrooms.
- Pilot implementation of Music Care program in select schools with a focus on well-being.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

Goal: Implement new early reading screening tool to support students in Year 2 Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 2 who are struggling to read.

Actions:

- Provide direct support to students struggling to learn to read by adding 14 reading facilitators to elementary schools.
- Provide remediation through special education resource teachers for students who continue to demonstrate difficulty with reading.
- Provide professional learning opportunities for special education resource teachers focused on instructional accommodations.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

Chris Samis

Superintendent of Student Achievement (K-6)/Special Education
Kristen Fennell, Assistant Superintendent

Community:

Goal: Engage SCDSB families in opportunities to learn about supporting their child(ren) in understanding and doing mathematics.

Actions:

- Create a page on the SCDSB website with family-friendly, accessible, and engaging math resources and tools to support student learning.
- Support school staff in the planning and implementation of opportunities for families to engage together in mathematics learning.
- Plan and facilitate virtual Math @Home sessions for parents/guardians.
- Provide families with math kits in order to participate in math engagement activities.

Excellence in Teaching and Learning:

Goal: Implement new evidence-based screening assessment to identify and respond to students' needs related to reading.

Actions:

- Plan and facilitate system-wide professional learning to support the implementation of the new Kindergarten to Grade 8 language curriculum.
- Continue system-wide implementation of the University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI) Foundations in all elementary schools to focus on direct instruction of the foundational reading skills.
- Provide professional learning opportunities for administrators leading the implementation of the new reading screener and language curriculum.

23-24 OPERATIONAL PLAN

Charlene Scime
Superintendent of Education

Well-being:

Goal: Enhance data protection and foster digital citizenship system-wide.

Actions:

- Further develop cyber security awareness programs and formalize system-wide implementation of training.
- Establish a third-party application review committee with a defined process to review school-based applications for privacy, security, and pedagogical fit with SCDSB teaching and learning standards.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

Goal: Develop and support strong internal and external partnerships with a focus on equity of access and opportunity.

Actions:

- Establish partnerships with organizations where resulting synergies will directly benefit students from equity-seeking groups.
- Enhance the framework for internal and external individuals and organizations to identify potential partnership opportunities for review and consideration, consistent with the SCDSB's focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

Charlene Scime
Superintendent of Education

Community:

Goal: Implement energy-efficient practices and technologies to reduce electricity consumption associated with the board's information technology infrastructure.

Actions:

- Investigate opportunities to utilize automation to reduce power consumption, particularly during off-hours.
- Include energy consumption data in hardware purchasing decisions.

Excellence in Teaching and Learning:

Goal: Modernize the network infrastructure of schools to enhance quality of service and enable integration of new technologies and applications that support the educational needs of students and staff.

Actions:

- Complete new Wi-Fi project at all SCDSB locations by September 2024.
- Roll out new core and school network by September 2024.
- Implement quality control and monitoring systems.

23-24 OPERATIONAL PLAN

Susan Sidlofsky
Superintendent of Education

Well-being:

Goal: Increase parent/guardian access to mental health and well-being supports for their child(ren).

Actions:

- Provide members of the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) with information about mental health and well-being supports available for students through the SCDSB.
- Encourage members of the PIC to disseminate mental health and well-being resources to school council members.
- Promote the use of Parent Reaching Out grants for parent sessions related to student mental health and well-being
- Design the annual Connections event for PIC members and school council chairs to focus on mental health and well-being.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

Goal: Increase participation in Student Senate meetings in order to enhance student voice and facilitate student leadership opportunities.

Actions:

- Encourage all secondary schools to prioritize student leadership by supporting the development of a student council that is organized by students for students.
- Foster inclusive practices that encourage participation of students from all pathways in school council meetings.
- Engage student councils in opportunities to have dialogue with the student trustees and Student Senate representatives from across the SCDSB.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

Susan Sidlofsky
Superintendent of Education

Community:

Goal: Publicize the SCDSB service standard protocol for response to queries from parents/guardians.

Actions:

- Include content on the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) page of the SCDSB website related to communication standards and expectations.
- Provide PIC members with resources about home-to-school communication processes for dissemination to parents/guardians through school councils.
- Highlight communication standards and service excellence response times for addressing parent/guardian concerns.

Excellence in Teaching and Learning:

Goal: Support students in special education programming in developing a greater sense of independence through access to transportation opportunities.

Actions:

- Establish and pilot a partnership with municipal transit systems to support student transportation.

23-24 OPERATIONAL PLAN

Dawn Stephens
Associate Director/Superintendent of Human Resource Services
Iain McMeekin, Assistant Superintendent

Well-being:

Goal: Build leadership capacity in the area of mental health and well-being.

Actions:

- Deliver mandatory mental health certification training facilitated by Telus Health to all administrators, managers, and assistant managers.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

Goal: Expand recruitment efforts to reach individuals from equity-seeking groups.

Actions:

- Establish partnerships with local and regional organizations that reach individuals from equity-seeking groups.
- Host virtual and in-person recruitment events and information sessions.
- Create inclusive job descriptions and recruitment materials.

23-24 OPERATIONAL PLAN

Dawn Stephens
Associate Director/Superintendent of Human Resource Services
Iain McMeekin, Assistant Superintendent

Community:

Goal: Build capacity amongst human resource professionals within Simcoe County.

Actions:

- Establish a committee of human resource professionals from multiple sectors in Simcoe County.
- Explore opportunities for shared training and professional development.

Excellence in Teaching and Learning:

Goal: Ensure recruitment practices are inclusive and consistent with the principles of the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Actions:

- Develop training and certification program on behavioural-based interviewing with a focus on bias-free hiring principles.
- Ensure all those responsible for the recruitment of SCDSB employees complete the training and certification program.

23-24 OPERATIONAL PLAN

Corry Van Nispen
Superintendent of Business and Facility Services

Well-being:

Goal: Develop strong business cases for additions, new schools, and child care spaces to accommodate growth and support student success and well-being.

Actions:

- Ensure capital priority submissions meet the proposal requirements as defined by the Ministry of Education.
- Ensure submissions for capital funding meet Ministry of Education timelines and specifications.
- Continue to secure land in Simcoe County and pursue sites that can support construction of schools using standardized designs that are either scalable, repeat designs, or designs available through the provincial catalogue.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

Goal: Foster a culture of accountability and responsibility for health and safety across the SCDSB.

Actions:

- Include all staff in ongoing health and safety training to increase awareness and reinforce roles and responsibilities of all staff in creating healthy and safe learning and working environments.
- Continue to deliver monthly health and safety training sessions for administrators and supervisors.
- Equip all staff with the knowledge and resources to identify and address potential risks in the workplace.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

Corry Van Nispen
Superintendent of Business and Facility Services

Community:

Goal: Ensure accountability and transparency with respect to the SCDSB's financial statements and review process.

Actions:

- Conduct regular meetings with the SCDSB Audit Committee.
- Support the SCDSB Audit Committee with reviewing and making recommendations to the Board of Trustees regarding the annual audited financial statements.
- Publish audited financial statements on the SCDSB website annually.

Excellence in Teaching and Learning:

Goal: Ensure ongoing financial stability and capability.

Actions:

- Ensure financial management decisions are made in the best interest of students in alignment with the goals in the SCDSB Strategic Plan.
- Build capacity for facilitating strategic investments that ensure ongoing sustainability of programs and initiatives.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

Matthew Webbe
Superintendent of Education

Well-being:

Goal: Support wellness and inclusion initiatives for students and staff from equity-seeking groups.

Actions:

- Foster structures that value and affirm the lived experiences of staff through the continued formation of staff affinity groups.
- Ensure secondary school students are aware of supports available through the graduation coaches for Black, racialized, and 2SLGBTQ+ students.
- Support educators and administrators in identifying and removing barriers to student achievement and well-being through professional learning opportunities.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

Goal: Support staff with establishing and achieving annual goals related to belonging in school equity action plans.

Actions:

- Provide staff with resources to support school-specific actions to increase students' feeling of belonging.
- Provide staff with professional learning and access to support through the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion department itinerant resource teachers and graduation coaches.

23-24 OPERATIONAL PLAN

Matthew Webbe
Superintendent of Education

Community:

Goal: Continue to build trusting, collaborative relationships with parents/guardians from equity-seeking communities through the Equity Advisory Committee.

Actions:

- Encourage Equity Advisory Committee members to engage in the review, development, implementation, and monitoring of diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.
- Engage Equity Advisory Committee members in board-wide initiatives to increase awareness and understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion work occurring in SCDSB schools.
- Provide members of the Equity Advisory Committee with opportunities to share information and resources for staff and students.
- Provide Equity Advisory Committee members with regular updates and opportunities for input regarding the SCDSB Employment Equity Action Plan.

Excellence in Teaching and Learning:

Goal: Support multilingual learners in attaining their academic goals.

Actions:

- Provide professional learning opportunities for secondary school educators on the delivery of Steps to English Proficiency (STEP).
- Establish multilingual learner leads at each secondary school to drive professional learning at their school and manage required data and reporting.
- Provide multilingual learner leads with the tools required to build learning environments that are safe, welcoming, and supportive of multilingual learners.

23-24 OPERATIONAL PLAN

Scott Young
Superintendent of Education

Well-being:

Goal: Support schools with fostering student achievement and well-being through healthy learning environments that are safe and inclusive.

Actions:

- Collaborate with the Research department on the development of a school climate survey for the 2023-24 school year that includes questions about belonging and well-being.
- Develop a communication strategy to promote and encourage participation in the school climate survey.
- Review survey results to celebrate areas of success and address areas for improvement.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

Goal: Support school teams with the development of consistent, school-specific plans for bullying prevention and intervention.

Actions:

- Continuously assess the impact of school-specific bullying prevention and intervention plans and make any necessary adjustments for improvement.
- Ensure that students, staff and members of the school community have a clear understanding of what constitutes bullying and promote awareness during Bullying Prevention Week.
- Streamline process for reporting incidents of bullying and ensure timely response and supports.

23-24 OPERATIONAL PLAN

Scott Young
Superintendent of Education

Community:

Goal: Foster collaborative relationships between police services in Simcoe County and the SCDSB.

Actions:

- Initiate meeting with police services representatives to establish partnership goals and a coordinated approach to creating safe and accepting schools.
- Update and sign the Police/School Board Protocol.
- Develop a clear and transparent communication plan to inform staff, students, families, and stakeholders about the Police/School Board Protocol.

Excellence in Teaching and Learning:

Goal: Enhance learning opportunities for students through collaboration with community partners.

Actions:

- Assess and evaluate applications for in-school presentations to ensure alignment with curriculum expectations and connections to the SCDSB Strategic Priorities.
- Develop catalogue of approved presenters and promote catalogue to staff.

November 2, 2023

Via Email

Township of Adjala-Tosorontio
7855 30th Sideroad
Alliston, ON L9R 1V1

Attention: Robin Reid, Clerk

Re: Township of Adjala-Tosorontio Council Support for the Nottawasaga Police Services Board regarding School Resource Officers

During the 2021-22 school year, the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) undertook a review, which included police programs and Police/School Board Protocol. It focused on identifying duplication with programming provided by the SCDSB's student achievement and mental health and well-being staff. Through the review process, the SCDSB identified police-led programs such as DARE and OPP Kids, and other programming related to cyberbullying, tobacco, alcohol and vaping, peer pressure, and stress, that are covered in curriculum and resources delivered by SCDSB staff.

The SCDSB continues to contact police to respond to situations in SCDSB schools, and as needed, for consultation purposes related to criminal activity. Police also attend SCDSB schools to meet with administrators to address matters in the community that may involve or impact students. Although some school sites utilize the services of a resource officer, the SCDSB has never implemented a formal school resource officer program board wide.

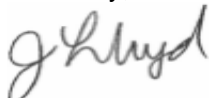
The SCDSB welcomes and encourages our police partners to reach out to our school administration to provide support to our schools related to:

- lockdown practices;
- safety patrol training;
- bike and traffic safety;
- digital safety presentations;
- presentations to secondary school law classes;
- participation in charity and career-focused events; and,
- prom night/event night security assistance.

In addition, the SCDSB welcomes and provides permits to our police partners to use our schools after hours for various presentations and programming to parents and community members, on topics such as human trafficking and cyberbullying/cyber awareness.

We value and respect our long-standing positive relationships with the police services in our county and look forward to our continued partnerships.

Sincerely,



Jodi Lloyd
Chairperson
Simcoe County District School Board

c: Board of Trustees, SCDSB
John Dance, Director of Education, SCDSB
Aaron Arnett, Sergeant, Nottawasaga Police Services Board



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Director of Education:

Mark Fisher

Education Centre

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London, Ontario
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November 7, 2023

Hon. Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
5th Flr, 438 University Ave.
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8
Via email: minister.edu@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Lecce,

At the September 26, 2023, Board Meeting, Thames Valley District School Board Trustees passed the following motion:

THAT the Chair write a letter to the Minister of Education to make the Minister and his office aware of the challenges to respond to directives by school boards, the system, and educators based on the timing and communication of decisions and timelines for implementation, particularly as it pertains to capital planning submissions for 2023-2024, the release of Grants for Student Needs, and curriculum updates and implementation timelines.

With regards to the Capital Priorities Program, the Board appreciates the Ministry's updates to the process with the goal of expediting the approval and construction of much-needed schools and school renovations.

With the additional upfront information that the Ministry is requesting of Facility Services and Capital Planning staff, who are also managing conflicting priorities such as but not limited to ongoing attendance area reviews, a building condition assessment program, year end reporting, additional ad-hoc Ministry reporting submissions and ongoing construction projects, Trustees kindly request that staff be given as much time as possible in the next round to complete the submission process.

Trustees have noted similar challenges with regards to Grants for Student needs. The Board appreciates the complexity of the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding announcements and recognizes the reasons for delays during the pandemic. We would like to request that the timing of the announcement return to pre-pandemic timing of late March, or earlier, to allow Boards to plan appropriately for the upcoming budget year.

With staffing related deadlines in early spring, a GSN release that is later than March becomes extremely problematic and reduces the flexibility to adapt to any funding changes. Internal school staffing processes are disrupted when new GSN funding is released after March. Schools experience challenges filling newly vacant positions with experienced, qualified teachers, as they will have missed the established hiring rounds and must adhere to collective agreement hiring timelines. Late GSN releases can lead to extended hiring into the summer months when we would hope to have already finalized our schools' staffing for September.

An earlier GSN release would mean minimized disruption at the beginning of the school year and allow for additional time where needed to find qualified teachers in challenging areas such as French Technological studies.

Finally, we wish to echo the sentiments of other school boards, which are having challenges implementing curriculum updates within the given timelines.

We appreciate your consideration of this matter and any steps that can be taken to alleviate pressures on staff as they work diligently to support our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. Pizzolato".

Lori-Ann Pizzolato
Chair of the Board
Thames Valley District School Board

cc: Mark Fisher, Director Fisher
Trustees
Student Trustees

Nov. 3, 2023

Via Email

City of Barrie
70 Collier Street
Barrie, ON L4M 4T5

Dear Mayor Nuttall,

On Aug. 14, 2023, the Ministry of Education (MOE) launched the 2023-24 Capital Priorities Program. The Capital Priorities Program is the mechanism whereby publicly funded school boards in Ontario apply to the MOE for funding to construct capital projects such as new schools, replacement schools, and additions. The MOE requires that school boards adhere to specific criteria when developing their business cases for capital projects. The business cases must address current needs related to accommodation pressures and facility conditions, while also ensuring viable utilization, and a positive investment return. A new focus of the MOE is finding solutions to expedite the construction of new schools, reduce approval requirements, and create greater transparency and accountability. In addition, school boards are now also required to provide a project readiness assessment, design standardization, and an enhanced accountability framework. In other words, the MOE is looking for 'shovel-ready' projects that can be built quickly.

At the Special Board Meeting on Oct. 4, 2023, the Board of Trustees approved the capital priorities list and directed staff to submit the necessary project submissions to the MOE for consideration by Oct. 20, 2023, as set out in Report No. BF-D-1, Capital Priorities Program 2023-24, dated Sept. 27, 2023 (see enclosed report). The Simcoe County District School Boards's (SCDSB) 13 most urgent capital projects and their associated business cases were submitted to the MOE on Oct. 20, 2023. The capital projects proposed are all on sites currently or soon to be owned by the SCDSB, are justifiable from a need's perspective, and are approaching design completion. In some cases, pre-consultation with municipal staff has already occurred and we are advancing the site plan and building permit applications accordingly. We consider these 'shovel-ready' and would be able to proceed immediately upon MOE approval. The projects submitted to the MOE that are located within your municipality include:

- New Barrie SE elementary #1 (Dean Ave.)
- Warnica PS replacement
- Emma King PS addition
- Ardagh Bluffs PS addition
- New Barrie SE elementary #2 (Hewitt's)

One of the major factors impacting the timelines of project completion that are largely out of the SCDSB's control, are municipal approvals (site plan, building permit, etc.). As a result, we are respectfully requesting a commitment from the municipality to expedite and/or prioritize the noted projects, should MOE approvals be received. We strongly believe that a letter of support from the municipality for the capital projects, and a commitment to expediency, will demonstrate to the province that we are collectively well prepared and determined to achieve a quick, and timely path to project completion. This may also assist and enhance the chances of approval of the project.

While there are no guarantees that the MOE will approve any of the submitted priorities, the SCDSB wants to ensure that we are in the best possible position in the event that approval is granted. Due to the overwhelming accommodation pressures within the municipality, it is essential that these projects are constructed and open to students as quickly as possible.

If you are willing to provide a letter of support, please email your letter to Corry Van Nispen, Superintendent of Business and Facility Services, at cvannispen@scdsb.on.ca, by Nov. 15, 2023. Any correspondence received will be forwarded to the MOE. We appreciate your consideration. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at jilloyd@trustee.scdsb.on.ca.

Sincerely,



Jodi Lloyd, Chairperson
Simcoe County District School Board

c: Dana Powell, Trustee - Barrie Wards 4, 5, 6
Lisa-Marie Wilson, Trustee - Barrie Wards 7, 8, 9, 10
John Dance, Director of Education
Corry Van Nispen, Superintendent of Business and Facility Services

encl: Report No. BF-D-1, Capital Priorities Program 2023-24, dated September 27, 2023

Nov. 3, 2023

Via Email

Clearview Township
217 Gideon Street
Stayner, ON L0M 1S0

Dear Mayor Measures,

On Aug. 14, 2023, the Ministry of Education (MOE) launched the 2023-24 Capital Priorities Program. The Capital Priorities Program is the mechanism whereby publicly funded school boards in Ontario apply to the MOE for funding to construct capital projects such as new schools, replacement schools, and additions. The MOE requires that school boards adhere to specific criteria when developing their business cases for capital projects. The business cases must address current needs related to accommodation pressures and facility conditions, while also ensuring viable utilization, and a positive investment return. A new focus of the MOE is finding solutions to expedite the construction of new schools, reduce approval requirements, and create greater transparency and accountability. In addition, school boards are now also required to provide a project readiness assessment, design standardization, and an enhanced accountability framework. In other words, the MOE is looking for 'shovel-ready' projects that can be built quickly.

At the Special Board Meeting on Oct. 4, 2023, the Board of Trustees approved the capital priorities list and directed staff to submit the necessary project submissions to the MOE for consideration by Oct. 20, 2023, as set out in Report No. BF-D-1, Capital Priorities Program 2023-24, dated Sept. 27, 2023 (see enclosed report). The Simcoe County District School Boards's (SCDSB) 13 most urgent capital projects and their associated business cases were submitted to the MOE on Oct. 20, 2023. The capital projects proposed are all on sites currently or soon to be owned by the SCDSB, are justifiable from a need's perspective, and are approaching design completion. In some cases, pre-consultation with municipal staff has already occurred and we are advancing the site plan and building permit applications accordingly. We consider these 'shovel-ready' and would be able to proceed immediately upon MOE approval. The projects submitted to the MOE that are located within your municipality include:

- New Stayner elementary school
- Nottawa ES addition

One of the major factors impacting the timelines of project completion that are largely out of the SCDSB's control, are municipal approvals (site plan, building permit, etc.). As a result, we are respectfully requesting a commitment from the municipality to expedite and/or prioritize the noted projects, should MOE approvals be received. We strongly believe that a letter of support from the municipality for the capital projects, and a commitment to expediency, will demonstrate to the province that we are collectively well prepared and determined to achieve a quick, and timely path to project completion. This may also assist and enhance the chances of approval of the project.

While there are no guarantees that the MOE will approve any of the submitted priorities, the SCDSB wants to ensure that we are in the best possible position in the event that approval is granted. Due to the overwhelming accommodation pressures within the municipality, it is essential that these projects are constructed and open to students as quickly as possible.

If you are willing to provide a letter of support, please email your letter to Corry Van Nispen, Superintendent of Business and Facility Services, at cvannispen@scdsb.on.ca, by Nov. 15, 2023. Any correspondence received will be forwarded to the MOE. We appreciate your consideration. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at jilloyd@trustee.scdsb.on.ca.

Sincerely,



Jodi Lloyd, Chairperson
Simcoe County District School Board

c: Brandy Rafeek (Vice-chairperson), Trustee – Adjala-Tosorontio/Clearview/CFB
Borden/Essa
John Dance, Director of Education
Corry Van Nispen, Superintendent of Business and Facility Services

encl: Report No. BF-D-1, Capital Priorities Program 2023-24, dated September 27, 2023

Nov. 3, 2023

Via Email

Essa Township
5786 Simcoe County Road 21
Utopia, ON L0M 1T0

Dear Mayor Macdonald,

On Aug. 14, 2023, the Ministry of Education (MOE) launched the 2023-24 Capital Priorities Program. The Capital Priorities Program is the mechanism whereby publicly funded school boards in Ontario apply to the MOE for funding to construct capital projects such as new schools, replacement schools, and additions. The MOE requires that school boards adhere to specific criteria when developing their business cases for capital projects. The business cases must address current needs related to accommodation pressures and facility conditions, while also ensuring viable utilization, and a positive investment return. A new focus of the MOE is finding solutions to expedite the construction of new schools, reduce approval requirements, and create greater transparency and accountability. In addition, school boards are now also required to provide a project readiness assessment, design standardization, and an enhanced accountability framework. In other words, the MOE is looking for 'shovel-ready' projects that can be built quickly.

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- New Angus elementary school
- Baxter Central PS addition

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Sincerely,



Jodi Lloyd, Chairperson
Simcoe County District School Board

c: Brandy Rafeek (Vice-chairperson), Trustee – Adjala-Tosorontio/Clearview/CFB
Borden/Essa
John Dance, Director of Education
Corry Van Nispen, Superintendent of Business and Facility Services

encl: Report No. BF-D-1, Capital Priorities Program 2023-24, dated September 27, 2023

Nov. 3, 2023

Via Email

Town of Innisfil
2101 Innisfil Beach Road
Innisfil, ON L9S 1A1

Dear Mayor Dollin,

On Aug. 14, 2023, the Ministry of Education (MOE) launched the 2023-24 Capital Priorities Program. The Capital Priorities Program is the mechanism whereby publicly funded school boards in Ontario apply to the MOE for funding to construct capital projects such as new schools, replacement schools, and additions. The MOE requires that school boards adhere to specific criteria when developing their business cases for capital projects. The business cases must address current needs related to accommodation pressures and facility conditions, while also ensuring viable utilization, and a positive investment return. A new focus of the MOE is finding solutions to expedite the construction of new schools, reduce approval requirements, and create greater transparency and accountability. In addition, school boards are now also required to provide a project readiness assessment, design standardization, and an enhanced accountability framework. In other words, the MOE is looking for 'shovel-ready' projects that can be built quickly.

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- New Alcona elementary school
- Nantyr Shores SS addition

One of the major factors impacting the timelines of project completion that are largely out of the SCDSB's control, are municipal approvals (site plan, building permit, etc.). As a result, we are respectfully requesting a commitment from the municipality to expedite and/or prioritize the noted projects, should MOE approvals be received. We strongly believe that a letter of support from the municipality for the capital projects, and a commitment to expediency, will demonstrate to the province that we are collectively well prepared and determined to achieve a quick, and timely path to project completion. This may also assist and enhance the chances of approval of the project.

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Sincerely,



Jodi Lloyd, Chairperson
Simcoe County District School Board

c: Donna Armstrong, Trustee - Innisfil
John Dance, Director of Education
Corry Van Nispen, Superintendent of Business and Facility Services

encl: Report No. BF-D-1, Capital Priorities Program 2023-24, dated September 27, 2023

Nov. 3, 2023

Via Email

Town of New Tecumseth
10 Wellington St. E.
Alliston, ON L9R 1A1

Dear Mayor Norcross,

On Aug. 14, 2023, the Ministry of Education (MOE) launched the 2023-24 Capital Priorities Program. The Capital Priorities Program is the mechanism whereby publicly funded school boards in Ontario apply to the MOE for funding to construct capital projects such as new schools, replacement schools, and additions. The MOE requires that school boards adhere to specific criteria when developing their business cases for capital projects. The business cases must address current needs related to accommodation pressures and facility conditions, while also ensuring viable utilization, and a positive investment return. A new focus of the MOE is finding solutions to expedite the construction of new schools, reduce approval requirements, and create greater transparency and accountability. In addition, school boards are now also required to provide a project readiness assessment, design standardization, and an enhanced accountability framework. In other words, the MOE is looking for 'shovel-ready' projects that can be built quickly.

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- New Tottenham elementary school

One of the major factors impacting the timelines of project completion that are largely out of the SCDSB's control, are municipal approvals (site plan, building permit, etc.). As a result, we are respectfully requesting a commitment from the municipality to expedite and/or prioritize the noted project, should MOE approvals be received. We strongly believe that a letter of support from the municipality for the capital project, and a commitment to expediency, will demonstrate to the province that we are collectively well prepared and determined to achieve a quick, and timely path to project completion. This may also assist and enhance the chances of approval of the project.

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Sincerely,



Jodi Lloyd, Chairperson
Simcoe County District School Board

c: Sarah Beitz, Trustee – New Tecumseth
John Dance, Director of Education
Corry Van Nispen, Superintendent of Business and Facility Services

encl: Report No. BF-D-1, Capital Priorities Program 2023-24, dated September 27, 2023

Nov. 3, 2023

Via Email

Town of Wasaga Beach
30 Lewis Street
Wasaga Beach, ON L9Z 1A1

Dear Mayor Smith,

On Aug. 14, 2023, the Ministry of Education (MOE) launched the 2023-24 Capital Priorities Program. The Capital Priorities Program is the mechanism whereby publicly funded school boards in Ontario apply to the MOE for funding to construct capital projects such as new schools, replacement schools, and additions. The MOE requires that school boards adhere to specific criteria when developing their business cases for capital projects. The business cases must address current needs related to accommodation pressures and facility conditions, while also ensuring viable utilization, and a positive investment return. A new focus of the MOE is finding solutions to expedite the construction of new schools, reduce approval requirements, and create greater transparency and accountability. In addition, school boards are now also required to provide a project readiness assessment, design standardization, and an enhanced accountability framework. In other words, the MOE is looking for 'shovel-ready' projects that can be built quickly.

At the Special Board Meeting on Oct. 4, 2023, the Board of Trustees approved the capital priorities list and directed staff to submit the necessary project submissions to the MOE for consideration by Oct. 20, 2023, as set out in Report No. BF-D-1, Capital Priorities Program 2023-24, dated Sept. 27, 2023 (see enclosed report). The Simcoe County District School Boards's (SCDSB) 13 most urgent capital projects and their associated business cases were submitted to the MOE on Oct. 20, 2023. The capital projects proposed are all on sites currently or soon to be owned by the SCDSB, are justifiable from a need's perspective, and are approaching design completion. In some cases, pre-consultation with municipal staff has already occurred and we are advancing the site plan and building permit applications accordingly. We consider these 'shovel-ready' and would be able to proceed immediately upon MOE approval. The project submitted to the MOE that is located within your municipality is:

- New Wasaga Beach secondary school

One of the major factors impacting the timelines of project completion that are largely out of the SCDSB's control, are municipal approvals (site plan, building permit, etc.). As a result, we are respectfully requesting a commitment from the municipality to expedite and/or prioritize the noted project, should MOE approvals be received. We strongly believe that a letter of support from the municipality for the capital project, and a commitment to expediency, will demonstrate to the province that we are collectively well prepared and determined to achieve a quick, and timely path to project completion. This may also assist and enhance the chances of approval of the project.

While there are no guarantees that the MOE will approve any of the submitted priorities, the SCDSB wants to ensure that we are in the best possible position in the event that approval is granted. Due to the overwhelming accommodation pressures within the municipality, it is essential that these projects are constructed and open to students as quickly as possible.

If you are willing to provide a letter of support, please email your letter to Corry Van Nispen, Superintendent of Business and Facility Services, at cvannispen@scdsb.on.ca, by Nov. 15, 2023. Any correspondence received will be forwarded to the MOE. We appreciate your consideration. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at jlloyd@trustee.scdsb.on.ca.

Sincerely,



Jodi Lloyd, Chairperson
Simcoe County District School Board

c: Mike Foley, Trustee – Collingwood/Wasaga Beach
John Dance, Director of Education
Corry Van Nispen, Superintendent of Business and Facility Services

encl: Report No. BF-D-1, Capital Priorities Program 2023-24, dated September 27, 2023

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the
Business and Facilities Standing Committee

FROM: Superintendent of Business and Facility Services

SUBJECT: **CAPITAL PRIORITIES PROGRAM 2023-24**

1. **Background**

On August 14, 2023, the Ministry of Education (MOE) released Memorandum 2023: B08, Launch of 2023-24 Capital Priorities Program including Child Care Capital Funding (APPENDIX A). A summary of the 2023-24 Capital Priorities Program is as follows:

- i. The submission deadline for all capital funding requests is October 20, 2023.
- ii. Funding announcements will be made in the winter of 2024.
- iii. School boards are asked to submit detailed project proposals to address current accommodation needs related to:
 - a. accommodation pressures;
 - b. school consolidation;
 - c. facility condition; and,
 - d. access to French language schools.
- iv. Provide high level summary information on future, longer term growth needs related to the Housing Supply Action Plan municipal growth plans.
- v. Provide a priority ranking for the proposals.
- vi. School boards have an opportunity to request child care capital funding for childcare projects associated with a larger capital priorities project.
- vii. The detailed project submissions will need to include fully completed business cases that identify a utilization equal to or greater than 100 per cent (including areas schools) in the fifth year after the proposed school opening date, provide a positive investment return (net present value greater than \$0), or identify students who do not have access to a French language school.
- viii. Projects are expected to include a completion date with a clear and detailed schedule for milestones and deliverables.
- ix. School boards are encouraged to identify opportunities to work together on joint-use project submissions.

In addition to these requirements, the MOE has outlined several new initiatives and criteria. Two of the most relevant factors as they relate to the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) are the new project readiness assessment and design standardization.

For the project readiness assessment, boards are to provide a summary of key project milestones. The MOE is requesting detailed information regarding site identification, design plans, project timelines and cost estimates. Priority will be given to projects that are best positioned to be completed in a timely manner. Submissions will require details regarding sites planned or acquired, design plans with cost estimates, and a clear schedule with project milestones indicating a path to project completion.

Another significant change is a further move towards design standardization. The MOE recognizes the importance of building modern schools faster to support the needs of growing communities. The MOE is encouraging this standardization through either scalable repeat designs or utilization of a provincial design catalogue. The intent is to help save time, create economic efficiencies, and assist with streamlined approvals.

Other new requirements include; recognition of intensification in high density urban areas, and the need for exploring new, innovative ways to build schools such as vertical schools, and podium schools; assessments of boards performance history delivering capital projects; and project commitments, which are to include a clear schedule, budget, and scope of the project as submitted by the school board and agreed upon by the MOE.

2. Current

On February 22, 2023, the Board approved the 2023-24 Accommodation Plan. In this, staff proposed a variety of projects urgent in nature to be considered for capital priority submissions at the appropriate time. Staff also identified future projects that were also required but not deemed as pressing. These projects are illustrated in APPENDIX B.

Upon release of the criteria for the 2023-24 MOE capital priorities program, staff began reassessing these projects. After examining updated enrolment trends, development data and cross-referencing the board's draft Education Development Charge Background Study, no significant changes in accommodation needs were discovered. Staff are, however, recommending priorities that may not strictly align with pure accommodation needs. This is due to the new criteria such as the project readiness assessment, design standardization, and project commitments that will now be required by the MOE. This has put a much greater emphasis on site ownership, the ability to quickly design, and cost the project, and establish much clearer timelines and construction milestones that must be adhered to. It must be noted that there are no limits to the number of business cases boards may submit in this cycle. Due to the overwhelming number of accommodations needs of the SCDSB, this highlights the necessity to balance these needs against staff's ability to provide robust business cases, engage architects, and other consultants, and provide detailed costing and project planning for multiple projects in extremely condensed timelines. As a result of the noted constraints, staff's recommendations include projects previously identified as future in nature, and some projects that are more urgent in status are not being recommended at this time. This is predominantly due to site acquisition status, design timelines, and costing requirements.

Considering the aforementioned, the prioritized projects staff recommend being submitted to the MOE are illustrated in Figure 1 on page three. Note that the proposed on the ground capacity of these projects will be refined pending Board approval and subsequent finalization with the board's architects and consultants. Also note the board is in the process of assessing the feasibility of the inclusion of childcare requests with Simcoe County. A more detailed illustration of these recommended priorities and the remaining projects that were included in the 2023-24 Accommodation Plan and how they compare with the MOE criteria can be found in APPENDIX C.

Data, projections, and reference materials supporting these projects can be found at:

[2023-24 Accommodation Plan](#) – Sections 1 and 2

[2023 Education Development Charge Draft Background Study](#) – Forms A, B, C, D, E, F

FIGURE 1

Proposed Capital Priorities			
Priority	School Name	Project Type	OTG
1	New Angus elementary school	Growth Accommodation	593
2	New Barrie SE elementary #1 (Dean Ave.)	Growth Accommodation	593-645
3	New Alcona elementary school	Growth Accommodation	602
4	Nantyr Shores SS	Growth Accommodation Addition	378
5	Warnica PS	Growth Accommodation Replacement School	510-648
6	Emma King PS	Growth Accommodation Addition	167
7	New Tottenham elementary school	Growth Accommodation	412
8	Ardagh Bluffs PS	Growth Accommodation Addition	138
9	Baxter Central PS	Growth Accommodation Addition	141
10	New Stayner elementary school	Growth Accommodation	380-420
11	Nottawa ES	Growth Accommodation Addition	144
12	New Wasaga Beach secondary school	Growth Accommodation	1000-1200
13	New Barrie SE elementary #2 (Hewitt's)	Growth Accommodation	593

OTG = On-the-ground Ministry rated capacity.

3. **Conclusion**

Accommodation planning and the MOE's Capital Priorities Program processes continuously evolve and require flexibility in order to adapt to Provincial and MOE initiatives and the ever-changing environment in the County of Simcoe. Staff are recommending the submission of business cases for the capital priorities as set out in this report to best meet the accommodation needs of the SCDSB while also balancing staff's ability to build fulsome and complete business cases that meet MOE criteria.

Note that staff will continue with site acquisition urgency and design activities after this capital cycle for any priorities not approved by the MOE and for those not submitted, so that the SCDSB will be in an enviable position when the next call for submissions is announced.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Business and Facilities Standing Committee recommend that the Board approve the capital priority list and direct staff to submit the necessary project submissions to the MOE by October 20, 2023, as set out in Report No. BF-D-1, Capital Priorities Program 2023-24, dated September 27, 2023.

Respectfully submitted by:

Corry Van Nispen
Superintendent of Business and Facility Services

**B08, LAUNCH OF 2023-24
CAPITAL PRIORITIES PROGRAM**

Pages 1 to 7

Ministry of Education

Ministère de l'Éducation



Capital and Business Support
Division

Division du soutien aux immobilisations
et aux affaires

315 Front Street West

315, rue Front ouest

15th Floor

15e étage

Toronto ON M7A 0B8

Toronto (ON) M7A 0B8

2023: B08

Date: August 14, 2023

Memorandum to: Directors of Education
Children's Service Leads, Consolidated Municipal Service
Managers (CMSMs) and District Social Services Administration
Boards (DSSABs)
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

From: Didem Proulx
Assistant Deputy Minister
Capital and Business Support Division

Subject: **Launch of 2023-24 Capital Priorities Program**

The Ministry of Education (“the ministry”) is pleased to announce the launch of the 2023-24 Capital Priorities Grant Program (CP). Schools and child care centres are crucial in supporting the well-being and positive development of students and children. As part of the provincial government’s efforts to build and invest in infrastructure, the Ministry of Education is committed to finding solutions to speed up the construction of new schools through enhanced design standardization, reduced approval requirements and greater transparency and accountability to support high-quality instruction in healthy, safe and modern learning facilities. The Ministry of Education recognizes the importance of working together with its partners, including school boards and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to meet the government’s commitment to helping build modern schools faster to support the needs of growing communities, to better utilize school capacity, and ensure value for taxpayer dollars. As a result, the 2023-24 Capital Priorities Program has been enhanced to reflect these key government commitments.

2023-24 Capital Priorities Program Submissions – At a Glance

- The submission deadline for all capital funding requests is **October 20th, 2023**. No submission will be accepted after this date. Funding announcements will be made in Winter 2024.
- Business Case templates, Program Guidelines, Design Catalogue and other supporting material are available for download from the SharePoint site shared in the email to the school board.
- School boards will submit proposals through the Capital and Business Support Division SharePoint site.
- For the 2023-24 Capital Priorities program, school boards are asked to:
 - Submit detailed project proposals to address **current** accommodation needs related to:
 - Accommodation Pressures,
 - School Consolidation,
 - Facility Condition, and
 - Access to French Language schools.
 - Provide high level summary information on **future, longer term growth needs** related to the Housing Supply Action Plan municipal growth plans.
 - Provide a priority ranking for the proposals.
- School boards have an opportunity to request Child Care Capital funding for child care projects associated with a larger Capital Priorities project.
- The detailed project submissions for needs will need to include fully completed business cases that identify a utilization equal to or greater than 100% (including areas schools) in the 5th year after the proposed school opening date , provide a positive investment return (Net Present Value greater than \$0), or identify students that do not have access to a French Language school. Projects are also expected to include a completion date with a clear and detailed schedule for milestones and deliverables.
- School boards are encouraged to identify opportunities to work together on joint-use project submissions.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

As with previous years, project submissions must demonstrate a critical and urgent pupil accommodation need in order to be considered for funding approval. These pupil accommodation needs may include Accommodation Pressures, Replacement Schools and French Language Access. In addition to addressing pupil accommodation needs, projects may also include the creation of new licensed child care spaces.

URBAN AND INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS

The ministry recognizes that intensification in high density urban areas poses unique challenges. Finding suitable land for the construction of a school is challenging and expensive. As residential

development is expected to continue to be high in urban areas, school boards may not be able to construct schools according to the traditional model. The ministry encourages school boards to pursue opportunities to explore new, innovative ways to build schools – such as vertical schools and podium schools. The ministry looks forward to working with you on advancing these and numerous other initiatives that are part of the ministry’s ambitious capital agenda to ensure funding, programs and supports continue to meet the needs of students and school boards across the province.

NEW: PROJECT READINESS ASSESSMENT

Starting this year, school boards are asked to complete a project readiness assessment and provide a summary of key project milestones. In this new assessment section, the ministry is requesting detailed information regarding site identification, design plans, project timelines and cost estimates. Priority will be given to projects that are best positioned to be completed in a timely manner. Submissions will require details regarding sites planned or acquired, design plans with cost estimates, and a clear schedule with project milestones indicating a path to project completion.

NEW: DESIGN STANDARDIZATION

The Ministry of Education recognizes the importance of ensuring that school board capital assets are used effectively and efficiently to meet the government’s commitment of helping build modern schools faster to support the needs of growing communities, so that students can attend school as close to home as possible. In June 2023, the *Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act* amended the *Education Act* to provide authority for the Minister to require school boards to use particular functional specifications, designs or plans when constructing, renovating or making additions to school buildings or premises, speeding up approvals and helping get new schools built faster.

Design standardization will help save time, avoid unnecessary costs through scope control, remove duplication of design development; cost avoidance through acceleration, and streamlined approvals.

Since 2010, the ministry has had functional design and space standards reflecting classroom capacity loadings and curriculum requirements. All school boards are required to design within ministry space standards and funding benchmarks. The ministry is now moving forward with further enhancements in design planning that will require school boards to submit designs for new school requests that will result in greater opportunity for construction efficiencies including costs and scheduling.

The ministry recognizes that many school boards use various measures in their design planning process to find efficiencies. This includes using standardized repeat designs that are scalable and modified to accommodate sites for both new elementary and secondary schools. There are also instances where school designs are also being used amongst school boards.

With the support of various school boards, as well as information collected through the Rapid

Build Pilot, the ministry has developed an EDU Design Catalogue of new school builds that have been completed or are currently in progress. The catalogue includes schematic designs of elementary and secondary schools from 8 school boards based on the following criteria:

- All designs are aligned within current ministry space benchmark requirement
- All designs have been approved/tendered since 2021 to reflect current costs
- Project costs are aligned and consistent with current market conditions in the average range of \$360-\$400/sq ft excluding unique site costs.
- Designs represent a variety of pupil place sizes to provide scalability
- School boards have received permission from the Architects for inclusion

The catalogue is intended to evolve as ministry staff continue to work with boards and identify additional designs used by school boards through the Capital Priorities Program.

The catalogue will be used as a primary tool for school boards to identify potential project designs for their project submissions. Recognizing that the catalogue does not encompass all design needs, there remains options for school boards to identify other project designs, as applicable (i.e. school board's own repeat design, additions, renovations, podium/vertical builds, etc.).

NEW: BOARD PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

As part of the Capital Priorities evaluation process, school boards will be assessed on their performance history delivering capital projects, including the following:

- Adherence to project timelines
- Time to completion
- Cost overages
- Existing inventory of active projects
- Adherence to space benchmarks
- Capital Accountability Framework compliance

NEW: ENHANCED ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

As a result of the ministry's Lean review of its Capital Accountability Framework, the ministry has redesigned the accountability framework for the major capital construction projects. The ministry's new streamlined process will reduce administrative burden while allowing for a clear path for project success.

- Successful projects will result in a Project Commitment which will include a clear schedule, budget and scope of the project as submitted by the school board and agreed upon by the ministry. The Project Commitment will establish ministry expectations for successful project delivery.
- School boards will be responsible and accountable for implementing appropriate measures to ensure that projects are completed within the schedule, budget and scope established in the Project Commitment.

- The ministry will meet with school boards to review project progress reports on a regularly scheduled basis to monitor the progress of approved projects.
 - Projects that are progressing within the parameters of the Project Commitment will not be required to obtain any further approval from the ministry and will be able to proceed through key project milestones to project completion including design, tender, and construction stages.
 - During a project's development, however, school boards that encounter issues that puts the project at risk of not adhering to the Project Commitment, may require ministry approval to revise the Project Commitment. This could involve schedule delays, increased costs or changes in project scope. In extreme cases, the project may be subject to cancellation.
 - At the end of the project, per the Project Commitment and confirmation by the board, the project will be designated as closed. A letter will be issued by the ministry with reconciliation of the total project costs. At the Ministry's discretion, unspent funds will be considered as offset for active projects or will be reallocated back to the ministry.
- The new accountability framework will also be applied to the existing pipeline of projects. Over the coming months, Capital Analysts will work with school boards to develop Project Commitments for existing projects.

PROJECT SUBMISSIONS

2023-24 Submission templates, guidelines and design catalogue can be downloaded from the Capital and Business Support Division SharePoint site.

School boards will submit proposals through the SharePoint site to be considered for funding approval. A complete submission will include the following:

- 1) Business Case - Part A (Excel Template) will include:
 - a. Project Information
 - b. Closest Facilities
 - c. Space Template
 - d. Enrolment Projections
 - e. Child Care Joint Submission (If Applicable)
 - f. Child Care Space Template (If Applicable)
 - g. Cost Estimates
 - h. Submission Check

- 2) Business Case - Part B (Written Report) will include:
 - a. A written description of the project, including detailed information on the rationale, proposed scope of work and demonstration of why alternative options are not feasible.

- b. Evidence and details on how site identification and design plans and cost estimates were derived. Identify the Land Priorities funding needed. This does not mean Land Priorities funding will be provided automatically.
- c. Detailed information on costing estimates and assumptions made
- d. Detailed project plan that includes timelines for key project milestones.

3) Design

- a. School boards should submit, at minimum, schematic designs based on either:
 - o EDU Design Catalogue; or
 - o Recent school board repeat design which must have been tendered since 2021.

New elementary school projects should proceed under one of the two options above. For other projects where a repeat design may not be feasible, School Boards may be provided an exception and submit a new design. These projects include:

- o additions/ renovations,
- o projects with unique site constraints,
- o podium or vertical schools,
- o secondary schools, and
- o schools in joint-use facilities.

NOTE: Projects submitted without a design **may be ineligible** for funding.

4) Long-Term Growth Needs (LTGN)

- a. Boards are asked to provide details of their longer term growth needs for addressing current and projected pupil accommodation needs linked to the Ontario Housing Action Plan and related municipal growth plans.
- b. Please see program guidelines for further information.

Please refer to the **Checklist** to ensure your board has included all required documentation.

INFORMATION SESSIONS

The ministry will host information sessions for the Capital Priorities Program in **August** and **September** on the following dates:

- Thursday August 24, 2023 - 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
- Thursday August 31, 2023 (French) - 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
- Thursday September 7, 2023 - 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

These sessions will provide school board staff with support regarding the completion of Capital Priorities business cases.

MINISTRY CONTACT

If you have any questions regarding the Capital Priorities Program, or require additional information, please contact the Capital Analyst assigned to your school board or:

- Lesley Cunningham, Manager, Capital Program Branch at 647-404-1133 or Lesley.Cunningham@ontario.ca, or
- Sophie Liu, Manager, Capital Program Branch at 647-402-9597 or Sophie.Liu@ontario.ca, or
- Paul Bloye, Director, Capital Program Branch at 416-325-8589 or at Paul.Bloye@ontario.ca.

We look forward to working with you on advancing these projects and other initiatives as part of the Ontario government's commitment to meeting the needs of students and school boards across the province.

Sincerely,

Didem Proulx
Assistant Deputy Minister
Capital and Business Support Division

- c. Senior Business Officials
Superintendents and Managers of Facilities Managers of Planning
Early Years Leads
CAOs of Consolidated Municipal Service Managers CAOs of District Social Services
Administration Boards
Holly Moran, Assistant Deputy Minister, Early Years and Child Care Division, Ministry of Education
Roxanne Hotte, Assistant Deputy Minister (A), French-Language Teaching, Learning and Achievement Division, Ministry of Education
Andrew Locker (A), Director, Field Services Branch, Ministry of Education
President, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)
Executive Director, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)
President, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
President, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
Executive Director, Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association (OCSTA)
President, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
Executive Director, Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)
Executive Director, Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)
Executive Director, Ontario Principals' Council (OPC)

Excerpts from Accommodation Plan 2023-24

Projects Under Consideration		
School Name	Project Type	OTG
Ardagh Bluffs PS addition	Growth Accommodation Addition	138 pp addition 714 OTG
Baxter Central PS addition	Growth Accommodation	141 pp addition 504 OTG
Coldwater PS addition	Growth Accommodation Addition	167 pp addition 504 OTG
Emma King ES addition	Growth Accommodation	167pp addition 576 OTG
Huronian Centennial ES addition	Growth Accommodation	164 pp addition 576 OTG
New Alcona elementary school with child care	Growth Accommodation	593
New Alliston elementary school	Growth Accommodation	501
New Angus elementary school	Growth Accommodation	501
New Barrie #1 and #2 southeast elementary schools (Hewitt's)	Growth Accommodation	593
New Barrie #1 and #2 southwest elementary schools (Salem)	Growth Accommodation	593
New Midhurst West elementary school	Growth Accommodation	501
Nottawa ES addition	Growth Accommodation	207 pp addition 412 OTG
Warnica PS replacement school	Growth Accommodation	593
Secondary		
School Name	Project Type	OTG
Collingwood CI replacement	Replacement School	1,134
Nantyr Shores SS addition	Growth Accommodation Addition	378 pp addition 1,530 OTG
New Bradford secondary school	Growth Accommodation	1,134
New Wasaga Beach secondary school	Growth Accommodation	777

Future Capital Projects		
Elementary		
School Name	Project Type	OTG
Codrington PS replacement	Replacement School	521
New Craighurst elementary school	Growth Accommodation	403
New Everett elementary school	Growth Accommodation	403
New Orbit elementary school	Growth Accommodation	593
New Stayner elementary school	Growth Accommodation	403
New Tottenham elementary school	Growth Accommodation	403
Secondary		
School Name	Project Type	OTG
New Innisfil secondary school	Growth Accommodation Addition	1,134
New Salem secondary school	Growth Accommodation Addition	1,134
New New Tecumseth secondary school	Growth Accommodation Addition	1,134

Priority	Project	Project Type	~Proposed Capacity	Eligibility ¹	Utilization Requirements Met ²	Site Ownership	Site studies complete	Architect	Design Status	Timelines ³	Cost Estimate Status ⁴	Joint Use	Urban And Innovative Schools	Child Care Centre
1	New Angus elementary school	New School	593	✓ (acc.)	✓	✓	✓	✓	Detail design	✓	✓			
2	New Barrie SE elementary #1 (Dean Ave.)	New School	593-645	✓ (acc.)	✓	✓	Partial	✓	Repeat design	✓	✓			
3	New Alcona elementary school	New School	602	✓ (acc.)	✓	~ Closing October 12, 2023	Partial	✓	Repeat design	✓	✓			
4	Nantyr Shores SS	Addition	378	✓ (acc.)	✓	✓	Partial	✓	Repeat design	✓	✓			
5	Warnica PS	Replacement	510-648	✓ (f.c.)	✓	✓	Partial	✓	Repeat design	✓	✓			
6	Emma King PS	Addition	167	✓ (acc.)	✓	✓	Partial	✓	Repeat design	✓	✓			
7*	New Tottenham elementary school	New School	412	✓ (acc.)	✓	✓	Partial	✓	Repeat design	✓	✓			
8	Ardagh Bluffs PS	Addition	138	✓ (acc.)	✓	✓	Partial	✓	Contract design	✓	✓			
9	Baxter Central PS	Addition	141	✓ (acc.)	✓	✓	Partial	✓	Detail design	✓	✓			
10*	New Stayner elementary school	New School	380-420	✓ (acc.)	✓	✓	Partial	✓	Repeat design	✓	✓			
11	Nottawa ES	Addition	144	✓ (acc.)	✓	✓	Partial	✓	Repeat design	✓	✓			
12	New Wasaga Beach secondary school	New School	1000-1200	✓ (acc.)	✓	Negotiating agreement	Partial	✓	Repeat design	✓	✓	Interest indicated		
13	New Barrie SE elementary #2 (Hewitt's)	New School	593	✓ (acc.)	✓	Executing option agreement	Partial	✓	Repeat design	✓	✓			
NA**	New Alliston elementary school	New School	501	✓ (acc.)	✓									
NA**	New Barrie SW elementary school (#1 & #2 Salem)	New School	593	✓ (acc.)	✓		Partial							
NA**	New Bradford secondary school	New School	1134	✓ (acc.)	✓									
NA**	Coldwater PS	Addition	167	✓ (acc.)	✓	✓	Partial							
NA**	Collingwood CI	Replacement	1134	✓ (f.c.)	✓	✓	Partial	✓	Schematic design					
NA**	Huron Centennial PS	Addition	164	✓ (acc.)	✓	✓	Partial	✓						
NA**	New Midhurst West elementary school	New School	501	✓ (acc.)	✓	✓	Partial							✓
NA*	Codrington PS	Replacement	521	✓ (f.c.)	✓	✓								
NA*	New Craighurst elementary school	New School	403	✓ (acc.)			Partial							
NA*	New Everett elementary school	New School	403	✓ (acc.)			Partial							
NA*	New Innisfil secondary school	New School	1134	✓ (acc.)	✓									
NA*	New New Tecumseth secondary school	New School	1134	✓ (acc.)										
NA*	New Orbit (Innisfil) elementary school	New School	593	✓ (acc.)	✓								✓	

¹ "acc." = accommodation pressure; "f.c." = facility condition

² As per Ministry guidelines, priority given to projects with a 100% utilization (including area schools) in the 5th year after opening date

³ Board able to commit to stipulated timelines as set in Ministry templates

⁴ Third party cost estimate attained or costing of recent comparable tender available

* Identified in Accommodation Plan 2023-24 as "Future Capital Project"

** Identified in Accommodation Plan 2023-24 as "Capital Project Under Consideration"



November 17, 2023

Hon. Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
5th Floor
438 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2A5

Dear Minister of Education,

**Re: Support of the Simcoe County District School Board
Funding for an Elementary School in Angus, Essa Township**

The Township of Essa is pleased to be able to offer this letter of support for the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) in their pursuit of funding for the construction of an elementary school in Angus, Essa Township, Ontario.

The Township has seen significant growth over the past 16 years, from 17,600 persons in 2006, to 21,083 persons in 2016. Between 2016 and now, the Township has been growing by approximately 375 persons per year and the 2023 population is now estimated to be 23,533.

Data from Statistics Canada suggests that, between 2016 and 2021, growth in Essa far exceeded the average growth in the County of Simcoe. Currently, the elementary schools in the community are over capacity and projected to remain so over the long-term, increasing reliance on portable classroom accommodation.

Essa staff actively worked with the School Board staff to find a school site and a site has been secured within the community of Angus. Essa staff is committed to continuing to meet as needed with varying parties to move the site to the construction stage as soon as possible. A minimum school size of 501 pupil places is recommended in order to support the substantial enrolment growth expected in this area of Angus.

We commit to providing water and wastewater servicing and to expedite any required site plan approvals so that our children can be taught comfortably, under a new school roof in the very near future.

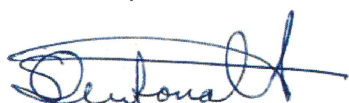
We have been working with the School Board staff, landowners and development professionals in a collaborative manner and wish to continue on this path forward towards a new school in Angus.

We also look forward to sharing facility space that can add to our green/public space and recreational opportunities.

Thank you to the SCDSB and our local School Trustee for recognizing the imminent need for a public school in Angus due to our overcrowding and one of the highest amount of portables at one school.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sandie Macdonald", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mayor Sandie Macdonald
On behalf of Essa Council, Staff and Residents

c.c. Brandy Rafeek, SCDSB Vice Chair



TOWN OF WASAGA BEACH

30 Lewis Street, Wasaga Beach
Ontario, Canada L9Z 1A1

Tel (705) 429-3844
Fax (705) 429-6732

mayor@wasagabeach.com

November 16, 2023

Ministry of Education
900 Bay Street (Mowat Block)
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1K2

RE: Wasaga Beach High School

I am writing to express the Town's support for the capital submission of a high school by the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) in Wasaga Beach. Our Council and community recognize the importance of education and are committed to collaborating with the SCDSB to make this project a reality.

Wasaga Beach is a unique and thriving community, renowned for its natural beauty, recreational opportunities, and the warmth of its residents. We take immense pride in our town, and our commitment to fostering educational excellence is unwavering. As you may be aware, Wasaga Beach has experienced unprecedented growth over the past years and is now recognized as one of the fastest growing communities in Ontario. Our current population stands at approximately 25,000 residents, with projections indicating that this number will double by 2051. Despite our rapid growth, we face a unique challenge—Wasaga Beach is currently the largest community in Ontario without a secondary school, and notably, the only community with a population exceeding 15,000 residents that lacks a high school. Currently, approximately 1,000 high school-aged children are being bused daily to schools located outside our community, and this deficiency has been felt acutely by our students and families.

The Town of Wasaga Beach is not only enthusiastic about this endeavor but is also fully prepared to provide all necessary support to ensure the successful establishment of the high school. We are committed to working hand in hand with the SCDSB.

Please feel free to reach out to me or my office at any time to discuss this project further or to address any questions or concerns you may have.

Kind regards,

Brian Smith
Mayor, Town of Wasaga Beach

cc: Mike Foley, Trustee – Collingwood/Wasaga Beach
John Dance, Director of Education
Corry Van Nispen, Superintendent of Business and Facility Services