

Report to Committee of the Whole
March 18, 2013



Waterloo Region
District School Board

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Director of Education

SUBJECT: Updates to Approvals for Boundaries, Capital and Financing

ORIGINATOR: This report was prepared by Marilyn Allen Marklevitz, Executive Superintendent of Business and Financial Services, Karen Newland, Controller of Financial Services, Ian Gaudet, Controller of Facility Services, Ron Dallan, Manager of Capital Projects, Dennis Cuomo, Manager of Planning, Lauren Manske, Senior Planner, Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner and Fabiana Frasher, Financial Analyst, in consultation with Executive Committee.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to update Board approvals for a number of boundary, capital and financing initiatives.

BACKGROUND:

Each year staff review a number of initiatives to ensure that all board approvals align with Ministry funding approvals and are consistent with other recommendations. This year two specific clarifications are required

STATUS:

1. Alignment of Capital Priorities Funding from the Jean Steckle P.S. allocation to the Silverheights P.S. allocation

In a report titled, "Ministry Approved Funding for Capital Projects," to Committee of the Whole on September 19, 2011, the following recommendations were approved:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the demolition of a six classroom porta-pack and construction of fourteen classrooms, a second full-sized gymnasium and site work at Silverheights Public School to be funded with \$3,767,631 from the Capital Priorities Grant and \$1,397,841 from Full-Day Kindergarten Capital Funding Program for a total estimated project cost of \$5,165,472, to tentatively be completed for September 2013; and

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the construction of a new Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 school of approximately 650 pupil place capacity on the vacant site located on Woodbine Avenue, Kitchener, to be funded with \$11,101,069 from the Capital Priorities Grant and \$931,894 from the Full-Day Kindergarten Capital Funding Program for a total estimated project cost of \$12,032,963, excluding site development costs, to tentatively open September 2013.

On October 29, 2012, the Ministry of Education approved the transfer of capital priorities funding from the Jean Steckle Public School project to the Silverheights Public School project in the amount of \$1,301,068 to accommodate our third party cost consultant estimate for Silverheights Public School. This additional funding was made possible due to a favorable tender close in June 2012 for the construction of Jean Steckle Public School.

The request for additional Capital Priorities funding for the Silverheights Public School addition is a result of the following project requirements:

- Reconstruction of the gymnasium
 - The entire building be sprinklered
 - Additional reinforcement of existing roof structures
 - Upgrade of building services (water, sanitary and electrical)
 - Inadequate parking as per municipal by-laws
2. Clarification of Timing of Boundary Changes as a result of the amendment to the scheduled opening date of Chicopee Hills P.S.

On May 9, 2011, boundary changes and the construction of a new school were approved as part of the recommendations resulting from the Grand River South/Sunnyside Accommodation Review. The new Grand River South school, now named Chicopee Hills Public School, received approval and funding from the Ministry of Education on July 7, 2011.

On January 21, 2013, a report was brought to Committee of the Whole to amend the scheduled opening date of Chicopee Hills Public School and the following recommendation was approved:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board amend the scheduled opening date for the new elementary school in Grand River South originally approved on September 19, 2011 as September 2014 to open September 2015.

The opening of Chicopee Hills Public School involves several boundary modifications approved on May 9, 2011 as part of the Grand River South/Sunnyside Accommodation Review. These changes were to take place effective September 2014 to coincide with the original tentative opening date of Chicopee Hills Public School. Since the opening date of Chicopee Hills Public School has been amended, the timing of the following changes approved on May 9, 2011 requires revision:

- Boundary change between Lackner Woods Public School and Sheppard Public School
- Boundary change between Lackner Woods, Sheppard, Stanley Park, Sunnyside and Chicopee Hills Public School
- Boundary change between Sunnyside and Stanley Park Public Schools

The timing of approved grandfathering and transportation provisions originally approved with the intention of boundary changes taking place in September 2014 also requires revision.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Financial Services staff has consulted with the Ministry of Education, administration, contractors, architects, Facility Services, municipalities, various internal committees and the Board, in regard to the stages of approval, design, construction and budget approvals. Where required school communities will be notified.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

No financial implications.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

The six strategic directions that are used to guide the work of the Board are:

- Engaging students, families, staff and communities
- Fostering wellness and well-being
- Pursuing student achievement and success for all
- Embracing diversity and inclusion
- Championing quality public education
- Promoting forward-thinking.

This report relates to the following strategic directions:

- Engaging students, families, staff and communities
- Championing quality public education

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the transfer of capital priorities funding from the Jean Steckle Public School project to the Silverheights Public School project in the amount of \$1,301,068 to align with Ministry approvals; and

That the Waterloo Region District School Board revise the timing of the boundary changes and grandfathering provisions for Lackner Woods, Sheppard, Sunnyside and Stanley Park Public Schools, originally approved on May 9, 2011 as part of the Grand River South/Sunnyside Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation Review to coincide with the scheduled opening date of Chicopee Hills Public School in September 2015.