



## **Courcelette Public School Update**

**To:** Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee

**Date:** 25 February, 2019

**Report No.:** 02-19-3586

### **Strategic Directions**

- Provide Equity of Access to Learning Opportunities for All Students
- Build Strong Relationships and Partnerships Within School Communities to Support Student Learning and Well-Being

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that staff submit a revised business case to the Ministry of Education for a 6 room addition on the North East Corner of Courcelette Public School as outlined in the report.

### **Context**

The following report provides an update on the 6 room addition at Courcelette PS located in Ward 18.

In November 2016, the Ministry of Education (EDU) approved \$3,221,934.00 for a 6 classroom addition at Courcelette PS. Staff began working through the design process, including consultation with the school community. Staff worked to find a solution that met the constraints of the funding, while providing the necessary space to address student accommodation needs at the school. Staff eventually settled on an addition on the South West corner of the site, and began work on the sketch plan and Board approval process.

Any addition at this site would be challenging in terms of green space reduction, due to the size of the site, at 2.03 acres, and the community raised concerns that the South West location would have a greater impact on usable green space. The community advocated for a solution on the North East corner, at the front of the school, however this option has a cost premium of \$2.9M over the approved ministry budget.

The community request for the North East option was supported at FBEC; however the motion that was approved was determined to be out of order because the Ministry approves these types of changes, not the Board. Board staff attempted to amend the motion to correct this, but it appears that the motion approved at the Board meeting held on 25 October 2018, did not meet the intent of the original FBEC motion. As a result, the Board did not approve a motion to submit a revised business case requesting the North East option, but did approve that staff discuss this option with the Ministry.

Staff held preliminary conversations with EDU staff to gauge interest in the options outlined namely, the replacement building or the addition being sited on the North East corner. These conversations were necessary as both options exceeded approved funding. EDU staff indicated that the replacement school option would have to be submitted during any future window for Capital Priority Submissions, with no commitment as to whether this would be a funded project. In terms of the NE addition, EDU staff made it clear that they normally don't accept revised business cases which expand the scope of projects beyond what was originally approved. EDU staff was non-committal, but did agree to review a revised business case for the NE addition and requested further information in order to assist them in making a decision. They could not comment on the likelihood of approval or timelines for a decision.

If approved, staff will be submitting the revised business case for the North East addition, with a proviso that if this is not approved, we will revert to the South West option.

### **Action Plan and Associated Timeline**

Not applicable.

### **Resource Implications**

The project is funded through the approved 2016/2017 Capital Budget Plan, EDU Capital Priorities funding - total project budget of \$3,221,934.

### **Communications Considerations**

Not applicable.

### **Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)**

Not applicable.

### **Appendices**

Not applicable.

**From**

Craig Snider, Acting Associate Director, Business Operations and Service Excellence at [Craig.Snider@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Craig.Snider@tdsb.on.ca) or (416) 397-3188.

Steve Shaw, Executive Officer, Facilities and Planning at [Steve.Shaw@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Steve.Shaw@tdsb.on.ca) or (416) 393-8780.

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