

# Report

<b>Report No.</b> OCS2017-28	<b>To:</b> Council	<b>Prepared By:</b> Shawn Binns
<b>Meeting Date:</b> September 13, 2017	<b>Subject:</b> Partnership Opportunity – Simcoe County District School Board	<b>Motion #</b> C170913 ~ 18
<b>Roll #:</b>		<b>R.M.S. File #:</b>

<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	<b>Requires Action</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>For Information Only</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
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It is recommended:

1. That Report No. OCS 2017-28 be received and adopted;
2. That Staff be authorized to enter into discussions with the Simcoe County District School Board regarding facility partnership opportunities as set out in Report OCS2017-28;
3. That staff report back to Council on the progress of discussions.

## Background:

The Township's Strategic Facility Plan completed in 2010 provides a guiding framework for the provision of Community Service Facilities. The plan reinforces the importance of community partnerships and provides specific recommendations for the provision of facilities which are integrated into the Township's long term business planning.

The approved 2017 capital budget includes funding of \$50,000 to commence Master Planning for a new Community Centre in the Township to be located within the Horseshoe Valley Corridor.

To this end, Township staff maintain regular dialogue with local school boards to discuss short and long-term community needs and planning objectives, to share information on capital plans and to review opportunities for synergies and opportunities for partnerships.

In late 2016, staff became aware of the Simcoe County District School Board's accommodation pressures, which are being fueled by accelerated growth, changing community demographics, and aging infrastructure.

During the 2017 budget deliberations, Council received correspondence from John Dance, Superintendent of Facility Services for the Simcoe County District School Board which further articulated these pressures and extended an outreach for further dialogue on the exploration of partnership opportunities (Attachment #1).

### **Analysis:**

Both the Township and Simcoe County District School Board encourage and recognize the importance of coordinated planning principles and partnerships. These shared principles are aligned and mirrored in respective guiding policy documents, and are further supported by the Provincial Strategy, *Community Hubs in Ontario: A Strategic Framework and Action Plan*.

Over the past several months staff have continued discussions with the Simcoe County District School Board. Discussions to this point have been exploratory in nature and have primarily focused on generalities regarding our respective organization's needs, potential scope of a facility partnership, location, and possible barriers.

In its last Capital Priorities Update, the Simcoe County District School Board approved an adjustment to their capital priority list resulting in the inclusion of a new Oro-Medonte elementary school in lieu of proceeding with an addition at W.R. Best Public School. This was the result of the Board's further review of residential development potential combined with current and forecasted accommodation pressures in all public elementary schools in the Township of Oro-Medonte and the Township of Springwater. A letter of support was provided to the School Board to support their business planning (Attachment #2).

As a result of past and projected growth and changes in local demographics, the board and Township are facing similar challenges and pressures in the provision of infrastructure and public services. These challenges are further compounded by the servicing requirements of rural communities. Due to this alignment of needs and the willingness for a mutually beneficial outcome, a unique opportunity exists for the Board and Township of Oro-Medonte to potentially arrive at a solution that would meet the needs of both organizations and optimize the benefits to the community as a whole.

Due to this unique opportunity, Township and Board staff are recommending formalizing these facility partnership discussions in order to provide greater transparency to the community as a whole and to ensure that the Ministry of Education is fully aware of the Township's and Board's commitment as they consider the Simcoe County District Schools Board's capital priority submission. It is the intent of staff to build on previous discussions by jointly examining opportunities and feasibility in greater detail, finalizing an appropriate location, and by participating in and applying the necessary resources required for applicable studies relating to design, infrastructure and planning matters. It is the expectation that Staff will update Council as more information becomes available.



**Policies/Legislation:**

- Township of Oro-Medonte Strategic Facility Plan
- Simcoe County District School Board Policy # 2345 – Community Planning and Partnerships
- Government of Ontario, *Community Hubs in Ontario: A Strategic Framework and Action Plan*.

**Corporate Strategic Goals:**

- Continuous Improvement & Fiscal Responsibility
- Balanced Growth
- Inclusive, Healthy Community

**Consultations:**

- Simcoe County District School Board
- Chief Administrative Officer
- Director, Development Services

**Attachments:**

Attachment #1 – Communication from Simcoe County District School Board dated January 24, 2017.

Attachment #2 – Letter of support for Simcoe County District School Board capital priorities submission.

**Conclusion:**


Recent population growth, changes in local demographics, evolving community needs and aging infrastructure have created pressures for both the Township and the Simcoe County District School Board to provide public infrastructure and services. Preliminary discussions on a potential facility partnership have demonstrated alignment in guiding directions, capital plans and potential timelines.

An opportunity exists to further discussions on the feasibility and structure of a collaborative relationship and endeavor. By formalizing the direction to proceed in further reviewing the opportunity for a new Oro-Medonte Elementary School / Community Recreation Centre, Township and Board staff can continue to explore this opportunity and report back to each respective organization and the community as a whole.

Respectfully submitted:



Shawn Binns, PBDM, MBA  
Director, Operations and Community Services

SMT Approval / Comments:	C.A.O. Approval / Comments:
	

Mr. Shawn Binns  
Director, Operations & Community Services  
Township of Oro-Medonte  
148 Line 7 South  
Oro-Medonte, ON  
L0L 2E0

January 24, 2017

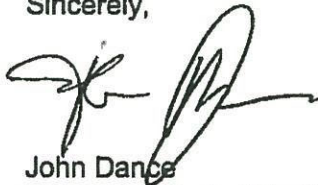
Dear Mr. Binns,

Thank you for taking the opportunity to meet with our staff to discuss the Township of Oro-Medonte's long term planning as it pertains to the provision of community facilities and services for your residents.

As per the Simcoe County District School Board's Community Planning and Partnerships policy, cooperative and collaborative relationships between school boards and community organizations aligns with the Board's mission and vision and are part of the foundation of a strong, vibrant and sustainable publically funded education system. The board believes it is the responsibility of all levels of government to make the best use of public assets.

We continue to address facility and infrastructure pressures, as well as accommodation challenges due to continued growth and demographics shifts, at many of our schools in the Township of Oro-Medonte. As such, we welcome the opportunity to continue discussions with staff and council to determine if there are feasible and viable solutions that can mutually benefit the community as a whole while also meeting the needs of our respective organizations. Please do not hesitate to contact me in the event the Township of Oro-Medonte wishes to continue to explore this approach.

Sincerely,



John Dance  
Superintendent of Facility Services  
Simcoe County District School Board

Cc:

Harry Hughes	Mayor, Township of Oro-Medonte
Derek Witlib	Manager of Planning, Township of Oro-Medonte
Peter Beacock	Chair, Simcoe County District School Board
Janis Medysky	Acting Director, Simcoe County District School Board
Andrew Keuken	Manager of Planning, Simcoe County District School Board





Mr. Brian Jeffs  
Superintendent of Business and Facility Services  
Simcoe County District School Board  
1170 Hwy. 26  
Midhurst, ON  
L0L1X0

August 18, 2017

Dear Mr. Jeffs,

Please accept this letter to support the Simcoe County District School Board's capital priority submission to address the accommodation needs of residents of the Township of Oro-Medonte.

Over the past number of years the Township has experienced significant growth and changes in local demographics which are creating additional pressures for public services. These pressures are compounded by the unique servicing requirements of rural communities and aging community infrastructure.

The Township of Oro-Medonte recognizes and supports the importance of the public education system to the make up, culture and social infrastructure required for a strong community. As such, we support long term planning that addresses both local and regional educational needs while also supporting the concept of complete communities.

The Township of Oro-Medonte completed a Strategic Facility Plan in 2010 and recently a Strategic Plan which supports cooperative and collaborative relationships for the provision of infrastructure and services. We echo the belief that it is the responsibility of all levels of government to make the best use of public assets; a concept mirrored by the Provincial strategy *Community Hubs in Ontario: A Strategic Framework and Action Plan* and the Board's *Community Planning and Partnerships Policy*. An opportunity currently exists to align infrastructure plans to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes, not only for our respective organizations, but for the community we serve. As you are aware, the Township is currently advancing a master planning process for the development of a new community recreation centre.

Preliminary discussions on the feasibility and viability of solutions to address our respective needs have been positive and gaining momentum. Provincial support of the Board's capital priority submission will enable the continuation of cooperative and collaborative discussion and opportunity assessment.

Sincerely,



Shawn Binns  
Director, Operations and Community Services  
Township of Oro-Medonte

Cc.

Peter Beacock	Chair, Simcoe County District School Board
John Dance	Associate Director, Simcoe County District School Board
Andrew Keuken	Manager of Planning, Enrolment and Community Use
Harry Hughes	Mayor, Township of Oro-Medonte
Robin Dunn	CAO, Township of Oro-Medonte
Andria Leigh	Director Development Services, Township of Oro-Medonte