

Report Title: **Identification of Community Planning and Partnership Opportunities**

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Meeting Date: April 1, 2025

Recommendation

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Halton District School Board approve the list of schools for community partnerships; and,

THAT staff be directed to notify community partners of opportunities for sharing of space and undertake the annual Community Planning and Partnerships meeting.

1. Analysis

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Board of Trustees of the recommended list of suitable Community Planning and Partnership opportunities for the 2024-25 school year, to present to the community in April of 2025, as part of a Board hosted Virtual Meeting. Board of Trustee members will be forwarded the invite if they want to attend, or can view the meeting at a later date.

Planning Services has identified for Trustee consideration and approval the schools to be identified for potential partnerships, which is summarized in Appendix A and Appendix B.

In determining opportunities for sharing unused space in schools, suitable for community partnerships, the following criteria were applied, as stated in Section 5 of the Community Planning and Partnerships policy:

1. Projected 200 or more excess pupil places and/or 60% utilization or less for 2 years;
2. Ability to identify and create distinct and contiguous space within a facility, separate from the students;
3. Space not required for Board programming or other uses;
4. Appropriate access to space;
5. Parking availability;
6. Zoning and site use restrictions;
7. Facility condition; and,

8. Other criteria as appropriate.

An analysis was conducted based on data from the third release of enrolment projections; consideration and review of future short, medium, and long-term projects identified in the latest LTAP, and the application of the above criteria, to identify open and operating schools with unused space that present opportunities for community partnerships.

Based on the criteria, seventeen (8) potential elementary schools are suitable for community partnerships, which are listed in Appendix A. Note that three (3) secondary schools were identified to meet the majority of the above criteria, but staff have opted to hold the spaces for potential Board uses and/or programming.

Surplus Space in Schools:

Schools with surplus space being offered for sale or lease follow the circulation process outlined in O. Reg. 374/23. No schools have been identified to have surplus space or have been declared surplus to be circulated under the disposition process at this time. Note that Board assets may be declared surplus in the coming months as the Board continues to review its future disposition and accommodation strategies.

Co-build Opportunities:

In addition to unused space in open and operating schools, opportunities exist for community partnerships in the form of co-builds for new schools as well as schools expected to undergo additions and significant renovations.

As per the Community Planning and Partnerships policy, the Board will notify interested partners at least 1 year prior to the potential construction start date of a new school or significant addition. We will notify the community of the full Board accommodation strategy to allow for better coordination with community partners.

Appendix B identifies several capital projects that may be available for co-builds. Details of the future projects, as well as the tentative opening year or year of need. Timing of these capital projects is contingent on Ministry capital priorities programs being released and funding approval announcements, site acquisition, and issuance of municipal approvals and building permits.

This will also be supported by a Board resolution inviting expressions of interest, as stated in Section 4 of the Board policy.

Existing Partnerships:

For a listing of the community partnerships with local agencies and groups, please refer to Appendix C identifies those partnerships. Please note this does not include Before and After Care licenses, as those fall under a separate type of agreement.

Next Steps:

Eligible partners can express interest in co-building partnerships to the Board, by way of a letter to the Director of Education ([link to form](#)). Co-build opportunities with eligible partners will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. In addition, the Board encourages community partners to provide notification to the Board regarding proposals or plans to build their own new facilities.

The annual Community Planning and Partnerships' meeting will be scheduled for a date in April 2025, and will be hosted virtually during normal business hours. Partners and the public will be notified of the list of schools and proposed capital projects, and potential opportunities discussed.

Following the approval of the list of potential projects, community partners will be notified of approval via email, and the wider community will be notified through newsletters and the Board website ([website here](#)).

1.1 Governance Alignment

The Ministry's Community Planning and Partnerships Guideline and the enabling Board Community Planning and Partnership policy ([link](#)) support sharing of planning information between school boards and community partners on a regular basis to ensure public entities are able to identify and leverage opportunities for co-build opportunities in future schools; utilizing underutilized space in schools; utilizing schools that may be impacted by closures; and/or sites that may be considered for future disposition.

1.2 Alternatives

Not applicable - Board and Ministry requirements to provide a list of potential partnership opportunities.

2. Background

Since 2015, after the implementation of the Community Planning and Partnership Board Policy, the Board has hosted an annual meeting to keep its public agencies aware of future projects planned in the Region.

3. Financial Impact

There are no funding implications for the release of the Community Planning and Partnership list of available schools. In the event there is an interest received by the community that has a financial impact for capital construction or investment, staff will seek further Board approvals.

Note that any space occupied by a community partner will be charged rent on a cost recovery basis, so as to not create any financial burden onto the Board.

4. Multi-Year Strategic Plan Alignment

Priority Alignment: Environmental and Global Citizenship ▾ ;
Learning, Engagement and Achievement ▾

This initiative aligns directly to two (2) areas of the Board's strategic plan, namely Learning, Engagement & Achievement and Environmental Global Citizenship.

1. By engaging and partnering with other entities within the community, we are providing additional synergies and opportunities for learning, engagement and achievement for both the students attending the targeted facility, and/or the community that it serves.
2. By occupying empty spaces within our schools, we are allowing our community partners to occupy an existing space that has an existing carbon footprint, and offsetting the need to occupy other spaces throughout the region.

5. Attachment(s):

1. [Appendix A: Unused Space in Schools for Community Partnerships](#)
2. [Appendix B: Proposed Capital Projects Available for Community Partnerships](#)
3. [Appendix C: HDSB Community Partnerships](#)

Respectfully submitted,

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