

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Report No: 18
Date: March 23, 2009

TO: Chair and Members of the
Superior-Greenstone District School Board

FROM: Patti Pella, Director of Education

SUBJECT: B.A. Parker Public School Replacement Project

Background

The Design Steering Committee has met via videoconference to review schematics for the B.A. Parker Public School Replacement Project. The schematics outlined several different locations for an addition/renovation to the existing high school. The committee agreed on a location and then began to work on the details.

A pressing concern was that each set of schematics came back significantly over budget. The committee was faced with the challenge of coming up with a design representative of the wishes of the students, parents and community and one that was within the budget. The initial estimated timeline for completion was September 2010, however that has been extended to September 2011.

Patti Pella and Bruce Rousseau met with the Ministry of Education to determine if additional funding could be made available to this project. The Ministry reviewed with us our current occupancy rate, current building usage and the expectation of the project to make more efficient use of existing space. After reviewing the schematics and our request for additional funding the Ministry advised that they are not funding an addition to a school that already has too much space. They noted the fact that currently the ministry provides approximately \$500 000 in top up funding to offset the cost of running the two schools (an amount that is not funded by enrolment). Further, the schematics as presented, would not receive Ministry approval to move forward because of the significant gap between the estimated cost and the available funding.

Current Situation

The Ministry has reinforced the expectation that this project will make more efficient use of existing space at Geraldton Composite High School. This information will be presented to the Steering Committee at the next meeting scheduled on April 7, 2009.

Administrative Recommendation

That, the Superior-Greenstone DSB receives as information Report No. 18: B.A. Parker Public School Replacement Project.

Respectfully submitted by:

Patti Pella
Director of Education