

Ministry of Education

Ministère de l'Éducation

Capital and Business Support
Division

Division du soutien aux
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Ms. Jane Thomson
Chair
Bluewater District School Board
351 1st Avenue North – PO Box 190
Chesley ON N0G 1L0

Ms. Jan Johnstone
Vice-Chair
Bluewater District School Board
351 1st Avenue North – PO Box 190
Chesley ON N0G 1L0

Dear Ms. Thomson and Ms. Johnstone,

Re: Ministry of Education's funding formula

Thank you for your correspondence dated February 23, 2022, to the Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. Your letter has been forwarded to me for response and I am pleased to reply.

The Ministry of Education (ministry) allocates Capital Priorities funding after a comprehensive assessment of the merits of school boards' business cases against the stated eligibility criteria including enrolment projections developed and submitted by school boards. The criteria also considers whether the board is proposing a cost-effective solution, the impact on reducing the board's operating and renewal costs, and consideration for other benefits such as improved programming options in a new or consolidated school.

For the selected schools, the ministry takes into consideration information submitted by school boards including school-level capacity of impacted schools, their proximity to each other, historical enrolment trends, enrolment forecasts for a period of up to ten years after the

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expected opening date and geographic distribution of students. Please note that if the capital project is approved, the ministry provides funding based on ministry benchmarks for the project's size, panel and location as per information provided by the school board. In reviewing past Capital Priorities approvals for Blue Water District School Board, we can confirm that the benchmark funding provided by the ministry was based upon school capacities reflecting the submitted school board's enrolment projections for future years.

The ministry also provides school boards with Temporary Accommodations funding to address fluctuating accommodation needs through the use of portables. As new schools are typically constructed during the peak enrolment period, portables are routinely used as a short-term solution. The ministry recognizes the importance of portable classrooms as a viable solution for accommodating students as individual school enrolments continue to fluctuate over time.

School boards are responsible for using enrolment and future enrolment projections to determine where growth or decline is likely to occur and where there may be a need for a new school or another solution as a part of their long-term capital planning. If there is unexpected change to a school board's enrolment forecast, school boards have the opportunity to propose a project scope change for the ministry to review.

If you have any additional questions related to the funding of new school construction, please feel free to reach out to the ministry again.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Didem Proulx
Assistant Deputy Minister
Capital and Business Support Division