

2016: B9

MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Children's Service Leads, Consolidated Municipal Service
Managers (CMSMs) and District Social Service
Administration Boards
Directors of District Social Service Administration Boards
(DSSABs)

FROM: Nancy Matthews
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DATE: **May 6, 2016**

SUBJECT: **Ministry of Education Initiatives to Support Community
Hubs in Schools**

In August 2015, the Premier's Community Hub Framework Advisory Group, chaired by Karen Pitre, special advisor to Premier Wynne on community hubs, issued its report entitled *Community Hubs in Ontario: A Strategic Framework and Action Plan* ("Action Plan"). The government accepted all of the recommendations in the Action Plan and since its release, the Ministry of Education has been working with other government ministries, school boards, and other community partners to implement the recommendations in the Action Plan that were specific to the education sector.

We are pleased to announce that the Ministry is taking steps to respond to the recommendations provided in the Action Plan to promote community hubs in schools. Together, the initiatives detailed in this memorandum will support the government's objectives of removing barriers to community hubs, providing integrated service delivery to communities, and respecting the importance of local planning decisions.

Highlights

- The Ministry of Education has made amendments to Ontario Regulation 444/98 – *Disposition of Surplus Real Property*, to ensure additional consideration of community and provincial interests when disposition of surplus school property occurs.
- The Ministry is introducing the following new capital funding programs for school boards to support community hubs in schools:
 - \$20 million to create space for new child care and child and family support programs through Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres in schools
 - \$18 million to retrofit existing child care space within a school to open up more spaces for children under four years old
 - \$50 million to renovate surplus school space to make it available for use by community partners and the public
 - Expanding eligibility for school capital funding to include building replacement space for eligible community partners in new schools or additions in the event their original school location is closed or sold.

1. Amendments to Ontario Regulation 444/98

In memorandum **2016:B6**, *Grants for Student Needs changes for 2015-16 and 2016-17*, the Ministry of Education announced that amendments would be made to Ontario Regulation 444/98 – *Disposition of Surplus Real Property* as a result of consultations in Fall 2015. The following amendments have now been made to O. Reg. 444/98:

1. Extending the current surplus school circulation period from 90 days to 180 days, providing listed public entities with 90 days to express interest in the property and an additional 90 days to submit an offer;
2. Expanding the list of public entities to receive notification of surplus school property disposition;
3. Require all board-to-board sales to be at fair market value;
4. Introduce a maximum rate a school board can charge for leasing a school to another board;
5. Provide a school board with a leasehold interest in a surplus school property being circulated to have the highest priority ranking of all listed entities; and
6. Ensure that private education providers are not eligible to lease surplus property unless the property has first been circulated to listed public entities.

Please note that amendments 1 to 5 will come into effect as of September 1, 2016, while amendment 6 is effective upon filing.

As a result of these changes, all school boards will be required to circulate surplus school properties that they are seeking to sell or lease to a list of public entities that will be expanded to include Section 23 Agencies, DSSABs/CMSMs, Children's Mental

Health Agencies, Local Health Integration Networks , Public Health Boards and First Nations and Métis Organizations.

These amendments will provide more opportunities for community organizations to purchase or lease surplus school properties in order to allow for continued community use.

More information regarding the changes to Ontario Regulation 444/98 will be provided in a separate SB memorandum that will be released shortly to school boards. In addition, communication will be sent to all of the agencies that will benefit from these changes including Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Service Administration Boards.

2. Funding Programs to Support Community Hubs in Schools

The Ministry is announcing three new capital funding initiatives to support the expansion of community hubs in schools, as detailed below.

a) Child Care and Child and Family Support Programs (\$20 million for the 2016-17 school year)

Building upon the Ministry's existing capital funding for new child care space in schools, the Ministry is supplementing this funding for further new builds, expansion, replacement and retrofits of child care space.

The Ministry is aware that the demand for child care capital funding in schools outweighs the existing capital funding available for these services. There have also been capital funding requests from the education sector for school-based child and family support programs. This new funding will allow us to address the need for new and replacement child and family support programs.

Under this program, the Ministry will provide funds to:

- i. Supplement existing Ministry child care capital funding to be used in schools that is provided through the following two allocations:
 - Schools-First Child Care Capital Retrofit Policy (SFCCCRP)
 - Support the conversion of existing school-based licensed child care spaces for four- and five-year olds to spaces that can be licensed for younger children (i.e., 0 to 3.8 years of age), or to convert surplus space in open schools to child care space for the children 0 to 3.8 years of age.
 - Capital Funding for New Construction of Child Care
 - Supports the construction of new child care spaces for children 0 to 3.8 years of age in new schools and schools approved for major expansions and renovations, in areas where there is high demand.

- Supports the need for expansion of child care spaces in schools in areas where there is high demand and limited or no space to retrofit in schools.
 - Includes replacement of child care spaces in replacement schools resulting from school closures.
- ii. New and replacement child and family support programs to support the recent Ministry announcement regarding the implementation of Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres (OEYCFCs) by 2018.

School boards will be able to apply for this funding with their CMSM/DSSAB partners as part of the 2016 Capital Priorities program. Information about eligibility and submission requirements to request this funding will be communicated in a separate B memorandum that will be released later this month.

b) Minor Retrofits and Upgrades to Accessibility to Increase the Number of Community Partners in Schools (\$50 million for the 2016-17 school year)

Under this program, the Ministry will allocate funding to school boards to renovate existing surplus school space into space required by a community partner. Alternatively, the funding can be used to improve the accessibility of a school to contribute towards its use by a community partner.

The Ministry intends to provide specific allocations to each school board based on a funding formula which is currently under development. Eligible expenses must be depreciable and can include the conversion of space from an existing use to suit the needs of a community partner, as well as investments to improve accessibility.

Additional details about this program, including reporting and accountability requirements will be available later this year. The Ministry intends to launch this program for the 2016-17 school year.

c) Replacement Community Partner Space

The Ministry will fund school boards to build replacement space in a school to accommodate a community partner that is in an operating school that is closing or being consolidated. This funding will also be available, under certain circumstances, to construct space at an open school for a community partner that is currently located in a school board property that is going to be sold. Funding would be limited to those situations where the continuation of services would otherwise be at risk. The Ministry will be developing criteria to determine which partners in schools that are closing would be eligible for space to be created in another school to accommodate them.

The Ministry will provide additional details on this program in the Fall. School boards and their partners will be required to submit business case requests for this funding through the Ministry's existing intake processes for capital programs. The 2017 School

Consolidation Capital program is currently being targeted as the first opportunity to request this funding.

3. Additional \$18 Million in Child Care Retrofit Funding

The Ministry is also announcing an additional \$18 million in child care retrofit funding for school boards to support the Schools-First Child Care Capital Retrofit Policy. Further information about how school boards can request this funding will be provided in the 2016 Capital Priorities B-memorandum, which will be released later this month.

The Ministry looks forward to working with our partners in implementing these initiatives to support community hubs in schools and providing more opportunities for services and programs to be delivered to the communities they serve.

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Grant Osborn, Director, Capital Policy and Programs Branch at (416) 325-1705 or Grant.Osborn@ontario.ca, or Julia Danos, Director, Early Years Implementation Branch at (416) 314-8192 or Julia.Danos@ontario.ca

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