

FACILITIES**2300****COMMUNITY PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIPS****2345****1. Rationale**

The Simcoe County District School Board's (SCDSB's) mission, to inspire and empower learning for life, and vision, a community of learners achieving full potential, provides direction for the board's strategic plan.

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. It is the responsibility of all levels of government to make the best use of public assets. Confidence in public education and responsible stewardship of resources are supported by the practice of optimizing board resources through purposeful facility partnerships within the context of the board's responsibilities for student achievement, well-being of students and staff, safety, and pupil accommodation strategies. School boards are encouraged to reach out to community organizations on a regular basis to share planning information and to support effective planning with community partners.

Offering space in schools to facility partners can reduce facility operating costs, improve services and supports available to students, strengthen relationships between school boards and community partners and the public, maximize the use of public infrastructure through increased flexibility and utilization, and provide a foundation for improved service delivery for communities.

The Community Planning and Partnerships Policy fulfills the requirements of the Ministry of Education Community Planning and Partnerships Guideline (March 2015).

2. Policy

It is the policy of the SCDSB that it may enter into facility partnerships when building new schools, undertaking significant renovations, and when considering the use of unused space in schools.

3. Definition

3.1 Facility partnership - mutually beneficial relationships developed to improve services and supports available to students and their families to maximize the use of school board facilities.

3.2 Facility partner - any group deemed suitable by the board as potential partners.

3.3 Unused space - portions of a facility that are unoccupied and not deemed surplus.

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4. Guidelines

4.1 Capital Planning

- 4.1.1 The Capital Plan forecasts where new schools or additions may be needed; which schools will remain well-utilized; which open and operating schools may have unused space; and which schools may be candidates for consolidation or closure. Facilities suitable for partnerships may be identified through the board's capital planning process. Both schools and other board owned facilities will be considered. Suitable space for partnerships may be identified through other circumstances.
- 4.1.2 The Capital Plan shall be posted on the board website upon Board approval and municipalities will be notified.

4.2 Partnership Suitability

- 4.2.1 The board will determine what facilities are suitable and not suitable for facility partnerships, what entities are suitable and not suitable partners and when to enter into a partnership.
- 4.2.2 Partner suitability considerations shall include protection of student health and safety, the appropriateness for the school setting and the partnership must not compromise student achievement.
- 4.2.3 Eligible facility partners include non-profit and for-profit entities. Entities that provide competing education services such as tutoring services, JK-12 private schools or private colleges, and credit offering individuals and organizations that are not government funded are not eligible partners.

4.3 Notification Process

- 4.3.1 Where unused space is declared surplus, the board will follow the circulation process outlined in Ontario Regulation 444/98 – Disposition of Surplus Property.
- 4.3.2 Where unused space is available for partnerships, or where the partnership opportunity involves new construction, information will be provided to potential partners through a notification process.
- 4.3.3 The facility partnership notification list will include, at a minimum:
 - 4.3.3.1 the entities listed in Ontario Regulation 444/98; the County of Simcoe, the separated cities and the lower tier municipalities, including local Indigenous councils;
 - 4.3.3.2 applicable District Social Services Administration Board(s) or the Consolidated Municipal Services Manager;
 - 4.3.3.3 applicable Public Health Boards, Local Health Integration Networks and Children's Mental Health Centres; and,
 - 4.3.3.4 child care operators and government funded agencies will be added upon request.
- 4.3.4 The notification list may be prioritized.
- 4.3.5 Potential partners may be added upon request and suitability.

- 4.4 Annual Meeting
 - 4.4.1 At least one meeting per year to discuss potential planning and partnerships with public and community organizations will be held.
 - 4.4.2 Staff-level meetings may be held to discuss relevant information with the public and community organizations.
 - 4.4.3 Entities on the notification list and the general public will be notified of the annual meeting.
 - 4.4.4 The entities will be requested to prepare and provide relevant planning information.

- 4.5 Pupil Accommodation Reviews
 - 4.5.1 Where potential pupil accommodation reviews are identified in the Capital Plan, consultation with affected municipalities and public community organizations will occur in addition to the annual meeting.
 - 4.5.2 Subsequent to Board approval to commence an accommodation review, board staff will conduct additional municipal and public agency consultation in accordance with Policy 2313 – Pupil Accommodation Review.

- 4.6 Co-building
 - 4.6.1 When considering the building of new schools or significant additions and/or renovations, as identified in the Capital Plan, entities on the notification list will be notified of the potential construction date.
 - 4.6.2 Any partnership agreement may require the Minister’s approval depending on the provision under the *Education Act* and cannot be finalized until the board and partner has an approved source of funding.

- 4.7 Sharing Unused Space in Existing Schools
 - 4.7.1 When selecting schools for facility partnerships the following criteria will be considered:
 - 4.7.1.1 facilities that have been 60 percent utilized or less for two years and/or have 200 or more unused pupil places, will be considered for the sharing of space;
 - 4.7.1.2 in certain circumstances, facilities that utilized greater than 60 percent and have less than 200 unused pupil places may be considered for the sharing of space;
 - 4.7.1.3 student safety and well-being;
 - 4.7.1.4 the board’s student achievement and pupil accommodation strategies (including those that may result in school consolidations and closures);
 - 4.7.1.5 zoning and site use restrictions;
 - 4.7.1.6 facility condition; and,
 - 4.7.1.7 configuration of space and ability to separate space used by partners.

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- 4.7.2 If space is suitable for facility partnerships and available for the long term, declaring the space surplus and circulating it for lease through Ontario Regulation 444/98 will be considered.
- 4.7.3 If space is suitable for facility partnerships but is not surplus to board needs, the notification process will be followed.

5. Confidentiality

Information received from potential partners will be held in confidence in accordance with the *Education Act*, the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Broader Public Sector Accountability Act*.

6. Administrative Procedures

The Director of Education is authorized to provide the administrative procedures necessary to implement this policy.

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