

Report to Council

Report Title: Brockton Child Care Centre Expand Sandboxes and Construct Sunshades

Prepared By: Sharon Bross RECE, Brockton Child Care Centre Manager

Department: Child Care

Date: August 13, 2024

Report Number: BCCC2024-05

File Number: C11BR

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number BCCC2024-05 - Brockton Child Care Centre Expand Sandboxes and Construct Sunshades, prepared by Sharon Bross, RECE, Brockton Child Care Manager and in doing so approves proceeding with the contract for the Outdoor Shade Structure in the amount of \$10,400 plus HST.

Report:

Background:

In 2021, the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board completed significant renovations to the Brockton Child Care Centre playgrounds, which included the addition of sandboxes. There are two sandboxes currently at the centre, one at each playground. Since these renovations, the Centre has experienced a substantial increase in enrollment, leading to higher demand for the sandboxes. Unfortunately, the current size of the sandboxes limits the number of children (approximately 5-8 children) who can use them simultaneously. There are approximately 45 to 65 children outside at one time which is less than half of the child able to enjoy the sandboxes. There are many other areas within the playground for the children to play, such as trikes, climbing equipment and a variety of outdoor toys.

Analysis:

The Brockton Child Care Centre serves a diverse group of children, offering a safe and nurturing environment for their growth and development. The facility includes outdoor play areas that are crucial for children's physical activity and social interaction. However, these areas are currently lacking adequate sun protection. The absence of sunshade structures exposes children and staff to prolonged sun exposure, which poses health risks.

Historically, the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board had specific parameters regarding the construction of shade structures in the playgrounds. As a result, the Centre has used pop-up tents and temporary awnings

to provide some relief from sun exposure. While these solutions offer partial coverage, they do not adequately cover the sandboxes, leaving children and staff exposed to the sun during playtime.

Staff propose enlarging the two sandboxes and installing high-quality, durable sunshade structures specifically designed to cover the sandboxes in the Brockton Child Care Centre playgrounds. These structures and increased size of the sandbox will be permanent and compliant with the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board's requirements, ensuring long-term safety and comfort for the children.

Bruce County Social Services has generously provided a grant for the Centre to purchase essential items for programming. The total cost to enlarge the two sandboxes and build shade structures over the sandboxes would be covered by the grant received from Bruce County Social Services (\$10,400 + HST). Staff are bringing forward this request as the sandboxes and sunshade are capital purchases that were not proposed in the budget.

The installation of sunshade structures at the Brockton Child Care Centre is a critical step towards ensuring a safer and more comfortable environment for our children and staff. By approving this request, the County will demonstrate its dedication to protecting and nurturing its youngest residents and ongoing support to the Brockton Child Care Centre.

Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment | N/A |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development | N/A |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance | N/A |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

The grant received by Bruce County Social Services will cover the cost of the sandboxes and shade structures so the budget will not be impacted.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Bross".

Sharon Bross RECE, Child Care Centre Manager

Reviewed By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sonya Watson".

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer