

Report to Council

Report Title: Brockton Child Care Centre Addition Update

Prepared By: Sharon Bross, Brockton Child Care Centre Supervisor

Department: Child Care

Date: October 13, 2020

Report Number: BCCC2020-07 **File Number:** C11BC

Attachments: N/A

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number BCCC2020-07 – Brockton Child Care Centre Addition Update, prepared by Sharon Bross, Brockton Child Care Centre Supervisor for information purposes.

Report:

Background:

The Bruce Grey Catholic School Board applied for a grant and was successful in the amount of \$1,628,489 to enable the Brockton Child Care Centre to expand at the St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School to add two new classrooms and an additional 39 childcare spaces. The addition was required due to the extensive wait list at the Brockton Child Care Centre.

Analysis:

The renovation to one of the classrooms to construct an Assistant Supervisor office has been completed. The renovated classroom was a Preschool room that has become a Toddler room. The expected completion date for the two new classrooms (two Preschool rooms) is late October 2020. Currently the glass for the windows has been delayed until October 16th and some doors are back ordered until November 19th. The Construction company is willing to install temporary doors until the permanent doors arrive. Once the construction is completed the Centre's Program Advisor, from the Ministry of Education, will be contacted to inspect the addition. If the addition passes the Program Advisor's inspection then the Program Advisor can approve the application for a new licence for the Centre with an updated capacity.

Currently I am recruiting for part time employees in preparation for the new rooms to be occupied by the middle of November. November 16th is our target date for opening the rooms. This will be dependent on staffing and inspection by the Program Advisor.

Staffing needs have increased right now with the new COVID regulations set out by the Ministry of Education and the Public Health regulations. However, we are still limited to the number of children that can attend our programs (i.e. physical distancing, hours of operation, shift schedules). Scheduling staff shifts, lunch breaks, days off all become very complex when dealing with restrictions due to the COVID regulations. Staffing is based on number of children attending to meet ratios. A screener must also be included in staff numbers but is not included in the ratios. Previous to COVID, children could combine in the beginning and end of day therefore limiting the number of staff needed early in the morning or at the end of the day. Since COVID this is no longer an option. There must be a teacher in each cohort when a child arrives. To meet current Ministry COVID regulations children are assigned to groups based on age and hours of attendance. This has been done to limit the need for a teacher in each group at opening and closing. Screening symptoms have also affected our numbers. Staff shifts are scheduled to meet ratios, as already mentioned, but when children do not (and cannot) attend due to the COVID screening symptoms the number of children decreases but the staff are already in attendance.

The Centre has received financial aid from Bruce County Social Services to help with reopening expenses during the summer months. The Centre received a grant in the amount of \$31,688.90. The grant received for the addition is to complete the structure and cabinetry. The Centre will be responsible for the furniture and toys for these rooms. The revenue for these expenses has been budgeted to come from the Centre's reserves. In addition, we applied for a second grant known as the Safe Restart Funding. This grant can be used for PPE expenses as well as enhanced staffing costs related to cleaning and screening. We have also received a grant from the County of Bruce for general operating expenses in the amount of \$55,251.70. Additionally, the Bruce Grey Catholic School Board did not charge the Centre rent from March 16th until August 31st. All of these additional funds help support the staffing challenges as we continue to operate to support the economic viability of the community and ensuring our local families can continue to work.

We are excited to plan for the new classrooms and support adding additional children as we continue to work diligently to ensure the health and safety of staff and families.

Sustainability Checklist:

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

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| • Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? | N/A |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? No

The Centre has experienced an increase in the operating expenses due to COVID implications, additional staffing, increased cleaning procedures and PPE. We also have a limited number of children in each class. Additionally, we have not been charging families if they are not able to attend due to COVID symptoms to

ensure they adhere to protocols. This was a decision that was made by the majority of local providers. This practice will have to be re-evaluated now that the symptom list has been revised. The changes in operations due to COVID since re-opening, may have a negative financial impact on the Centre, although grants will likely help to minimize these effects, but it is too preliminary to accurately reflect the final costs at this time. Additionally, the Provincial Funding will support the operating pressures we have experienced as a result of COVID.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sharon Bross, Brockton Child Care Centre Supervisor

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer