



# The Corporation of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

## Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: January 10, 2022

Subject: Paisley School Room – Community Partnership Lease Agreement with the Bluewater District School Board

Report from: Christine Fraser-McDonald, Clerk Tracey Neifer, Treasurer

Appendices: By-law 45-2018

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### **Recommendation**

Be It Resolved that Council hereby

1. Continue to lease the Paisley School rooms until the termination of the Community Partnership Lease Agreement in 2023 and the funds for the rent to continue to be funded by the Community Well-Being Reserve 03-0100-1034.

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### **Report Summary**

In April 2017, the Bluewater District School Board (the Board) considered scheduling Paisley Central School for closure in June 30, 2019 if sufficient partnerships and funding options were not in place by March 31, 2019 to offset capital upkeep. If the school was to be closed the students would be accommodated at Chesley District Community School, Walkerton District Community School, and Port Elgin-Saugeen Central School.

The Bluewater District School Board accepted the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie's partnership offer to support the Paisley Central School and to offset the expected annual school operation deficit, based on the agreed upon terms.

The School Board also considered negotiating with the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie and with future potential viable partners who came forward, to secure funding that offsets capital upkeep for Paisley Central School.

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## **Background**

Since April 2017, school board staff worked with the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie to develop a partnership agreement for use of two unused classrooms at Paisley Central School. In May 2018, the principles of the agreement were in place. The agreement was signed in June 2018 and effectively offset the expected annual school operations deficit. This agreement will terminate on August 31, 2023.

In 2018, Clerk's Report SRCLK.18.67– Paisley Central School – Accommodation Review Update recommended that this initiative be financed from the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's Community Well Being Reserve Fund. This fund was established to support community projects.

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## **Analysis**

With the Municipality's agreement and capital funding provided from the Ministry to offset the capital upkeep, the Paisley school would remain open for an additional five (5) years. The criteria for the Ministry's funding was for the Board to commit to keep the school open for the next five (5) years.

In a 2017 presentation to the Bluewater District School Board, it was noted that the Council of the day felt that the Board had a "perceived under-utilization issue at the Paisley School". At that time, it should also be noted that the catchment area boundaries for the school did not include all homes with Paisley phone numbers and mailing addresses or properties serviced by the Paisley Fire Department.

At that time, the Ministry of Education identified the On-the-Ground (OTG) capacity of the school to be 245 Pupil Spaces. By leasing two classrooms, the capacity would have been reduced by 48 students (2 classrooms X 24 students) to 197 pupil spaces.

The following information was supplied to the Clerk by the Bluewater District School Board:

Paisley Central School						
	ADE	OTG	Utilization	OTG less EarlyON and Municipality Leased Space	Utilization	
2018-19	137	245	56%	199	69%	
2019-20	139	245	57%	199	70%	
2020-21*	124	245	51%	199	62%	
2021-22*	130	245	53%	199	65%	
*	Includes remote learners					
2021-22	As of October 31, 2021					

As per Section 7.0 of the Agreement that was executed, the Tenant may terminate the lease effective on June 30<sup>th</sup> in any given year, providing at least ninety (90) days clear prior notice in writing.

If the two classroom spaces continue to be unused then Staff shall contact the School Board to seek confirmation that there is space available for the Arran-Elderslie Youth Council in the Paisley School for future meetings/gathering space.

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**Link to Strategic/Master Plan**

N/A

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**Financial Impacts/Source of Funding/Link to Procurement Policy**

The rent for the two classrooms is \$20,215.32 per year as per the lease agreement. The funds for the rent are financed from the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's Community Well-Being Reserve 03-0100-1034. At this time there is \$129,921.40 remaining in this reserve.

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Approved by: Sylvia Kirkwood, Chief Administrative Officer