



Design Consultant Contract Award – Addition & Renovations at Elizabeth Simcoe Public School

To: Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee

Date: 15 May, 2023

Report No.: 05-23-4535

Strategic Directions

- Provide Equity of Access to Learning Opportunities for All Students
- Allocate Human and Financial Resources Strategically to Support Student Needs
- Build Strong Relationships and Partnerships Within School Communities to Support Student Learning and Well-Being

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Design Consultant Contract to the firm *Bortolotto Design Architect* for the fixed fee of \$373,000 be approved for the design of a double gym addition, interior renovations which include retrofitting the existing gym into two classrooms, and changing the second floor open layout into closed classrooms at Elizabeth Simcoe Junior Public School, Ward 19.

Context

The Elizabeth Simcoe Jr Public School is currently a JK to Grade 6 school with a capacity of 369 pupil places and two childcare classrooms. The proposed addition and renovation project will support the expansion to a JK to Grade 8 school. The utilization for the school has remained relatively steady for the past 10 years.

The school site, at 5.98 acres, is bounded by residential houses. Directly north of the school is the Elizabeth Simcoe Park which includes playing fields and a playground. The building was constructed in 1963 as a two-storey building with a partial basement with two additions constructed in 1965 and 1971.

In November 2016, a Pupil Accommodation Review was conducted for four elementary schools: Elizabeth Simcoe Jr. PS, Guildwood Jr. PS, Jack Miner Sr. PS and Poplar

Road Jr. PS. The review found low enrollment and poor facility conditions amongst this group of schools.

Based on the extensive studies and consultations, it was concluded that consolidating the four schools to three JK to Grade 8 Schools would achieve better utilization rates and improve programming opportunities for students. The approved plan supported the closure of an existing senior school, Jack Miner Sr. PS, and expending capital funding to replace Poplar Road Jr. PS and renovating/expanding Elizabeth Simcoe Jr. PS.

In April 2022, The Ministry of Education (EDU) approved \$2,532,250 in Capital Priorities funding for the addition and retrofits. On January 31, 2023 the EDU approved the Facility Space Template for a double gym addition and interior renovations that include retrofitting the existing gym into two classrooms and renovating the open space on the second floor into closed classrooms.

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

The scope and details of the proposed addition to Elizabeth Simcoe Public School was communicated through a Request for Proposal (RFP). Six architectural firms responded to the RFP posted by Purchasing on the Bids & Tenders platform. The evaluation committee consisted of the Manager of Capital Project Development & Community Consultation, Manager of Capital Project Delivery, and the Design Coordinator. The evaluation process consisted of 5 criteria: firm experience and quality, technical and design abilities, relevant project experience, fees, and the interview. The highest scored proponent was invited to an interview evaluated by the evaluation committee, and observed by Purchasing, the Superintendent of Education, and the school Principal. The Trustee was also invited to attend as an observer in the interview.

It is recommended that *Bortolotto Design Architect* as the highest scoring proponent be awarded this project, based on the submitted bid of \$373,000.

The intended completion occupancy date for the project is Summer of 2027. The project is proceeding through the stages of the capital projects delivery plan which may include the Site Plan Approval process of the City of Toronto and affect the overall timeline.

Resource Implications

The project is funded through the approved 2022/2023 Capital Priorities Grant program.

EDU Capital Priorities funding (Gym Addition and Renovations):	\$2,532,250
Total Identified Capital Funding Available (Total Project Funding):	\$2,532,250

The approved funding does not include provisions for any interior renovations of the existing school beyond the identified classroom spaces and reasonable measures to tie the Gym addition to the existing mechanical, electrical, communication and life safety

systems. It is anticipated that other improvements to either the building or site will be funded through School Condition Improvement (SCI) initiatives. Additional funding may be available through Proceeds of Disposition if required, subject to Ministry approval.

Communications Considerations

Staff will present the school redevelopment concept at community meetings.

A community update on the current project status will be included on the Capital Projects website.

Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

Not Applicable.

Appendices

Not Applicable.

From

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