



## **Program Area Review for Alternative Scarborough Education 1 (ASE 1), St. Andrews Public School, and Willow Park Junior Public School**

**To:** Planning and Priorities Committee

**Date:** 23 June, 2021

**Report No.:** 06-21-4131

### **Strategic Directions**

- Provide Equity of Access to Learning Opportunities for All Students
- Allocate Human and Financial Resources Strategically to Support Student Needs

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that Alternative Scarborough Education 1 (ASE 1) be relocated to Willow Park Junior Public School as of September 1, 2022.

### **Context**

#### **Rationale for the Review**

The Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy (LTPAS) for 2020-2029, approved in November 2020, identified the need to explore the relocation of Alternative Scarborough Education 1 (ASE 1), a secondary alternative school, from St. Andrews PS due to emerging accommodation pressures at the site.

The enrolment pressures at St. Andrews PS continue to increase on a yearly basis. Current projections indicate two additional portables will need to be added to the existing four portables on site for a total of six portables this upcoming 2021-22 school year. Current enrolment of ASE 1 consists of 48 secondary students and is projected to remain stable. ASE 1 occupies five classrooms at St. Andrews PS. The relocation of ASE 1 would allow these classrooms to be used by St. Andrews students and help reduce the number of portables on site over the long term.

It was determined that a Program Area Review should be conducted to identify a suitable alternate school with space to accommodate ASE 1.

### **Preliminary Work of the Local Feasibility Team**

A Local Feasibility Team (LFT) comprised of the area Trustees, Superintendents, Principals and Planning staff was formed to conduct the investigation. The Superintendent and Principal for ASE 1 identified that an elementary setting was necessary given the alternative nature of the program and provided the following requirements for relocation:

- Main office space
- Five classrooms
- Kitchenette (sink, fridge, counter space, and microwave)
- Separate entrance with buzzer
- Washrooms
- Good access to public transportation

The LFT reviewed several elementary school sites in Scarborough and determined that Willow Park Jr PS was in the appropriate location and had sufficient surplus space to accommodate ASE 1. Willow Park Jr PS is a single-track Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 school. It is located just off of a major arterial road, Lawrence Avenue East, and has good access to public transit. The school currently operates at 60% utilization (335 students) and projections suggest that enrolment will remain stable for the next ten years. An addition for a childcare centre is currently proposed for Willow Park Jr PS. The date for the start of construction is yet to be determined. The relocation of ASE 1 would help increase the current utilization of classroom space at Willow Park Jr PS.

### **Work of the Program Area Review Team**

The Program Area Review Team (PART) was established in May 2021 to continue the work of the LFT in evaluating the feasibility of the relocation of ASE 1 to Willow Park Jr PS. The PART consisted of the staff on the LFT as well as two parent representatives of the impacted schools and two ASE 1 students. The PART sought the advice and feedback of parent representatives and community members from the impacted schools through the course of three working meetings on May 11, 18 and June 1, 2021 and a public meeting held on May 25, 2021.

The PART reviewed the proposed space plan for Willow Park Jr PS showing the addition of ASE 1 on the second floor. The PART discussed the operations of ASE 1, the needs of the students, and the required renovations. After the second PART working meeting, a virtual public meeting was held which explored a detailed review of the proposed location in the building and examined all the questions about the introduction of ASE 1 to Willow Park Jr PS. The public meeting was attended by a total

of 18 members of the public. The community provided insight, asked questions about the relocation of ASE 1 to Willow Park Jr PS and responded to the survey made available at the public meeting and on the review webpage. All documents that were reviewed by the PART as well as the slides from the presentations to PART members can be viewed on the Program Area Review page of the TDSB's website (<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Strategy-Planning/Search-All-Reviews>)

The third PART working meeting reviewed the feedback from the survey and the additional questions submitted after the public meeting generally relating to ASE 1 operations and how the two schools would co-exist. The PART members reviewed the goal of alleviating accommodation pressures at St. Andrews PS, the sufficiency of Willow Park Jr PS facilities (classrooms, washrooms and parking) to accommodate ASE 1, and also engaged in considerable conversation about the interaction of secondary students and elementary students in the corridor on the second floor.

### **Commentary on the Recommended Changes**

Staff and PART members both agreed that there was sufficient space at Willow Park Jr PS to accommodate ASE 1. After discussing the potential interaction of secondary and elementary students in the second floor corridor, the PART developed an additional recommendation that staff engage in a design and operational logistics exercise to determine if there are additional opportunities to further enhance separation of secondary and elementary students and mitigate to every extent possible potential unintended interaction in the corridor on the second floor. The proposal from the PART included the potential to look at alternate spaces on the first floor of Willow Park Jr PS that may offer better physical separation for ASE 1.

Staff, consisting of Planning and the Principals of ASE 1 and Willow Park Jr PS, attended a site visit at Willow Park Jr PS on June 3, 2021, to explore potential design and operational ideas to address the recommendation of the PART. A potential alternate design concept which would accommodate ASE 1's main office, space for lunch and washrooms on the first floor and classrooms on the second floor was developed. This design achieves fully self-contained space for ASE 1 at Willow Park Jr PS. This design is the preferred staff recommended option as it responds directly to the recommendation that the PART provided in the final working meeting and completely separates ASE 1 from Willow Park Jr PS and eliminates any potential interactions between secondary and elementary students.

Furthermore, in response to the PART's request to consider if there was an opportunity to create additional parking space, staff reviewed the parking lot at Willow Park Jr PS. The design of the parking lot cannot be modified to incorporate additional spaces. The 48 parking spots included in the current design provide sufficient parking on site.

Appendix A contains tables that show the schools' enrolments, facility capacities, and utilization rates for the recommended scenario.

Appendix B shows the preferred staff recommended floor plan of Willow Park Jr PS based on PART recommendations of relocating ASE 1 to Willow Park Jr PS.

Appendix C contains a map that shows the current and proposed ASE 1 locations relative to where the majority of ASE 1 students reside.

Appendix D contains the Final Report of the Program Area Review Team for St. Andrews PS, Alternative Scarborough Education 1 (ASE 1), and Willow Park Jr PS.

## **Action Plan and Associated Timeline**

Subject to Board approval:

- The affected Superintendents and Principals will notify staff and students about the Board decision to provide one-year's notice of the relocation.
- Work will begin to relocate ASE 1 to Willow Park Jr PS for September 1, 2022.
- Construction is anticipated to be conducted over summer months to limit interference with regular school operation during the school year. Once completed, ASE 1 will occupy six classrooms and a resource space.

## **Resource Implications**

The cost of the renovations at Willow Park Jr PS to accommodate ASE 1 is estimated to be \$500,000. It will be funded through the budget of the Central Accommodation Team.

The cost is offset by savings achieved by not adding additional portables at St. Andrews PS that would have been required over the next ten years.

## **Communications Considerations**

Details about the outcome of the review will be posted on the TDSB's Accommodation Reviews website. Information and notice of the Board decision will also be provided through the school websites, the school profile pages on the TDSB website, backpack circulation, and will be emailed to all attendees at the public meeting who provided an email address.

Notation will be added to the street guide notifying anyone using 'Find Your School' search function of the Board-approved changes and directing them to the latest information about the outcome of this review.

## **Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)**

P068 Accommodation and Program Review

PR715 Program Area Review

## **Appendices**

- Appendix A - Planning and Enrolment Data
- Appendix B – Staff Recommended Space Plan for ASE 1 and Willow Park Jr PS
- Appendix C – Map – Locations of St Andrews PS, Willow Park Jr PS and Secondary School Areas Where ASE 1 Students Reside
- Appendix D – Final Report of the Program Area Review Team for St. Andrews PS, Alternative Scarborough Education 1 (ASE 1), and Willow Park Jr PS

## **From**

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