

HALIFAX REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD P3 Schools Decision

PURPOSE: To receive approval from the Governing Board to notify the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) of the continued need for our ten P3 schools.

BACKGROUND: On December 17, 2015, the Deputy Minister of EECD wrote to the Superintendent about Public Private Partnership (P3) schools. EECD has requested that HRSB notify them in writing by January 29, 2016 if the board believes it needs to keep any of our existing P3 schools:

- Bedford South School
- Park West School
- Portland Estates Elementary School
- Sackville Heights Elementary School
- O'Connell Drive Elementary School
- Eastern Passage Education Centre
- Lockview High School
- Madeline Symonds Middle School
- Ridgecliff Middle School
- St. Margaret's Bay Elementary School

CONTENT: P3 schools are leased by the Province for School Board use. As part of the lease agreements, there are options available to the Province at the end of the lease - *purchase the buildings, extend the leases or surrender each building*. Between June 2016 and August 2016, the Province has deadlines to inform building owners of its decisions about Provincial intentions for HRSB P3 schools at the end of each lease.

Staff has reviewed our list of P3 schools. Staff has considered the enrollment information, including projections, provided in the Long-Range Outlook (LRO). Our P3 schools are in areas with growing or stable enrollments. We believe each P3 school is required for continued delivery of the public school program.

COST:

FUNDING:

TIMELINE: Deadline January 29, 2016

APPENDICES: Appendix A: *Letter from Deputy Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to Superintendent dated December 17, 2015 re: P3 schools*

RECOMMENDATIONS: It is recommended that the Governing Board direct the Superintendent to advise EECD of the continued need for all ten P3 schools in HRSB.

COMMUNICATIONS:

AUDIENCE	RESPONSIBLE	TIMELINE
Deputy Minister Department of Education and Early Childhood Development	Elwin LeRoux	Following Board Approval

From: For further information, please contact Elwin LeRoux, Superintendent at 902-464-2000 ext. 2312 or eleroux@hrsbc.ca.

To: Senior Staff – January 12, 2016
Governing Board – January 27, 2016

FAXED JAN - 4 2015

DEC 17 2015

Mr. Elwin LeRoux, Superintendent
Halifax Regional School Board
33 Spectacle Lake Drive
Dartmouth, NS B3B 1X7

Dear Mr. LeRoux:

Starting in June 2016 and continuing until August 2018, the Decision Notice deadlines for each of the P3 schools in Nova Scotia are coming due. Under the terms of the P3 service agreements, the Province must notify each developer whether it will purchase, continue to lease, or surrender each of the schools. As you are aware, there are 39 P3 schools across all school boards in the province.

I am writing to inform you that there have been no decisions made by government at this time regarding any P3 school. The government is doing a thorough analysis and review of the P3 schools and will make decisions on the future of P3 schools once that analysis is complete and properly reviewed. Government's decision will be based on many factors and take into account all available information, including the information you shared with the department to date in your long range plans. Government officials may require additional information during the analysis process from school boards and/or school board officials.

While government has made no decisions regarding P3 schools at this time, I want to be clear that any decisions about the future of P3 schools in Nova Scotia will be based on the educational needs of students and the fiscal realities of the Province today and in the future.

I also want to inform you that schools purchased at the end of the contract will be funded through the funding model on the same basis as all other schools in the province.

Mr. Elwin LeRoux

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A review of the P3 contracts impacting your school board indicate the following schools will require a decision in the 2016 calendar year:

	Notice Date
Bedford South School	June 30, 2016
Park West School	June 30, 2016
Portland Estates Elementary School	June 30, 2016
Sackville Heights Elementary School	June 30, 2016
O'Connell Drive Elementary School	July 31, 2016
Eastern Passage Education Centre	August 31, 2016
Lockview High School	August 31, 2016
Madeline Symonds Middle School	August 31, 2016
Ridgecliff Middle School	August 31, 2016
St Margaret's Bay Elementary School	August 31, 2016

As a result, if your board now believes you need to keep any of the above listed schools, please notify the department in writing by January 29, 2016. For any schools on the list where your board believes a study is required to determine whether or not the school is required in the future, the study must be completed, and the results communicated to the department 30 days prior to the above noted notification date.

Government staff have already begun their analysis work and it will continue to take place over the next few months. I hope you find this information helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours truly,



Sandra McKenzie
Deputy Minister
Education and Early Childhood Development