

**Halifax Regional School Board
School Options Committee Auburn Drive and Cole Harbour District
Family of Schools - Timelines**

Purpose

To seek Governing Board approval of a revised timeline for the Auburn Drive and Cole Harbour District School Review.

Background

At a Special Board Meeting held on September 14, 2016, the Governing Board passed the following motion:

It was moved and seconded (Jakeman/Littlefair) that the Governing Board direct staff to initiate a review of the following schools within the Cole Harbour District High and Auburn Drive High Family of Schools:

- *Cole Harbour District High*
- *Ross Road School*
- *Sir Robert Borden Junior High*
- *Atlantic View Elementary*
- *Colonel John Stuart Elementary*
- *George Bissett Elementary*
- *Nelson Whynder Elementary*
- *Robert Kemp Turner Elementary*
- *Auburn Drive High*
- *Astral Drive Junior High*
- *Graham Creighton Junior High*
- *Astral Drive Elementary*
- *Caldwell Road Elementary*
- *Colby Village Elementary*
- *Humber Park Elementary*
- *Joseph Giles Elementary*
- *Bell Park Academic Centre*

And that the Governing Board direct the Superintendent to establish a School Options Committee to complete the review following the provincial School Review Policy.

As per the School Review Policy, thirty days later, a facilitator was appointed and a SOC was formed on October 14, 2016.

The SOC held its first meeting on November 1, 2016.

On January 31, 2017 the SOC Co-Chairs, Mrs. Corrie Anderson and Mrs. Shannon Parsons, wrote a letter to the Honourable Karen Casey requesting an extension of 90 days to complete the mandate given to them by the Governing Board (Appendix A).

On February 2, 2017, Minister Casey responded (Appendix B).

Content

In their letter, SOC members have articulated reasons for an extension of time to complete their work. Once completed, there are significant dates for the next stages of the school review process, as outlined in the timelines of the Provincial School Review Policy (Appendix C) and in a previous motion of the Governing Board (Appendix D).

The Governing Board should also consider the amount of time that community would anticipate for a transition process, as a result of Governing Board decisions further to the SOC's recommendations and Staff's Technical Report. The population at Cole Harbour District High will change significantly as of September 2018.

Funding Details

Within existing budgets.

Timeline

This school review is in progress. A timely decision from the Governing Board will assist the SOC in meeting its mandate.

Appendices

Appendix A – Letter dated January 31, 2017 to Minister Casey from SOC Co-Chairs

Appendix B – Letter dated February 2, 2017 from Minister Casey to SOC Co-Chairs

Appendix C – Provincial School Review Policy timeline

Appendix D – Governing Board Motion with respect to school review timelines (July 6, 2016)

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Governing Board approve a revision to the School Review timeline, extending the length of time for the SOC to deliver its report, by up to 90 days.

It is also recommended that the Governing Board include in its correspondence to the SOC that a more ideal timeline for completion of the school review would have them deliver a final report by mid-May, 2017. This would allow the school review process to be completed in this school year.

Communications

AUDIENCE	RESPONSIBLE	TIMELINE
Auburn Drive and Cole Harbour District High SOC	Board Chair	February 8, 2017

Contact

For further information, please contact Elwin LeRoux, Superintendent, eleroux@hrsb.ca

School Options Committee,
Auburn Drive and Cole Harbour District Family of Schools
C/O: 177 Colby Drive
Dartmouth NS B2V 1K2

January 31, 2017

Honourable Karen Casey
Minister, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
PO Box 578
Halifax, NS, B3J 2S9

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

Re: Request for Extension Pertaining to Auburn Drive and Cole Harbour District Family of Schools Review

Dear Minister Casey and Mr. LeRoux:

On January 23, 2017, a motion was brought forward to the Chairs of the School Options Committee (SOC). This motion was followed by a vote, with the majority in favour, to request an extension to the timelines outlined in the Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) Review Process for the Auburn Drive and Cole Harbour District Family of Schools Review, as mandated by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Long Range Outlook Policy.

On behalf of the SOC, representing 34 community members, we formally request an extension of 90 days to complete this complex review. It cannot be understated that our collective work and ultimate recommendations to the Halifax Regional School Board will have a significant and long-term impact on the future of our children, students and communities for years to come.

The following are reasons for this extension request:

1. The public was led to believe that the SOC commenced its work in September 2016 when, in fact, we did not convene until November 2016. SOC members heard from the community in our first public engagement meeting their concern that not enough time is being granted to the SOC to provide due process for the Review.

The HRSB is asking for this SOC to review 17 schools in the same time period as two other SOC's have followed in the past with only four and five schools, respectively. In addition, the Auburn Drive and Cole Harbour District Family of Schools Review involves two feeder systems, not only one.

2. The scope of our work is substantially greater, and as a result, requires more time to gather, review and analyze information, gain public insight and feedback, as well as formulate recommendations that represent the views of the SOC and community.
3. Our Family of Schools have a deep and present history in culture, diversity and inclusion. An extension would enable this SOC to ensure inclusivity of all communities within our district.

4. The Work-To-Rule job action has impeded our ability to effectively communicate with Administration, parents and engage with our School Advisory Committees, and with the students in the schools.
5. These circumstances impeded our ability to acquire information and support from School Administration, teachers and the HRSB, thus restricting our ability to serve the needs of the students and the communities involved.
6. With the current timeline, the SOC members will not have time to tour each school facility. Such tours would enable us to more accurately evaluate the needs of each school and community life that depends on the schools.
7. The current timeline does not provide nearly enough time to conduct sufficient stakeholder management with key community groups that utilize the schools after hours.
8. The school Christmas break prevented the SOC's ability to hold meetings because there were no facilities available.
9. The SOC was also made aware that another Halifax district SOC received an extension.

Our SOC is very committed to and serious about completing the substantive challenge that lies ahead and turning it into an opportunity that serves the best interests of our students and communities. We are passionate about our children's futures and dedicated to making the best possible recommendations for our communities. We simply cannot do justice to this process as a result of the constraints outlined above.

As we prepare for the public engagement sessions, we anticipate that the public will have many questions as they listen to our early ideas, and raise concern again that with the number of schools being represented, the time being granted is not allowing for due process. As the SOC chairs, we would like to be able to provide a response to the community as soon as possible.

We respectfully request a formal reply from you in time in a timely fashion.

Sincerely,



Corrie Anderson, Co-Chair, School Options Committee (SOC) for the Auburn Drive and Cole Harbour District Family of Schools

Shannon Parsons, Co-Chair, School Options Committee (SOC) for the Auburn Drive and Cole Harbour District Family of Schools

C.c.

The Hon. Keith Colwell, Minister, Department of Agriculture; Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, and MLA, Eastern Shore

The Hon. Tony Ince, Minister, Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage; Department of African Nova Scotia Affairs and MLA, Cole Harbour-Portland Valley

Ms. Lorelei Nicholl, Councillor Cole Harbour - Westphal

Dave Wright, Chair, HRSB



**Education and Early Childhood Development
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 578, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2S9 Telephone 902 424-4236 Fax 902 424-0680 • www.ednet.ns.ca

February 2, 2017

Ms. Corrie Anderson, Co-Chair
School Options Committee (SOC)
Auburn Drive & Cole harbor District Family of Schools
c/o 177 Colby Drive
Dartmouth, NS B2V 1K2

Dear Ms. Anderson:

Thank you for your email of January 31, 2017, regarding school reviews underway within your school board.

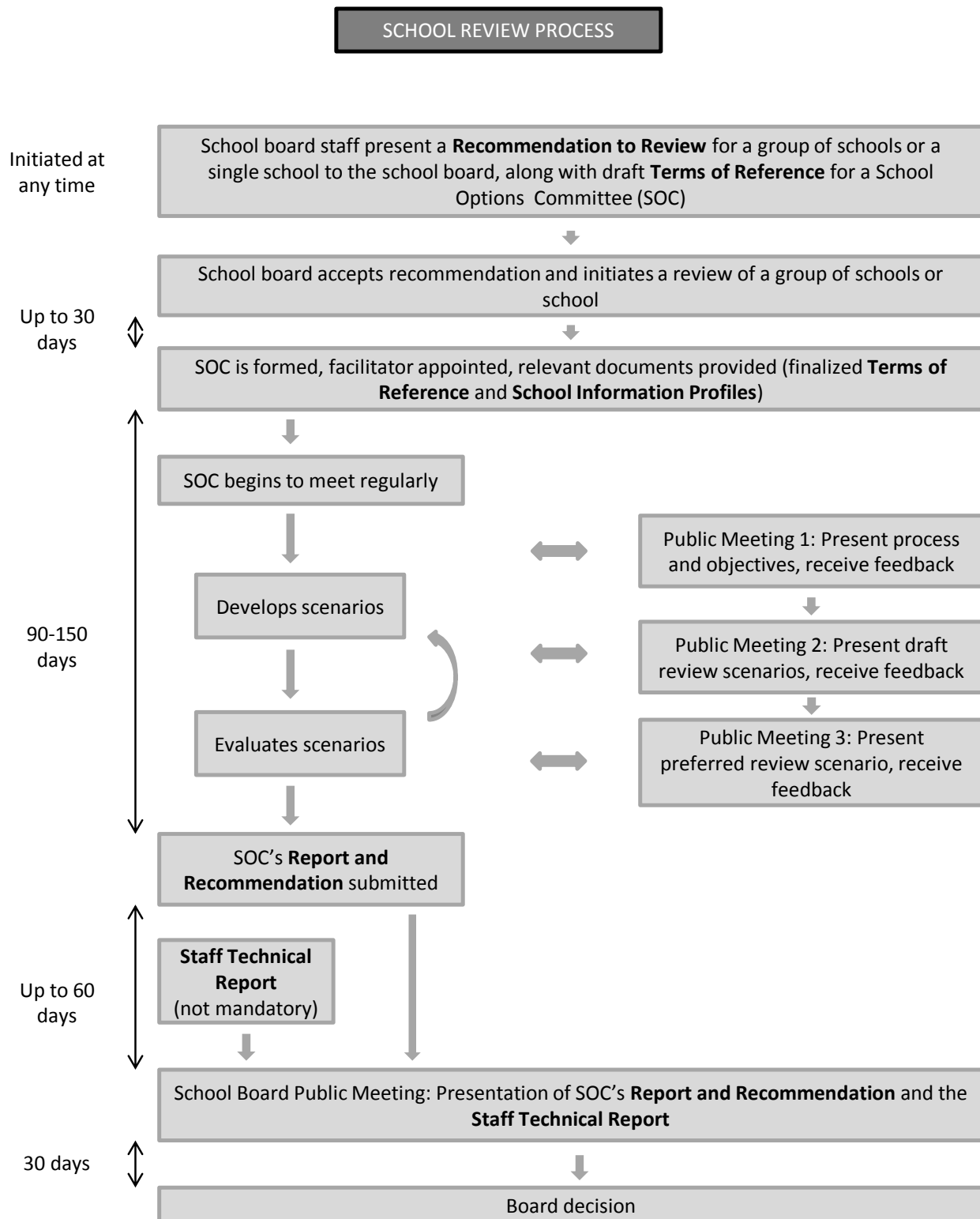
The school review process was designed to allow for greater community consultation, through a School Options Committee, to guide the board in its decisions. If your board and your School Options Committee agree that 90 more days are needed to meet this objective, please proceed.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Casey".

Karen Casey
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development

c Hon. Keith Colwell, MLA Preston-Dartmouth
Hon. Tony Ince, MLA Cole Harbour-Portland Valley
Lorelei Nicoll, Councillor, Cole Harbour-Westphal
Elwin LeRoux, Superintendent of Schools



Upon receipt of the final report from the SOC, the Superintendent will:

1. Post the SOC's Report on the HRSB website *within a week*;
2. Prepare a Staff Technical Report for presentation to the Governing Board;
3. In consultation with the Board Chair schedule a presentation of the SOC's Report and the Staff Technical Report to the Governing Board at a public meeting – *these reports will typically be posted to the HRSB website at least three days prior to the public meeting*;
4. In consultation with the Board Chair schedule a meeting for the Governing Board decision on the recommendations in the SOC's Report (preferably two weeks after the SOC presentation); and
5. Publish the following information to the HRSB website:

“The *<insert School Review name>* SOC has submitted its final Report and Recommendations to the Superintendent on *<insert date>*. Please follow link to view Report *<insert hyperlink>*.”

The *<insert School Review name>* SOC will present its final Report and Recommendations to the Governing Board on *<insert date>*. A Staff Technical Report will also be provided to the Governing Board at this meeting.

It is anticipated that the Governing Board will make a final decision on the *<insert School Review name>* SOC Report and Recommendations on *<insert date>*.

The Governing Board will receive public submissions through emails *only* at <http://www.hrsb.ca/about-hrsb/meet-board/board-member-contact-information>

For more information on School Reviews, please visit <http://www.hrsb.ca/about-hrsb/operations-services/school-review-process>.”

(CARRIED)