

## **Halifax Regional School Board Eastern Consolidated Elementary and Sheet Harbor Consolidated Elementary School Closures**

### **Purpose**

To provide information to the Governing Board regarding the permanent closure of Eastern Consolidated Elementary and Sheet Harbour Consolidated Elementary Schools.

### **Background**

Eastern Consolidated Elementary School is located in Moser River and Sheet Harbour Consolidated Elementary school is located in Sheet Harbour. Both schools are feeder schools within the Duncan MacMillan High Family of Schools.

At its regular meeting on March 27, 2013 the Governing Board approved a recommendation from the School Review Committee (*Information Report presented to the Governing Board at a special board meeting on February 6, 2013*), to close Eastern Consolidated Elementary School and Sheet Harbour Consolidated Elementary School.

*It was moved and seconded (Boutilier/Blumenthal-Harrison) that the Governing Board close Eastern Consolidated School but not until the new school is completed. (CARRIED)*

*It was moved and seconded (Boutilier/Daye) that the Governing Board close Sheet Harbour Consolidated Elementary only after a new school is built for primary to grade twelve students. (CARRIED)*

In December 2013 the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) approved a new Eastern District P-12 school to be constructed as a replacement school for Eastern Consolidated Elementary, Lakefront Consolidated Elementary, Sheet Harbour Consolidated Elementary and Duncan MacMillan High schools.

On April 26, 2016, the Minister of EECD announced the existing school property on Church Point Road in Sheet Harbour was approved as the location for the new P-12 school. Planning and design for the new school is in progress and it is anticipated the school will be completed in 2019.

### **Content**

Eastern Consolidated Elementary School has been vacant since July 2015 and will continue to be unoccupied for the upcoming 2017-18 school year.

According to Section 89A of the Education Act a school is permanently closed if no students are attending the school. Therefore, the Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) staff considers this school as surplus to its needs for program delivery. On March 9, 2017 a letter was submitted to the Director Facilities Management at the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD), seeking confirmation whether they have a need to retain this school for other educational purpose.

If the EECD response confirms there is no further educational requirement for this school building, HRSB will submit notice of turnover of Eastern Consolidated Elementary to the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Sheet Harbour Consolidated Elementary school is a P-6 school that is located on Church Street in close proximity to the approved location for the new Eastern District P-12 School.

The construction of the new school is scheduled to begin during the 2017-18 school year. Given the need to isolate the construction site and possibly directly impact the existing school, a decision was made to relocate

the Grades P-6 students from Sheet Harbour Consolidated Elementary to Duncan MacMillan High School, effective September 2017. This decision was communicated to the school community through letters from the Superintendent on October 4, 2016 and March 7, 2017.

The decisions regarding the discontinued operation of both schools has resulted in closure of the schools for valid reasons. But the closures will occur prior to the timeline intended by the Governing Board motions on March 27, 2013.

### **Funding Details**

The Board will achieve some savings by not having to maintain these buildings, including heating them, and these savings would be incorporated into the Operations Services operating budget for 2017-18.

### **Timeline**

It is anticipated that the turnover of the Eastern Consolidated Elementary School will be completed within 6 months of notice from HRSB to the Halifax Regional Municipality, and that Sheet Harbour Consolidated Elementary will be turned over to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (DTIR) during the 2017-18 school year.

### **Appendices**

N/A

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Governing Board receive this report for information.

### **Communications**

<b>AUDIENCE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Duncan MacMillan High Family of Schools Principals	Director School Administration	Prior to notice to HRM

### **Contact**

For further information, please contact:

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