

**Eastern Shore
School Steering Team (SST) Meeting #4
May 10, 2022**

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 10, 2022 **Time:** 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Location:** Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Name	Organization
Amy MacLeod	Facilitator, HRCE
Jennifer Murray	Principal, Eastern Shore District High
David Reed	Principal, Gaetzbrook Junior High
Kelly Hale	SAC Chair/Parent ESDH. Currently VP of Oyster Academy.
Pam Johnstone	Co-SAC Chair GBJH/Parent
Leanne Wrathall	Parent/Guardian ESDH
Natalie Stevens	Teacher ESDH
Allison Penwell	Band Teacher ESDH and GBJH
Kavita Khanna	Director of Operations, HRCE
Darrell MacDonald	Director of Education Facilities Project Services, DPW
Colin Carrigan	Design Team Leader, DPW
Mike Harvey	Design Team Lead Architect, Harvey Architecture, Collaborative Design Build Team
Colin Dorgan	Lead Designer, Harvey Architects
Jill Chaulk	HRCE Programs Supervisor
Mason Hartley	Absent
Melissa Burbridge	Absent
Cory Schlievert	Project Director, EECD

Call to Order: Amy MacLeod

Round Table attendance.

Business Arising from Minutes

1. Application to HRM Reference – Is there another application being submitted?

KK The application for enhancement cannot be resubmitted without severely impacting the timeline and the budget of the current school project.

KH How would we have known in advance that this would happen and how can it be avoided in the future.

LW Is disappointed that they cannot seek enhancements. She feels that the school and community are being placed at a disadvantage before the school is even built, and wants it to be reflected on the record.

KK Offering to contact HRM, although not a part of the process, to see if there is a scope for HRM to provide funding for enhancements for this school, being mindful of the current project and scheduled for completion by 2023-24 school year and will also be contingent on necessary reviews and approvals.

LW Feels that HRM funding a second gym is unlikely because because East Chezzetcook is too close to Porters Lake, where HRM already paid for enhancements, including a second gym, at Porters Lake Elementary.

JM The community will be wanting to know that we will follow through and continue with the ask.

DM Darrell suggested that, given Leanne's comment about Porters Lake, any application for enhancements might want to focus on things the HRM have already funded in Porters Lake.

AM What is the process for this?

DM The process involves a conversation between HRCE and HRM

LW Leanne's personal view is that the school is already undersized and needs more gym and classroom space, especially because it is two schools, with each their own gym, being consolidated into one building.

NS Wondering if the size is being considered DC-350 and does it reflect the current curriculum numbers

KK For the space program, HRCE shares the projection data for the next 10 years with EECD and DPW; DPW utilizes the highest enrolment projections over the next 10 years for the design of new school to ensure that the gyms and the classrooms are adequately sized for education.

DM All schools are looked at individually based on their own enrolment figures and projections. The space program is not a direct component of the DC-350, which is a physical standard to be consistent across all projects. Rather, it's a process that changes with every project, based upon the enrolments and grade configurations.

NS Combining 2-3 classes in one gym does not make for a good quality phys ed program

JC The projections using scheduling indicate that there will be space for all curriculum programming. EECD also weighed in on what is needed to meet curriculum outcomes

NS Is half a gym appropriate for 28-32 students? Her projections show that there is not enough space when you factor in extracurricular activities

JC Projections were based on curriculum needs and programming objectives. There is a meeting set up next week, with the principals of ESDH and GBJH, to go over how these numbers were arrived at.

NS Extracurricular activities are huge at this school. The new school has to at least offer what is being offered now to the students and the community. She is worried that the new school will not be able to offer that. We already missed out on the enhancement opportunity, and we don't want to miss out on funding a second gym.

PJ Agrees with Natalie regarding the need for gym space. How do we do it?

LW Going from 2 gyms down to one means that between East Chezzetcook and Sheet Harbour there will now only be one gym. Losing a gym is a huge loss to the community as a whole.

DR Will this mean a reduction in the number of phys ed courses that can now be offered?

JC The meeting next week (with the principals) will lay this out for clearly. There is no reduction in programming being considered.

2. Costing for the Sports fields

DM The increase in size from a soccer standard field to a rugby standard will be a significant difference in cost. Approximately \$200,000.

LW Is there room on the site for a rugby size field?

CD Indicated that there is room on the site but with a cost differential due to the wetland conversion.

3. A full Traffic Impact Analysis process is already in motion (could take several months to complete) – any updates

DM A draft of the report is due within the next two weeks. The consultants were asking about whether start times would be staggered for the high school and junior high. They were asked to submit a report based on both options but that we were not looking at staggered start times at this point.

4. Space Allocation discussion

JM The meeting with the principals next week, will highlight gym and scheduling and limiting crossover between high school and junior high. Are there enough instructional spaces?

JC In the meeting next week it will be illustrated how the largest and busiest block was taken into account and the differences between scheduling high school and junior high.

LW Are we looking at standardizing the class length to make the junior high and high school the same time length blocks?

- JC** This is something that SIS is looking at and will discuss next week. Time to learn will remain the same.
- DR** Confirmed that blocks looking to be 60 min in length for both junior high and high school.
- AP** Scheduling is a big concern among teachers. When teachers have to move to teach and don't have their own classrooms this makes their job even harder. We have learned this through recent experience with covid cohorting. It is quite difficult, especially when teaching more than one subject, to carry everything you might possibly need with you to another room all the time. Teaching from a cart is not an acceptable long-term solution.
- LW** It is also very difficult for a student to find a teacher if they don't have a home classroom. This difficulty makes it less likely for a student to put in the necessary effort to get extra help or otherwise communicate with the teacher when needed.
- JM** Staff surveys have been submitted for SST from ESDH. GBJH is soon to follow.

Schematic Design Update

- CD** There is no design presentation for this meeting.
- JM** The community is looking for information detailing the progress of the project.
- KK** HRCE will post highlights of this meeting tomorrow. Then after the minutes are vetted, they will be posted to the site as well within one week.
- LW** Looking forward to seeing the posts. Please make sure that the minutes go to the committee for corrections before being posted. The community are asking to see site plans and visuals.
- DM** On every project, we are reluctant to post designs until they are finalized, as they are changing. The final design is not yet approved, but has been submitted for approval.
- CD** The early siteworks tender package has been issued and is scheduled to close on May 19.
- MH** Marco Construction is issuing tenders to trades – they are not public.
- LW** What was the result of the inquiry into Geothermal heat source?
- CD** Advised that Geothermal was not feasible and the province currently looking at other alternatives, including air to water heat pumps
- LW** When do the shovels hit the ground? That is something that the people want to know.
- AM** Can the answers to these questions be part of the posted highlights.
- KK** Will defer to Darrell for proposals for construction updates.

LW What about questions concerning the budget? Will figures be released?

DM Financials cannot be published at this time because it would influence the tender process. Also, current supply chain issues and the volatile market can be a huge factor that influences costing.

LW Leanne is wondering if the costs for site works go over budget, will that affect what will go in the school.

DM No, they will always look at options for other cost saving measures. The quality of the school and program delivery will not be impacted.

New Business (AOB) & Next Steps

JM Next steps? What is SST committee role and commitment?

DM The process needs to move along a bit further before that question can be answered.

KK Do we need to schedule another meeting?

DD One more meeting might be needed but not until more details are finalized.

AM Suggesting that an update schedule will help with that.

LW Leanne was of the understanding, from prior meetings, that the meetings will wind down after design approval, but resume near the end of the project when finishing details, such as the art project and other final touches are being looked at for student and community input.

New Business

AM There is a concern around media request and sharing of details.

KK The community is very excited for the new school, and we want to ensure that they have means to get the appropriate updates. Any communication for the school update will be posted on HRCE's website. and any questions from the media or community members, can be directed to the SST facilitator Amy Macleod.

JM Jen thinks that the posting of the vetted minutes is a great idea and will take some of the pressure off the volunteers on the committee.

AM Next Meeting Date: **TBD**

END of SST#4 ESDH Minutes