

HALIFAX REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
School Review Impact Assessment Reports
Eastern Consolidated, Lakefront Consolidated, Sheet Harbour Consolidated
Elementary Schools

PURPOSE: For information regarding the School Review Impact Assessment Reports for Eastern Consolidated, Lakefront Consolidated and Sheet Harbour Consolidated Elementary schools.

BUSINESS PLAN GOAL: To ensure schools are safe and maintained to high standards.

BACKGROUND: At the March 28, 2012 Board meeting, the Board received report # 12-3-1339 School Review Identification Reports and approved the following motion:

It was moved and seconded (Brine/Poole) that the Board receive Report #12-3-1339 School Review Identification Reports for information; and direct staff to prepare the Impact Assessment Reports for the schools identified for review which include: Eastern Consolidated Elementary, Lakefront Consolidated Elementary, Sheet Harbour Consolidated Elementary and initiate the review process for the schools identified for review.

CONTENT: A Facilitator was assigned to lead school review process and met with Board staff and the Planner to collect the information required for the Impact Assessment Reports, as determined by the Ministerial Education Act Regulation 17.

The complete reports are attached as appendices. However, the following comments generally apply to all three locations.

- Representatives from each school presented to the elected Board on March 28th, 2012 expressing their agreement with the building of a replacement school and the need to close the current schools.
- Population trends show a decline in population in the rural area serviced by the Duncan MacMillan Family of Schools and the forecast indicates that this decline will continue and will not likely rebound in the foreseeable future.
- The three schools are 1950's vintage buildings. Sheet Harbour Consolidated has a gym addition dated early 1980's. The facilities do not meet current building code standards including accessibility requirements and some areas of the buildings that are not sprinklered.
- In evaluating bussing, Operations staff suggested a possible boundary change at the Tangier River which might see a small number of students from Lakefront travelling to Oyster

Pond Academy as their receiving school. This could create more efficient transport. As well, parents who travel into the suburban or urban part of the HRM for work may find it more convenient as they would drive by Oyster Pond Academy. So this scenario is presented as a possible option and would be resolved through a separate boundary review process.

- There will also likely be additional distances for buses transporting students currently attending Eastern Consolidated Elementary.
- A move to a larger school will have positive impacts on the students with regards to extra-curricular activity, increased socialization opportunities, and enhanced educational benefits.
- A new school will allow for the potential building of a wraparound facility to support the community within the Duncan MacMillan catchment area.
- It is anticipated that closure of these three schools will cause some financial benefit to the operating budget.

COST:

There would be operational efficiencies gained through operation of one school facility to replace four schools. This would include School Administration, Program and Operations staffing and associated instructional and operational resource.

However, the new facility will also potentially cause an increase in utility operating costs due to the increased building systems to meet today's standard.

FUNDING:

In April 2012, the HRSB has submitted a capital construction priority list to Department of Education, which included a new P-12 school construction project as the Board's #1 priority. If approved, this capital construction project will be funded by the Department of Education.

TIMELINE:

The school review process must follow the Education Act Regulation Requirements:

First committee meeting	by October 21, 2012
Committee response to Board	by February 1, 2013
Board public meeting	by February 28, 2013
Public presentations	by March 24, 2013
Board decision	by March 31, 2013

APPENDICES:

Impact Assessment Report Eastern Consolidated Elementary School
Impact Assessment Report Lakefront Consolidated Elementary School
Impact Assessment Report Sheet Harbour Consolidated Elementary School

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Board receive the Eastern Consolidated, Lakefront Consolidated and Sheet Harbour Consolidated Elementary schools Impact Assessment Reports for information.

COMMUNICATIONS:

AUDIENCE	RESPONSIBLE	TIMELINE
School Review Committee	Nancy O'Brien, Facilitator	Following Board Approval
HRSB Communications	Ron Heiman, Director Operation Services	Following Board Approval

From: For further information please contact Ron Heiman, Director Operations Services.
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To: Senior Staff: September 17, 2012
Board: September 26, 2012

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Date last revised: Sept 16, 2012