

**Auburn, Cole Harbour Family of School
School Options Committee Meeting Notes**

May 15, 2017
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Cole Harbour District High

Purpose

- To receive and approve the May 8th minutes
- To review update from the HRSB
- To review update on School Tours
- To review the Liberal Media Release
- To review the Elementary School Analysis
- To finalize the options
- To review the design of the next Public Meeting

Notes

Agenda Item and Discussion	Actions																																						
<p>Call to Order: At 6:35 by Co-Chair Shannon Parsons and Corrie Anderson.</p> <p>Overview of agenda and purpose: As per previously circulated agenda.</p> <p><i>In attendance:</i></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 35%;">Scott MacDonald</td> <td>Cole Harbour District High</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tasha Neal</td> <td>Ross Road School</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amanda Anthony</td> <td>Ross Road School</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Robin Heffler</td> <td>Sir Robert Borden J.H.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sandra Derby</td> <td>Sir Robert Borden J.H.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amanda Lowery</td> <td>Atlantic View Elem.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kimberley Aselstine</td> <td>Colonel John Stuart Elem.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Heather Deighan</td> <td>Colonel John Stuart Elem.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adele Dionne</td> <td>George Bissett Elem.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rosella Fraser</td> <td>Nelson Whynder Elem.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dwayne Green</td> <td>Nelson Whynder Elem.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Keri-Lee MacDonald</td> <td>Robert Kemp Turner Elem.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jennifer Collier</td> <td>Robert Kemp Turner Elem.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chris White</td> <td>Robert Kemp Turner Elem.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dawn Torrealba</td> <td>Auburn Drive High</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Susan Russell McGrath</td> <td>Auburn Drive High</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Corrie Anderson</td> <td>Astral Drive J.H.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Margaret Rao</td> <td>Astral Drive J.H.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Krista Dicks</td> <td>Graham Creighton J.H.</td> </tr> </table>	Scott MacDonald	Cole Harbour District High	Tasha Neal	Ross Road School	Amanda Anthony	Ross Road School	Robin Heffler	Sir Robert Borden J.H.	Sandra Derby	Sir Robert Borden J.H.	Amanda Lowery	Atlantic View Elem.	Kimberley Aselstine	Colonel John Stuart Elem.	Heather Deighan	Colonel John Stuart Elem.	Adele Dionne	George Bissett Elem.	Rosella Fraser	Nelson Whynder Elem.	Dwayne Green	Nelson Whynder Elem.	Keri-Lee MacDonald	Robert Kemp Turner Elem.	Jennifer Collier	Robert Kemp Turner Elem.	Chris White	Robert Kemp Turner Elem.	Dawn Torrealba	Auburn Drive High	Susan Russell McGrath	Auburn Drive High	Corrie Anderson	Astral Drive J.H.	Margaret Rao	Astral Drive J.H.	Krista Dicks	Graham Creighton J.H.	
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<p>Heidi Stevenson Astral Drive Elem. Shannon Parsons Astral Drive Elem. Jill Warren Caldwell Road Elem. Jessica Quillan Caldwell Road Elem. Craig Hirtle Colby Village Elem. Peggy Jensen Colby Village Elem. Brenda Riley Humber Park Elem. Gale Downey Humber Park Elem. Beth Newton Joseph Giles Elem. Gina Conrod Joseph Giles Elem.</p> <p><i>Regrets:</i></p> <p>Laura Tait Bell Park Academic Centre Tammy Ewing Bell Park Academic Centre Coralee Dyck Cole Harbour District High Jennifer Trimm George Bissett Elem.</p> <p><i>Staff:</i></p> <p>Athena Leclair Halifax Regional School Board</p>	
<p>Review of May 8 Minutes:</p> <p>The May 8th meeting minutes were reviewed.</p> <p>It was moved and seconded (Conrod/Stevenson) to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2017 Auburn Drive High and Cole Harbour District High Families of Schools – School Options Committee Meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(CARRIED)</p>	<p>Minutes to be forwarded to HRSB for posting on website.</p>
<p>HRSB Update:</p> <p>It was noted that some maps depicting options would be available soon from the HRSB.</p> <p>Robert Wright, Facilitator, reported the HRSB had received an email from a school principal, expressing concern regarding the sensitivity of information being shared by that school’s SOC representative. Members were reminded to respect the sensitive nature of their discussions and the need to maintain confidentiality.</p> <p>Resources for the May 17, 2017 public meeting are in place.</p> <p>The Facilitators are still waiting for a response regarding the BLAC report as well as the environmental assessment.</p>	

Agenda Item and Discussion	Actions
<p>The Facilitators shared communication received from HRSB staff around the political announcement made this week.</p>	
<p>School Tour Update:</p> <p>Adele Dionne noted that the Auburn Family of Schools were viewed this past weekend and that the tours went well.</p> <p>Kimberley Aselstine noted that the school tours committee members learned a lot from the school tours. The schools tours were informative and members voiced their support of these taking place earlier in the process for all future school reviews.</p> <p>Thanks were given to those who committed to attending the school tours.</p>	<p>Facilitators to recommend to HRSB that school tours be conducted earlier in an SOC's timeline for future school reviews.</p>
<p>Liberal Media Release:</p> <p>Corrie Anderson, Co-Chair noted that Keith Colwell called to raise the SOC's awareness to the Liberal announcement regarding a review of the administrative structure of Nova Scotia school boards. This announcement can be found as <i>Appendix A</i> below. It was made clear that this is not a party policy, but rather a platform of the Liberal government, to be enacted upon being elected.</p> <p>The SOC was encouraged to disregard announcements made regarding political platforms, given the context and uncertainty of the outcome of such statements. A discussion ensued regarding whether or not to hold the public meeting this Wednesday, given the election. It was noted that if the SOC went to the public with options, it could sway the general public on how they may vote in the elections, which may be unethical.</p> <p>The Co- Chairs removed themselves from the Chair to participate in the discussion.</p> <p>It was moved and seconded (Conrod/Dionne) that the School Options Committee proceed with the Public Meeting on Wednesday, May 17th, 2017 given that our timeline ends June 11th, and there will be a government in place by that date.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(CARRIED)</p>	

Agenda Item and Discussion	Actions
<p>Elementary School Analysis:</p> <p>Thanks were given to Craig Hirtle for providing data for this evening's meeting. Craig Hirtle summarized the data and noted that the data came from the binder provided at the beginning of the review process.</p> <p>The Committee broke into groups to review the data provided. A conversation ensued regarding the motion about Colonel John Stuart made last week.</p> <p>It was moved and seconded (Russell McGrath/Stevenson) to examine all the elementary schools in our families of schools with the intention of considering realignment that is consistent with our mandate.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(CARRIED)</p>	
<p>Option Finalization:</p> <p>Each group relayed their options to the committee. Seven options were displayed on the screen for discussion and refinement. Members then voted on their preferred option. It was noted, after voting, that one of the options should have been split into two, therefore having eight options. A discussion ensued regarding if breaking the option into two options would change how members voted. It was concluded that the top three options would still be the same.</p> <p>The following options were voted as the three options to bring forward to the next public meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the School Options Committee present as an elementary option, that Ross Road Elementary becomes surplus, separated to Atlantic View and Bell Park and Colby Village Elementary. Robert Kemp Turner should also be surplus and that those students will go to Joseph Giles, George Bissett and Humber Park Elementary. Also recommended that George Bissett be an Early French Immersion to alleviate the Astral Drive Elementary out of area enrolment. 2. Recommending to close/ surplus Ross Road and the students be distributed to Bell Park and Atlantic View. 3. Colonel John Stuart be surplus, students go to George Bissett and Ross Road. Robert Kemp Turner be a Forest 	<p>Facilitators to contact the groups that provided the final three options to finalize the details of the options before the next public meeting. Once details are obtained, the facilitators will forward all necessary information to the SOC.</p>

Agenda Item and Discussion	Actions
<p>Hills French Immersion site to alleviate the over-capacity at Astral Drive Elementary.</p> <p>It was moved and seconded (Rao/Riley) to bring the three options forward to the next public meeting. (CARRIED)</p> <p>It was moved and seconded (Conrod/ to amend Option 1 so that Atlantic View Elementary and Colonel John Stuart become surplus and those students go to Ross Road therefore striking out the first part of Option 1 that reads <i>...that Ross Road Elementary becomes surplus, separated to Atlantic View and Bell Park and Colby Village Elementary.</i> (Motion lost for want of a seconder.)</p> <p>It was moved and seconded (Greene/Anthony) to amend Option 4 to add Atlantic View Elementary as a surplus with students redirected to Ross Road. (DEFEATED)</p>	<p>To be presented at the May 17th 2017 public meeting.</p>
<p>Public Meeting Design Discussion:</p> <p>It was noted that the next steps of the process should be distributed to the SOC members before the next public meeting.</p>	<p>Facilitators to distribute the next steps.</p>
<p>Final Decisions and Close:</p> <p>It was moved and seconded (MacDonald/Aselstine) for the next SOC meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 23, 2017. (CARRIED)</p> <p>It was moved and seconded (Rao/Conrod) to have HRSB staff at the SOC meeting on Tuesday, May 23, 2017. (CARRIED)</p>	<p>Facilitators to contact HRSB to arrange for staff to be at the next SOC meeting.</p>
<p>Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m. by consensus.</p>	

Appendix A

Liberals Review School Boards, Pause School Closures May 13th, 2017

A new Liberal government is committing to a full review of the administrative structures of school boards.

The recent decisions by boards to reduce classroom supports without looking into central administration savings illustrates the need for this kind of review. Student needs must be the central focus in resource decision-making.

The review will be designed to ensure resources are directed to front lines – while respecting the need to maintain local voices in the education system.

An additional reason for this decision is our commitment to offer a universal, pre-primary program to every four-year-old in Nova Scotia. This new initiative will require additional space in many schools.

Another factor is the recent decision announced by the teacher-led Council to Improve Classroom Conditions to continue the class cap policies for the remaining grades in the P-12 system. The Council has recommended that all classrooms in grades 7 to 12 will be capped, requiring the hiring of an additional 100 teachers in our school system. The Liberal Party supports this decision and recognizes the fact it will also add to the space required in schools as more classes will be created.

Therefore, until the school board review happens, a Liberal government will immediately pause all school review processes that do not involve facility replacement.

The full review of the administrative structures will be completed by the end of 2017. Any potential changes will be reflected prior to the 2018-19 school year.

<https://liberal.ns.ca/2017/05/13/liberals-review-school-boards-pause-school-closures/>