

Overview of High School and Junior High Options

A campus High school model be considered. This includes Grade 9- 12 in the current Auburn and Cole Harbour buildings under one administration.

The Junior high option suggests grades 7 – 8 in the Graham Creighton and Astral Drive Junior High buildings. Sir Robert Borden and Ross Rd buildings are surplus.

Rationale/Back ground information:

The two levels were considered jointly. A campus model for High schools will maximize infrastructure, including recent expenditures, enhance program opportunities and build community as the two student bodies integrate. Bringing two families of schools into a single new family is seen as a primary benefit. Further, the SOC carefully examined classroom/lab usage along with population predictions for the two high school buildings and did not want to exceed capacity usage limits. Construction of a new building is not a realistic recommendation, and so the dual campus is the recommendation.

Moving grade Nines into the high school helps increase the student population of the high school campus. A grade six to eight Middle School model was not considered as that would move grade Sixes into the Junior highs, negatively impacting the numbers /utilization of (some) feeder elementary.

The SOC also learned that at some of the smaller Junior high schools, grade levels with French Immersion are actually being combined now. That was not seen as ideal, and usually only occurs at an elementary level.

This Junior high option is an attempt to balance the opportunities for all Junior high students in the two Families of Schools and to mitigate the chances of small classes being combined with other grade levels.

Geography and location largely dictated the rest of the option.

Overview of Elementary School Options

1. Ross Road be surplus and students be distributed to Bell Park and Atlantic View.

Rationale/Back ground information:

Given that 81% of students are currently bussed, and 30% of students come from out of area, the SOC could consider recommending that Ross Road School be closed, with the elementary students distributed to Bell Park and Atlantic View. It was also considered was that with no changes, the enrolment at Ross Rd. is projected to continue declining to below 50 % by 2025. The capacity for the building is 456. The

capacity for Atlantic View and Colonel John combined is 385. In effect, we could eliminate more seats from the families under review and impact less schools at the same time with this option.

Having been advised that 142 of the 271 students currently attending here are in Grades 7-9, that leaves 129 elementary aged students. Bell Park actually has space for 181 additional students, and so the P-6's here do not need to be broken up at all, but can attend Bell Park together.

The 81% bus usage figure is from the SOC binders. SOC discussion suggested that the bus usage rate might in fact be even higher.

2. **Colonel John Stuart be surplus, and students go to George Bissett and Ross Road. Robert Kemp Turner become a Forest Hills French Immersion site to alleviate the over-capacity at Astral Drive Elementary.**

Rationale/Background information:

Col. John Stuart is surplus based on age, present condition and location. Students from there can be divided between George Bissett and Ross Rd. Also, it is proposed that RKT become a Forest Hills Early French Immersion site which would alleviate the over capacity at Astral Drive Elementary. The specific divide would be that streets west of John Stewart Drive join the George Bissett Elementary Family, and John Stewart Drive (inclusive) and streets east of John Stewart, go to Ross Road Elementary.

There could also be consideration for the bus along Bissett and side streets (e.g. Patrick Ln. and Brookview Dr. to go to Colby Village Elementary as per the original developer's indications, and upon consultation with those families affected.

Regarding the early French Immersion piece, this is a request for a third site to be offered at Robert Kemp Turner to address both the need in the Forest Hills community, as well as the over capacity issue at Astral Drive Elementary, If this is not possible for the HRSB to add, then a relocation of Bell Park's program to Ross Road would still allow for a greater utilization and would benefit families presently travelling to Astral Drive from Lawrencetown, etc. thereby reducing the over capacity issue there.

3. **Ross Road Elementary be surplus, and students distributed to Atlantic View and Bell Park and Colby Village Elementary. Robert Kemp Turner be surplus and that those students go to Joseph Giles, George Bissett and Humber Park Elementary. George Bissett become an Early French Immersion to alleviate the Astral Drive Elementary out of area enrollment.**

Rationale/ Background information:

Ross Rd Elementary becomes surplus, the student population is separated to:

- Atlantic View (from Gammon Lake Drive to the outer right edge of the Ross Rd boundary)
- Bell Park (from - not including – Gammon Lake Drive to the outer left edge of the Ross Road boundary) and,
- With the option for those closer to Colby Village Elementary to have access to that if they want to apply for out-of-area.

Robert Kemp Turner becomes surplus, the student population is separated to:

- Joseph Giles (from Highlander a line up through everything to the left inside the current boundary of RKT) **
- George Bissett (from Highlander a line up through, everything to the right inside the current boundary of RKT)
- Humber Park Elementary **Joseph Giles boundary change – everything from where Flying Cloud and Taranaki meet, a line directly through the top of that boundary now goes to Humber.

It was also recommended that George Bissett be an Early French Immersion to alleviate the Astral Drive Elementary out of area enrolment.

** All boundary shifts subject to HRSB population data.

Other details:

1. It has been noted that between 80% and 90% of students from Ross Road are bussed, so moving to the other two schools will have minimal affect on transportation for the majority of children.
2. Bell Park currently has a Before and After program run by the B&G club, while Atlantic View has a volunteer run program. We may want to consider recommending Excel be offered in one or both schools.
3. Breakfast programs are offered in both Bell Park and Atlantic View, so the children from Ross Road would not lose that service.
4. We will maintain walkability for the majority of children with the surplus of RKT, and for those who may now have to cross Forest Hills, there will be sufficient crossing guards in place to ensure the safety of the walkers.