



**MANY COMMUNITIES.
ONE FUTURE.**

Exploring the future of 17 schools
in the Auburn/Cole Harbour District area

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT #1

JANUARY 12TH, 2017

Cole Harbour Place – Westphal Room

Resources for the Public Meeting

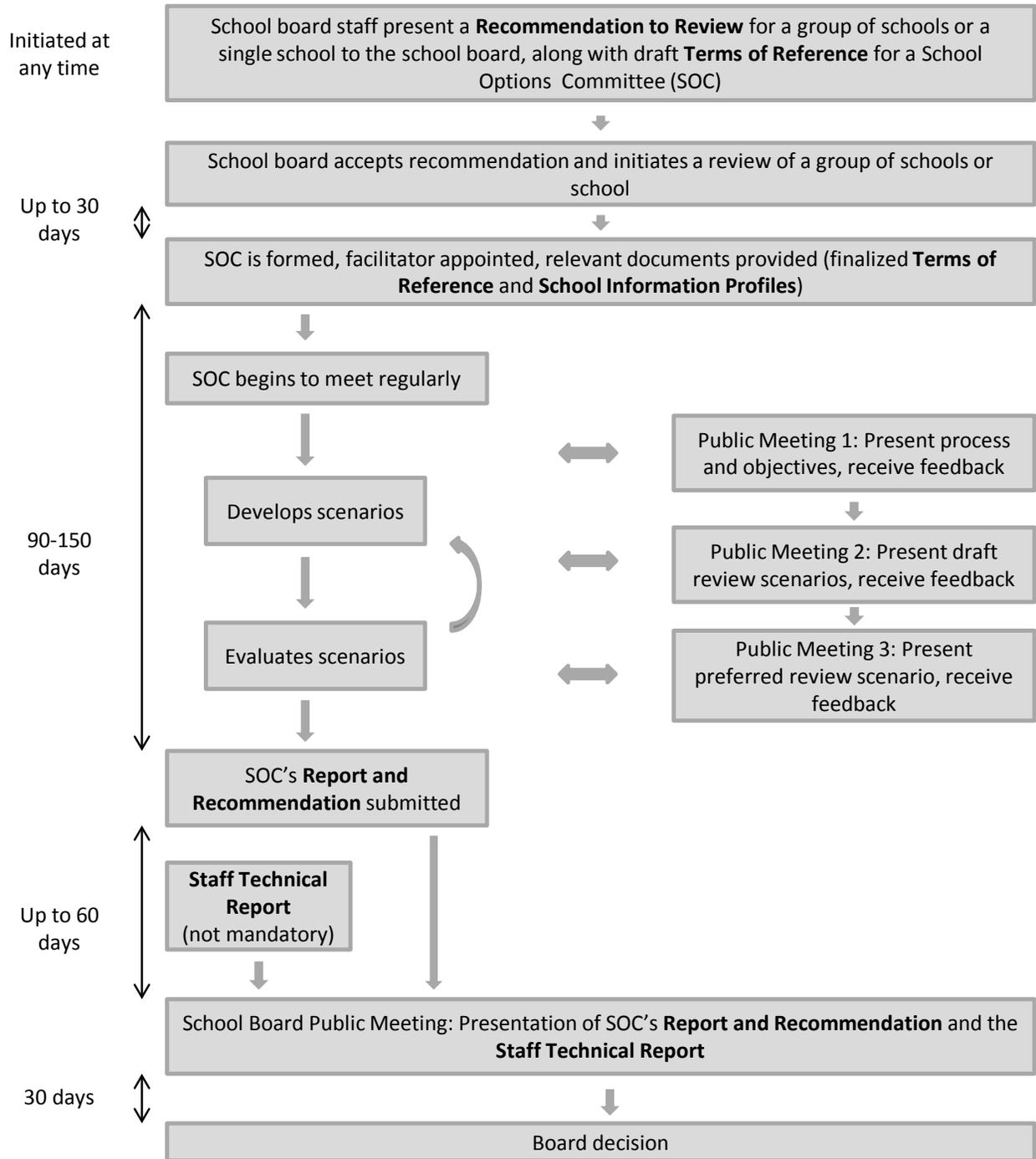
Introduction

In October 2014, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development introduced a new school review policy. The policy describes the process to be followed by a school board when the permanent closure of a public school is a possibility. The process places an emphasis on public engagement and collaboration.

The starting point for any school review process is a document known as the Long-Range Outlook (LRO). The LRO, which is updated annually, presents information to the public about the current and developing situation of their schools and the delivery of education programs and services. It provides both the school board and the community with an opportunity to discuss the future of education delivery for a group of schools.

A link to the full text of the school review policy, the Halifax Regional School Board's recommendation to review these families of schools, and the LRO can be found on the Halifax Regional School Board's website. The following graphic provides an overview of the Policy:

SCHOOL REVIEW PROCESS



The Schools Under Review

Auburn Drive High

Astral Drive Junior High

Graham Creighton Jr High

Astral Drive Elementary

Bell Park Academic Centre

Caldwell Road Elementary

Colby Village Elementary

Humber Park Elementary

Joseph Giles Elementary

Cole Harbour District High

Ross Road School

Sir Robert Borden Jr High

Atlantic View Elementary

Colonel John Stuart Elementary

George Bissett Elementary

Nelson Whynder Elementary

Robert Kemp Turner Elementary

Mandate

As per approval by the Governing Board motion, the mandate of the School Options Committee will be to:

- perform a Review of the schools named above from the Cole Harbour District High and Auburn Drive High Schools Family of Schools following the requirements of the provincial School Review Policy;
- provide a written report with recommendations, consistent with the review objectives and reference criteria, to the Governing Board through the Superintendent; and
- include in the report:
 - grade configuration of each school and
 - revised boundary or catchment areas
 - school(s) identified for permanent closure.

Review Objectives:

The circumstances identified in the provincial Policy that have led to this review are:

- reorganization involving a school or group of schools could enhance program and learning opportunities for students;
- reorganization involving a school or group of schools could optimize use of school facilities across the school board;

Therefore, the objective of the School Options Committee is to reduce excess capacity through a reorganization of the schools to optimize the use of school facilities in the Cole Harbour District High and Auburn Drive High Family of Schools while exploring options to enhance program, accessibility and learning opportunities for students.

The reduction of excess capacity must result in improved capacity utilization that approaches or meets the optimal utilization of 100% for elementary and junior high schools, and 85% for high schools as noted in the provincial School Review Policy.

Operating Principles and Filter Questions

The School Options Committee has established the following principles to guide their work:

- Student focused: Students are always to be the main beneficiaries of our work, through a focus on a quality education.
Question: Do students benefit the most from this recommendation/decision?
- Equity and Respect: Our work is to ensure all cross the same finish line, not just get to the same start line. We will consider how what we say and do impacts others and strive to minimize harm.
Question: Is this discussion/recommendation/ decision equitable? Respectful?
- Communities are important partners: While not the main beneficiary, schools and students reside in communities, and these communities are valued partners in this work.
Question: Has community impact been considered in this recommendation /decision?

- Sustained impact: Our work must be relevant today as well as ten years from now.

Question: Will this recommendation/decision have impact for the next ten years?

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What schools are part of this review?

A. The Auburn Drive/Cole Harbour District High Family of Schools review includes two high schools and their junior high and elementary feeder schools. The 17 schools which are part of this review are listed at the beginning of this document

Q. Why have these schools been selected and why is this review necessary?

A. Utilization of schools is a contributing factor. The Long Range Outlook data for these families of schools indicates that almost all schools are underutilized, many of them dramatically so. In one case, a school is over capacity.

Q. When did the review begin and when will it end?

A. The review began when the Governing Board approved the review of these families of schools on September 14, 2016. The review will end when the School Options Committee presents their Report and Recommendation to the Governing Board. According to policy, the deadline for submission is March 13, 2017

Q. What is the process to review these schools?

A. The process, including scope, timeline and milestones, for schools reviews is outlined in the provincial School Review Policy. After the Governing Board approved the review, HRSB hired a facilitator to support the review and created a School Options Committee. The School Options Committee will meet regularly throughout the review process and host three public meetings to explore a variety of scenarios to address infrastructure issues within these schools. A preferred scenario will be presented and discussed at the third and final public meeting on February 23, 2017, followed by a presentation to the Governing Board at a duly scheduled meeting.

Q. What is the goal of this review?

A. The objective of the School Options Committee is to identify schools underutilized and reorganize school use to optimize the use of school facilities in the Auburn Drive/ Cole Harbour District High Family of Schools.

Q. What will be included in the Final Report and Recommendation to the Government Board?

A. The report will include recommendations about:

- which schools are recommended for continued, long term use,
- grade and programme configuration of each school,
- which school(s) are recommended for permanent closure (if any), and
- recommendations for boundary adjustments to create school populations where identified need exists.

Q. What is the role of HRSB staff?

A. The primary role of staff is to provide information. Staff may include central office employees and Principals (or designates) of schools involved in the Review. All HRSB employees assigned to support the Review process are non-voting members of the School Options Committee.

Q. What is the role of the School Options Committee?

A. The mandate of the School Options Committee is to conduct a review of the identified schools within the Auburn Drive/ Cole Harbour High Family of Schools following the requirements of the provincial School Review Policy, and provide a written report with recommendations to the Governing Board through the Superintendent as described above

Q. When and where are the public meetings?

A. The School Options Committee will host a total of three public meetings over the course of the review. These meetings are planned to take place at Cole Harbour Place.

The meetings will be held from 6:30pm - 9pm on the following dates are:

- Public Meeting #1 - January 12th, 2017
- Public Meeting #2 - February 1nd, 2017
- Public Meeting #3 - February 23rd, 2017

Snow dates for these meetings will be the Monday evening following the scheduled date. A “snow date” meeting will occur at Cole Harbour High School.

Q. What is the School Review Policy and where can I read more about the new School Review Policy?

A. In October 2014 the province approved the provincial School Review Policy for use by all school boards. The policy contains sixteen directives (A to P) boards must follow during a school review process. A link to the policy is available on HRSB’s website.

Q. Is there a website with more information about the Auburn Drive/ Cole Harbour District High Family of Schools’ Review?

A. Documents, including SOC meeting agendas, notes and presentations will be uploaded to the HRSB website. Other information can be found on the school review facebook page: “Many Communities. One Future.”

Q. Will class sizes decrease, increase or stay status quo?

A. Class size guidelines are determined by provincial policy. This school review will not result in class sizes falling outside of these guidelines.

Q. Will schools be closing?

A. When school under-utilization is a significant reason calling a school review, it is possible that schools will close.

Q. Will my school be closing?

A. Determining how schools will be affected and how learning environments will be improved is the primary purpose of a school review. We need your help in making these decisions.

Q. Will transportation improvements or changes be considered in the discussion and will my child need to walk further distances?

A. Though school boundaries for schools recommended for continued use may be adjusted, school walking distance and bussing policies will not change. “Walkability” of elementary schools has been a large part of discussions to date.

Q. How will recommendations about schools remaining open and schools closed be made?

A. The recommendations made by the SOC to the HRSB will be guided by the framework provided by the provincial school review policy, the mandate established by the HRSB when they recommended these families of schools for review, the data provided in the LRO, the operating principles the SOC established to guide their work, and the input of the public through public meetings.

Q. Will the French Immersion Programme be affected?

A. French Immersion is a programme that is available to most students within HRSB. The goal of this review is to improve the utilization of schools to support improved delivery of programmes, including French Immersion.

Q. How can I ask more questions?

A. The public meetings provide opportunities for you to ask your questions. We encourage you to write your questions down or share them during the appropriate time. They will be collected by the facilitators, answered in future meetings, or in information circulated as the work continues.

Emails can be sent to the facilitators of this school review through this email address: adchreview2016-17@hrsbc.ca

Inquiries about the school review policy itself can be directed to the Department of Education:

Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
2021 Brunswick Street
P.O. Box 578
Halifax, NS B3J 2S9
Tel: (902) 424-5168
Toll free: 1-888-825-7770
Fax: (902) 424-0511

A link to send an email is available on their website at: www.ednet.ns.ca/contact-us

Inquiries related to school issues outside of the scope of this review can be directed to staff of HRSB:

Halifax Regional School Board
33 Spectacle Lake Drive, Dartmouth, NS B3B 1X7
Tel: (902) 464-2000

A detailed directory of staff is available on their website at: www.hrsb.ca/contact