



December 1, 2015

Parents/Guardians,

On December 16, there will be two reports on the school board agenda that I want to bring to the attention of all parents/guardians in the Cole Harbour Family of Schools:

- Report #2015-10-42: Recommendation to Review – Eastern Passage High School Family of Schools
- Report #2015-10-41: Recommendation to Review – Cole Harbour District High School Family of Schools

These reports are being brought forward to respond to the creation of the new Eastern Passage High School. With the new high school boundary and grade configuration now established, a review must take place for the junior high and elementary schools that will feed into the new high school to determine if there needs to be any changes to the existing boundaries and grade levels in each school. This is the purpose of Report #2015-10-42 and you can read the full report at: <http://www.hrsb.ca/sites/default/files/hrsb/2015-10-42.pdf> .

For the remaining schools in the Cole Harbour Family, a similar process must occur to address the impact of this redistribution of students. This could mean changes to boundaries, changes to how schools are configured by grade level and changes to program delivery. It could also lead to capital investment in existing schools and possibly, down the road, to recommendations to close schools. You can review Report #2015-10-41 at: <http://www.hrsb.ca/sites/default/files/hrsb/2015-10-41.pdf> .

I don't want to cause undue concern at this point or predetermine what the outcome of a school review process might be, but I do want to keep you informed.

If the governing board approves the recommendations to initiate these reviews, a School Options Committee (SOC) will be formed. The SOC is a committee made up of School Advisory Council (SAC) chairs, SAC parent members, principals, community members, school board staff and others that will review the schools and make recommendations to the board. The committee can recommend several things – whether we need to look at making major capital improvements to any of the schools; whether any schools should close or consolidate; and whether we need to make any changes to the grade configuration of the schools.

The school review process can take between six and nine months to complete. It is a process established by the provincial Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) and includes a set of criteria and guidelines that school boards must follow. If you are interested in learning more about school reviews, visit the EECD website at: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/schoolreview/> .

I understand some may be worried about what this could mean for their children and their community. I hope it will be a positive process. You can reach me at [njakeman@hrsbc.ca](mailto:njakeman@hrsbc.ca) or 902-717-0777 and I will try to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Nancy Jakeman  
Board Member, District 2: Cole Harbour - Dartmouth East