

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I have some exciting news to share regarding the new school.

On January 19, the provincial government announced its 2016-17 Capital Plan. This is a document that outlines all of the construction projects the government will undertake in the next fiscal year, starting on April 1. Included in the Capital Plan is the new school to replace LeMarchant-St. Thomas. I know everyone in the community is pleased to see this project move one step closer to reality.

Earlier this week, the first school steering team (SST) meeting was held at the school. The SST is a group that serves in an advisory role during the design of the school. The team will be asked to provide input to the provincial government for consideration during the design process. In attendance at this meeting were officials from the Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB), the provincial government as well as Judy Obersi and David Jakeman from the School Advisory Council. I also attended, as did HRM Councillor Waye Mason and MLA Joachim Stroink.

The SST will be meeting on a regular basis with next meeting scheduled for February 4. For the next meeting, we will be visiting Waverley Memorial Elementary School to see first-hand the kind of design features that are available in new schools. Final decisions on the design of the school rest with the provincial government but we will have the opportunity talk about potential enhancements with both the province and HRM.

The meetings of the SST are working meetings and not open to the public but minutes will be kept and will be posted on the HRSB website once they are approved. You can keep up-to-date on the project at www.hrsb.ca/about-hrsb/operations-services/capital-projects/new-halifax-south-peninsula-p-6.

There will be more information to share with you in the coming weeks and months regarding the transition to former Beaufort building for next September. A committee, separate from the SST, has been formed to facilitate the move and we have already begun planning. As information is finalized, I will ensure you are informed in a timely manner.

I have also had some inquiries regarding what the name of the new school will be. This has not been decided. The HRSB has a policy for naming schools and it is a process led by the principal. This will be something we initiate soon after construction on the school starts. If you are interested, more information on naming schools can be found on the HRSB website at: <http://www.hrsb.ca/sites/default/files/hrsb/Downloads/pdf/board/policy/sectionA/A.001-naming-school-facilities.pdf>

Thank you for attention. More information will be shared as it becomes known.

Jeanne Boudreau
Principal, LeMarchant-St. Thomas Elementary