



South Shore Regional School Board

Recommendation to Review Bridgewater and Park View Families of Schools

“Inspiring our students to reach their full potential”

An abstract graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of several overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in shades of blue and grey, creating a modern, architectural feel.

2015

Recommendation to Review Bridgewater and Park View Families of Schools

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART A:

School Information

Bridgewater Family of Schools 2

Park View Family of Schools 4

Rational for the Review 6

Recommendation..... 7

PART B:

Proposed Timeline for Review..... 8

PART C:

School Options Committee Terms of Reference

Mandate 9

Review Objective 9

Reference Criteria 10

Membership..... 11

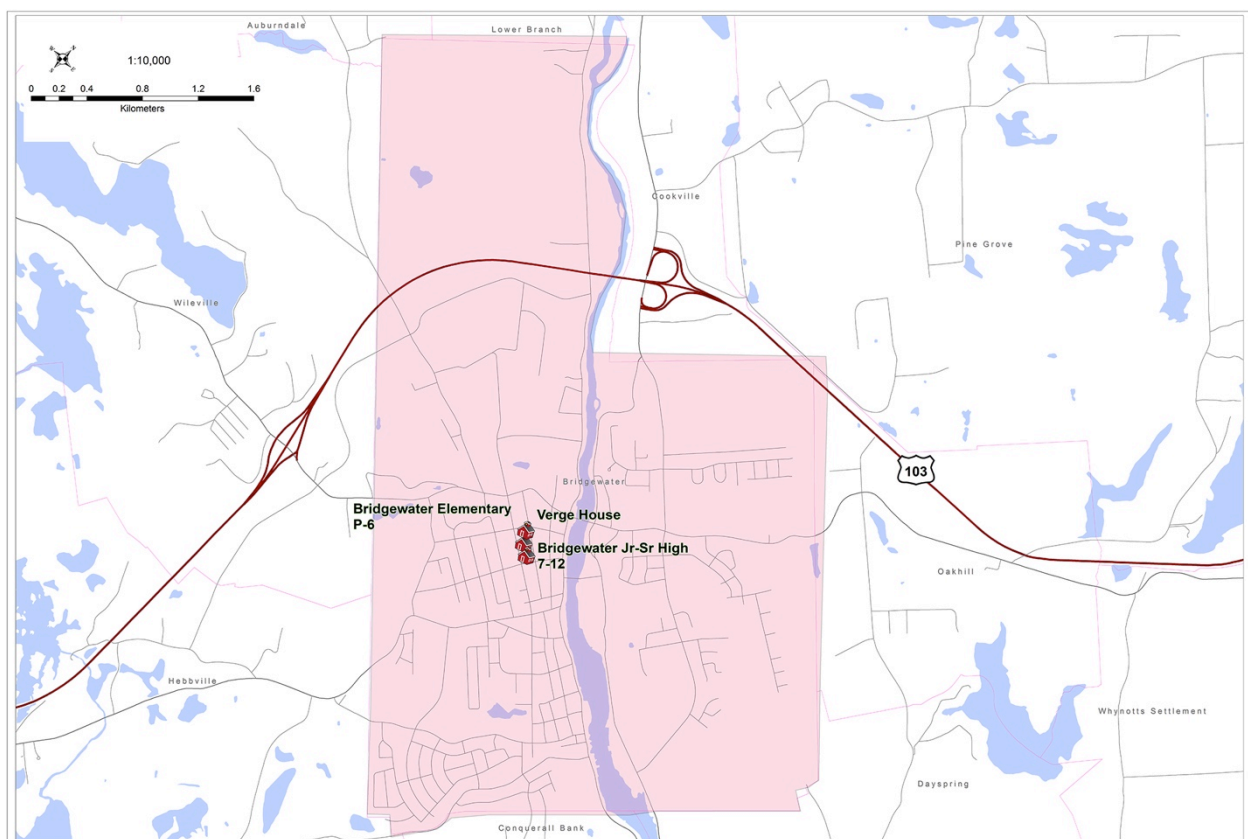
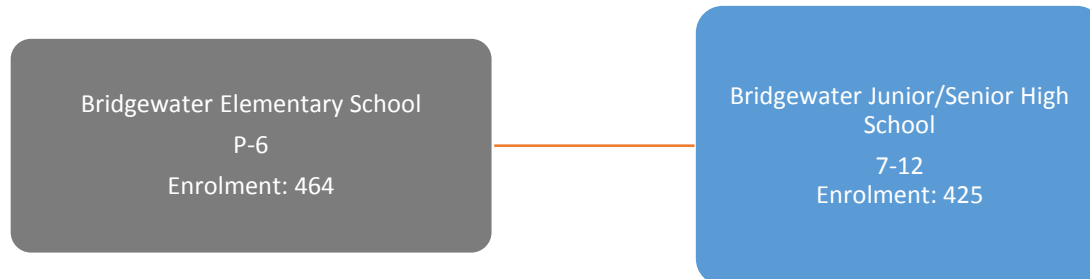
Procedures 12

Schedule 14

Recommendation to Review Bridgewater and Park View Families of Schools

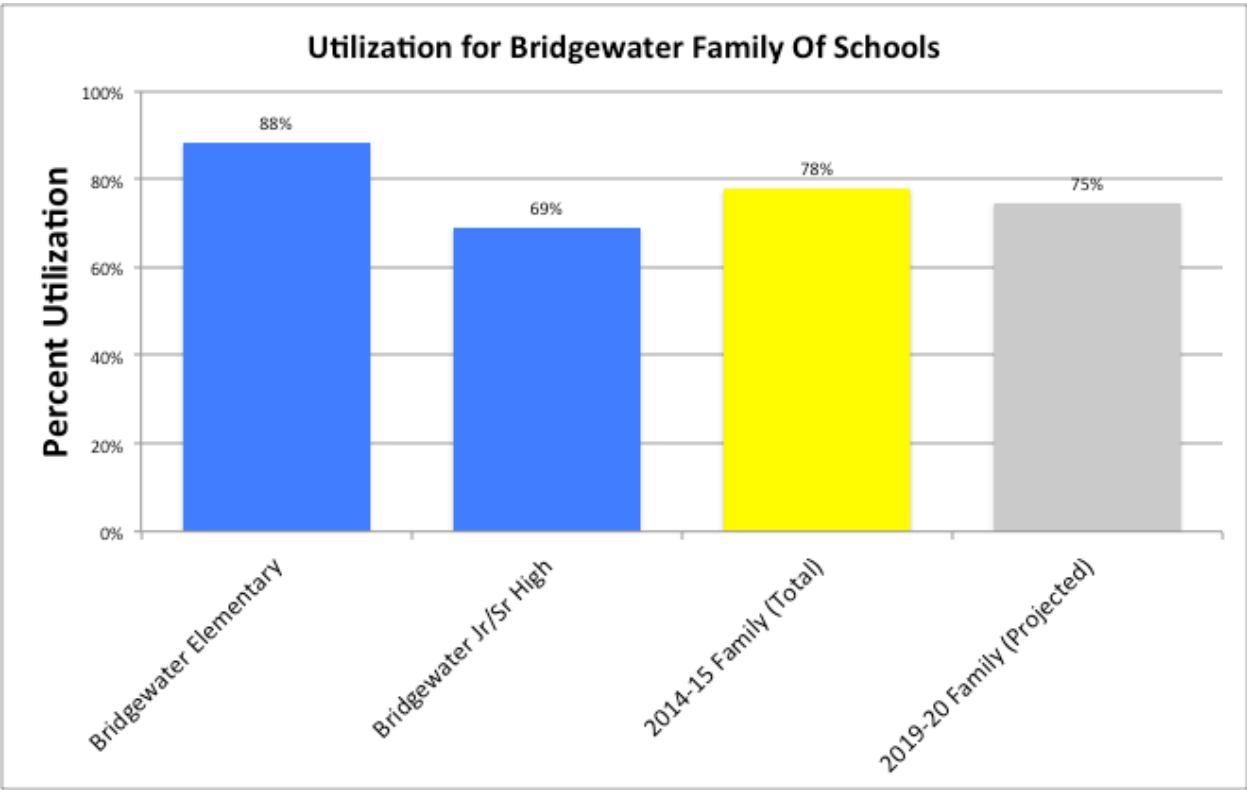
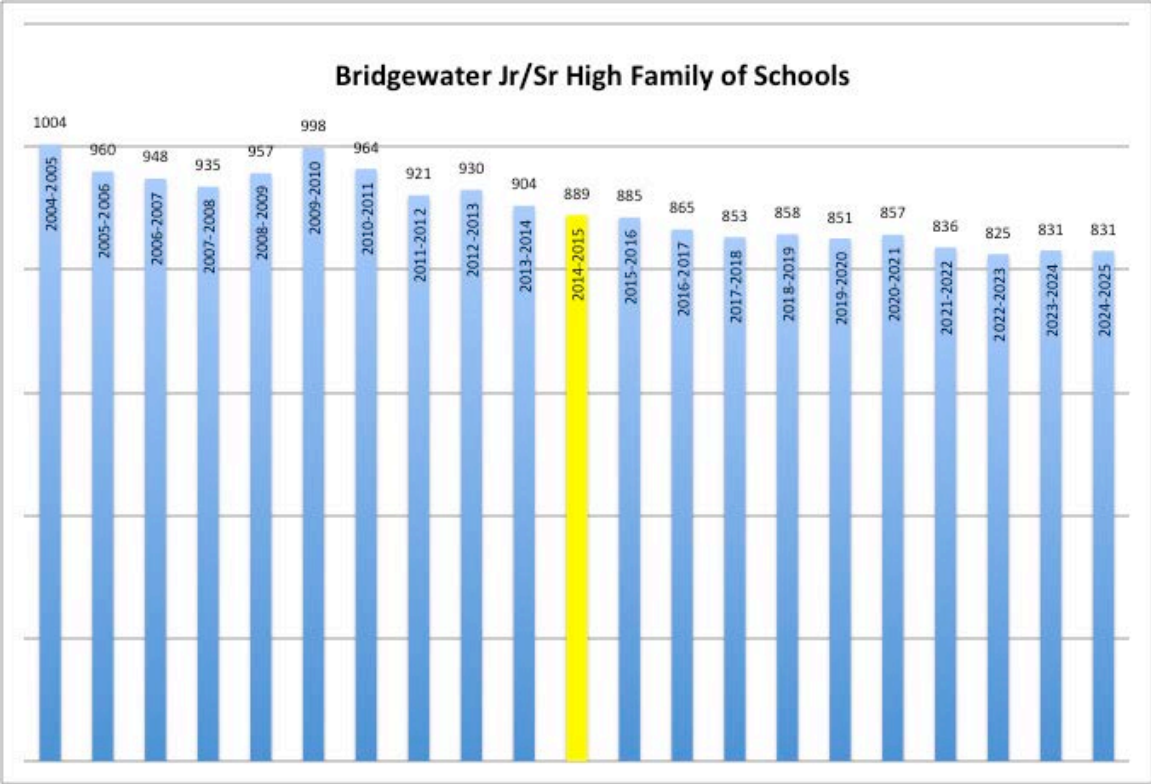
PART A: School Information

Bridgewater Family of Schools



Reference: SSRSB Long Range Outlook 2015, p. 31

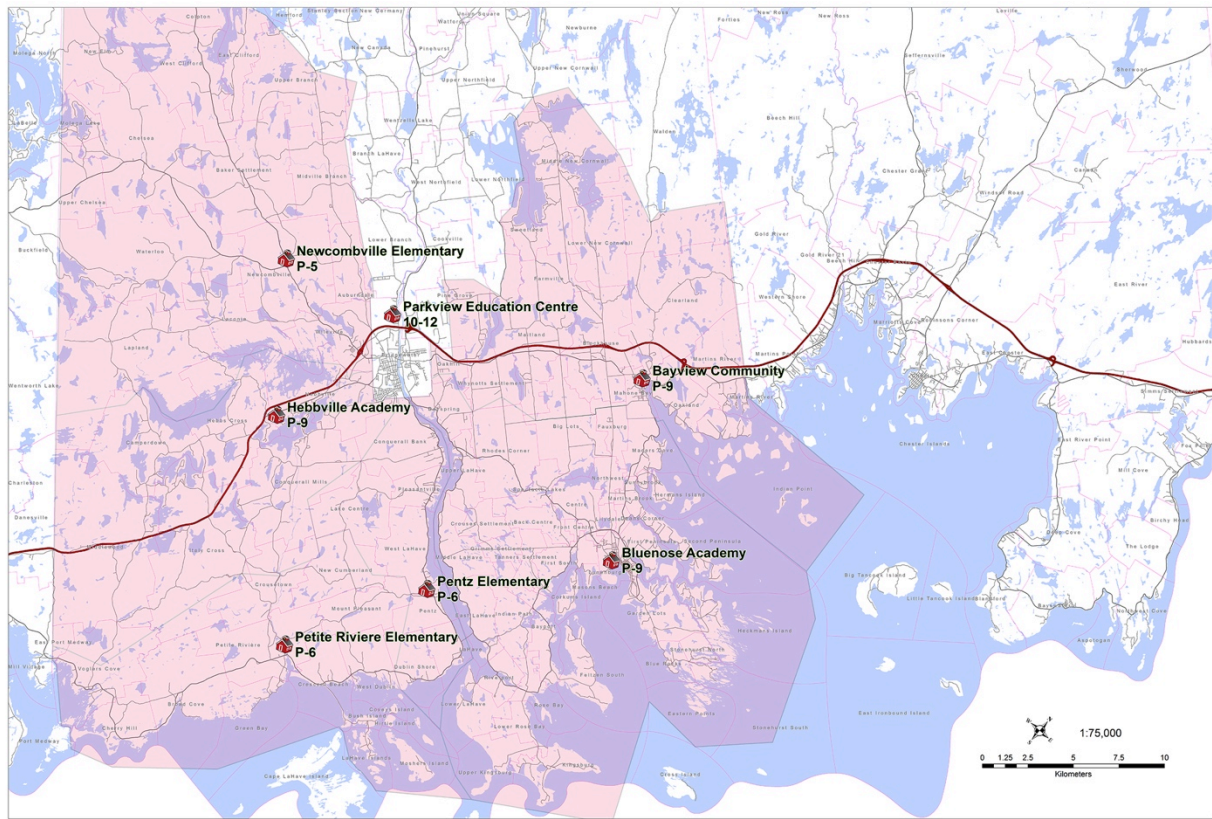
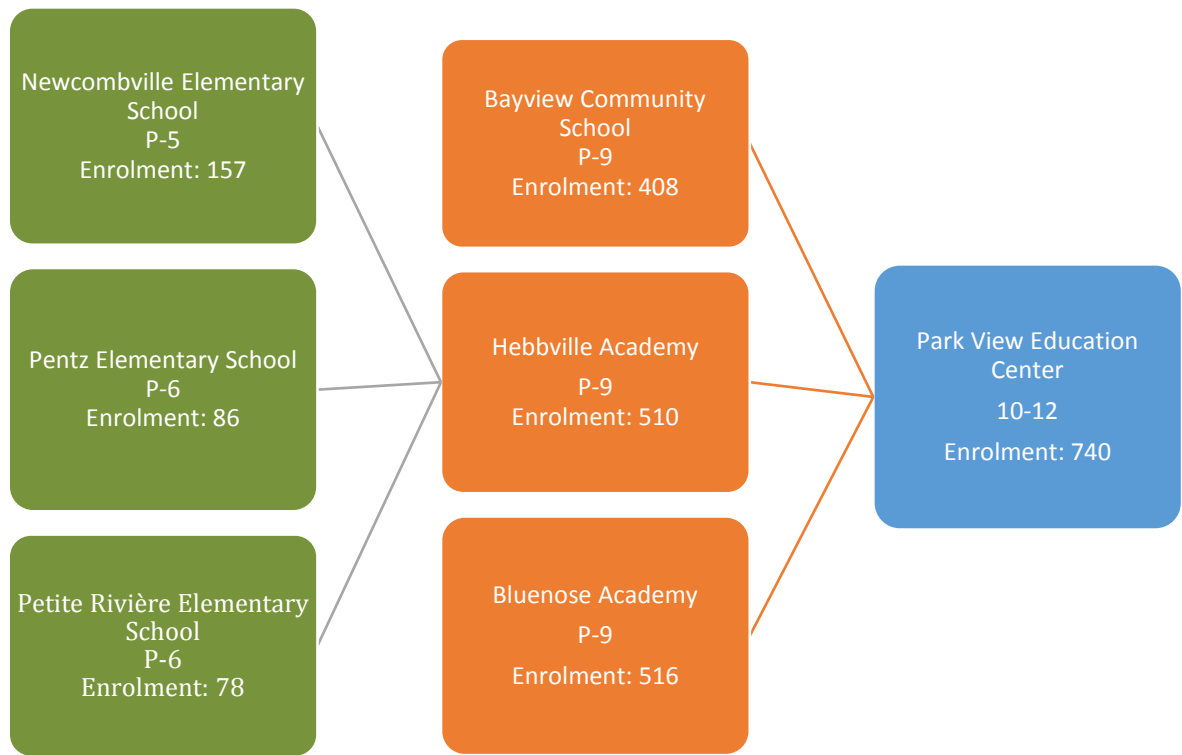
Recommendation to Review Bridgewater and Park View Families of Schools



Reference: SSRSB Long Range Outlook 2015, p. 32

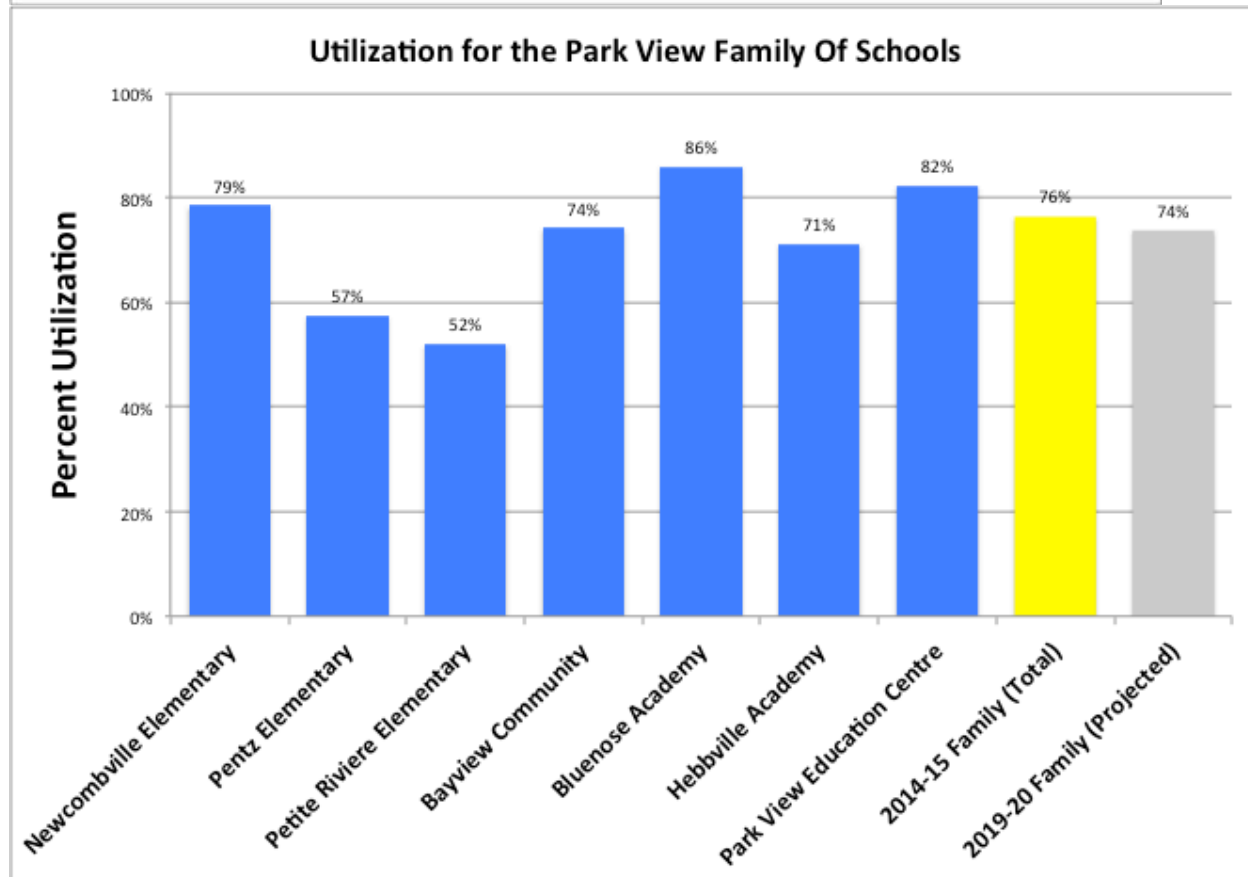
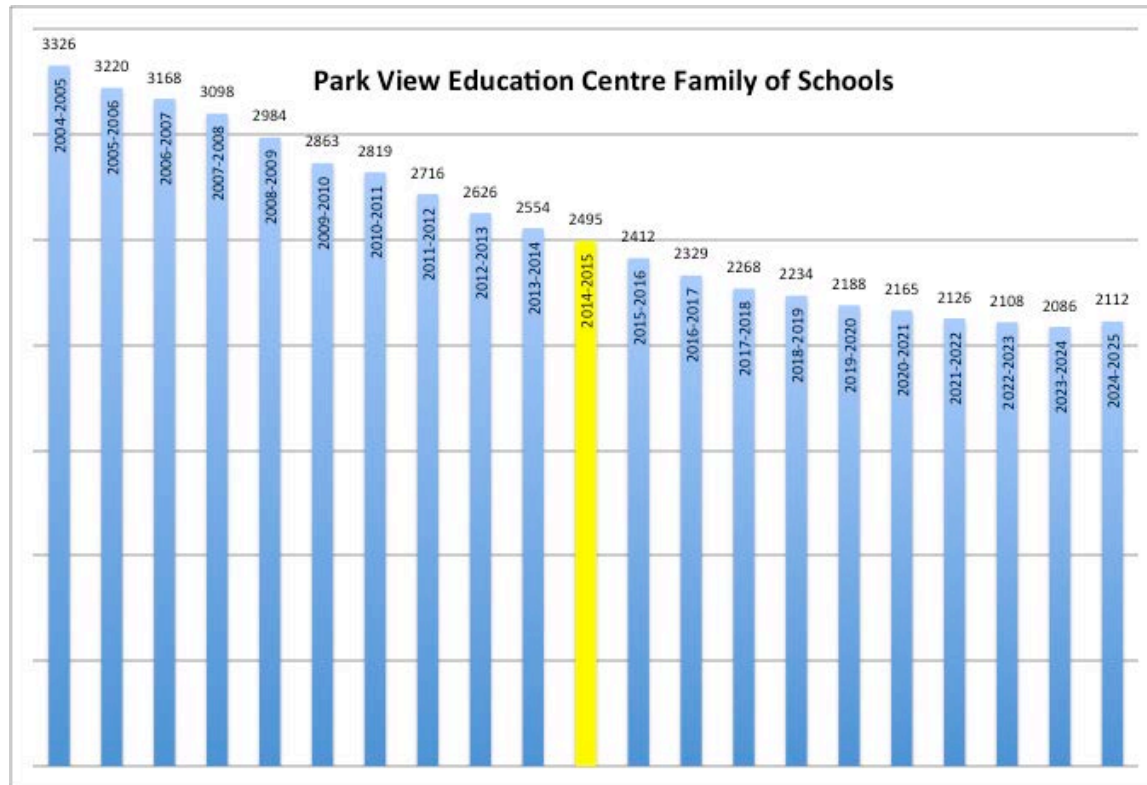
Recommendation to Review Bridgewater and Park View Families of Schools

Park View Family of Schools



Reference: SSRSB Long Range Outlook 2015, p. 73

Recommendation to Review Bridgewater and Park View Families of Schools



Reference: SSRSB Long Range Outlook 2015, p. 74

Recommendation to Review Bridgewater and Park View Families of Schools

Rationale for the Review:

The 2015 *SSRSB Long Range Outlook* recommended a school review for Bridgewater Family of Schools, within one year, to examine “catchment area, cross boundary registrations, facility utilization, operational costs, grade configurations, and program options,” (p. 106). It also recommended a school review for the Park View Family of Schools, within one year, to examine “catchment area, cross boundary registrations, facility utilization, operational costs, grade configurations, program options, and P3 renewal (Bayview Community School),” (p. 110).

The rationale for doing the school reviews for these two families together, as one review, is based on their geographic closeness. The Bridgewater Family of Schools is almost completely surrounded by the Park View Family of Schools. Students in and just outside the Town of Bridgewater attend schools in both families. It is logical to explore various solutions to identified issues (catchment areas, cross boundary registrations, etc.) for both families at the same time.

A school review would include a review of school catchment areas for Bridgewater and Park View Families of Schools. The present catchment areas for the Bridgewater and Park View families of schools were defined by municipalities prior to 1982. When the Province of Nova Scotia consolidated responsibility for the education of students from the municipal entities into a single school board (*SSRSB Long Range Outlook, 2015*, p.105), catchment boundaries were not changed. Demographics have changed over thirty-three years. The old catchment areas no longer serve the students residing around the Town of Bridgewater. These students are attending schools much further from their place of residence than necessary (*Transportation Department Route Planning Data 2015*). Travel times dictated by catchment areas are longer than they would be if some of these students attended a school across the catchment boundary in the Bridgewater Family of Schools. A review of school catchment areas for the Bridgewater and Park View Families will explore solutions to this issue.

Another justification for a review of school catchment areas is the fact that one of the Park View Family of Schools – Park View Education Centre - is located inside the Town of Bridgewater. Students attending this high school generally come from outside the town. Students living inside the town are obligated by catchment areas to attend Bridgewater Junior/Senior High School. A school review could propose solutions for these two high schools that would optimize the programming options available for students residing in the area.

Changes in school catchment areas may necessitate a review of grade configurations for the schools involved. This issue will be explored by the school review process.

The ability of students to access courses they want would be another focus of a school review. Park View Education Centre is the most recently renovated school in the South Shore Regional School Board. When completed in 2017/2018, the renovated facility will include up-to-date, well equipped learning spaces to accommodate 900 students. However, the enrolment in this school, as defined by the current catchment areas, is projected to decrease to 56% over the next ten years (*SSRSB Long Range Outlook, 2015*, p.109). With this decrease in enrolment, the variety of course selection will be impacted. Already, the variety of course selections is limited at nearby Bridgewater Junior/Senior

Recommendation to Review Bridgewater and Park View Families of Schools

High School because of low enrolment (*SSRSB Long Range Outlook, 2015, p.106*). There were 245 grades 10 – 12 students registered in 2014/2015. Consequently, with low enrolment, and fewer teachers, there are possible limitations on course selection. A review of school catchment areas for the Bridgewater and Park View Families will explore solutions to this issue.

It is important to note that in 2013, the Board submitted a business case to the Province asking for funding (12.83 million) for major upgrades to Park View Education Centre. The specifics of this business case stated that students from Bridgewater Junior/Senior High School may be consolidated into Park View Education Centre. It follows, therefore, that solutions resulting from a school review would consider this recommendation.

In 2013, a decision was made to close both Petite Rivière Elementary School and Pentz Elementary School. The anticipated closures of these schools will result in approximately 150 students needing to be accommodated in other schools. Increasing enrolment in schools may necessitate a review of grade configurations. A school review of Bridgewater and Park View Family of Schools will explore solutions to these issues.

The lease for Bayview Community School, a privately-owned P3 school, expires October 31, 2020. A notice of intent for future use is required to be communicated to the owner by October 31, 2017. A school review process of Park View Family of Schools will explore solutions for this issue.

Operating costs for Bluenose Academy are greater than any other school in the South Shore Regional School Board. A school review process of Park View Family of Schools will explore solutions for this issue.

Presently, both families have a combined excess capacity for over 1,000 additional students. This is space the South Shore Regional School Board must maintain, heat and clean. Ten years from now, the excess capacity is projected to be even greater. This excess capacity, together with the geographic closeness of the two families, the outdated catchment area boundaries, the possible limited course selection for high school students, and the Provincial Government requirement to provide a notice of intent for the P3 Schools by October 31, 2017, all necessitate that a school review be completed for these two families.

Recommendation:

It is the recommendation of the staff of the South Shore Regional School Board that the governing Board initiate a school review for the Bridgewater and Park View Families of Schools.

Recommendation to Review Bridgewater and Park View Families of Schools

PART B: Proposed Timeline for the Review

*This timeline is presented under the assumption the Board chooses to initiate the School Review. Should the Board not initiate a review the timeline does not apply.

DATE	DURATION	ACTIVITY
Oct 28, 2015		School Board accepts <i>A Recommendation to Review</i> submitted by the Superintendent. A review of Bridgewater and Park View Families of Schools is initiated.
Oct 29 to Nov 27, 2015	Up to 30 days	A School Options Committee (SOC) is formed, a facilitator is appointed, and relevant documents (<i>Terms of Reference</i> and <i>School Information Profiles</i>) are provided.
Nov 28 to Mar 27, 2016	Up to 122 days	SOC conducts the review. It meets regularly to develop and evaluate scenarios, holds 3 public meetings (as outlined in the <i>School Review Process</i>) and prepares Report and Recommendation .
Mar 28, 2016	Up to 31 days	SOC submits Report and Recommendations to the superintendent. Staff submits Staff Technical Report (optional).
Apr 27, 2016		SOC facilitator and chair present the Report and Recommendations at a public school board meeting.
Apr 28 to May 25, 2016	Up to 28 days	School Board makes a final decision about recommendations made by the SOC for Bridgewater and Park View Families of Schools, at a public school board meeting.

Recommendation to Review Bridgewater and Park View Families of Schools

PART C: Terms of Reference for the School Options Committee (SOC)

Date: October 2015	
School(s) under review:	<p>List the names of the schools included in the review.</p> <p>Bridgewater Family of Schools: Bridgewater Elementary School Bridgewater Junior/Senior High School</p> <p>Park View Family of Schools: Newcombville Elementary School Pentz Elementary School Petite Rivière Elementary School Bayview Community School Hebbville Academy Bluenose Academy Park View Education Center</p>

Mandate:

Provide a statement of the purpose of the School Options Committee.

1. The School Options Committee will conduct a review, with public consultation, of Bridgewater and Park View Families of Schools. The review will include – catchment area, cross boundary registrations, facility utilization, operational costs, grade configuration, program options and P3 renewal recommendation.
2. The School Options Committee will submit a Report and Recommendations to the School Board which will inform the Board's final decision.

Review Objectives:

State all objectives for the review as determined by the school board.

1. Make recommendation to the Board that optimizes high school programming options and choices for all students.
2. Review school catchment areas as defined in the Catchment Area Policy.
3. Consider facility utilization and operational costs when making recommendations.
4. Make recommendation to the Board regarding school grade configuration at all schools.
5. Determine whether Bayview Community School will be needed beyond 2020.

Recommendation to Review Bridgewater and Park View Families of Schools

Reference Criteria:

List existing policies, positions, or factors that the School Options Committee needs to be aware of in the development of review scenarios.

1. [Education Act: School Review Policy](#) (2014, p. 89)
2. [SSRSB Policy #310: Student Transportation](#)
3. [SSRSB Policy#201: Student Transfers](#)
4. [SSRSB Policy #225: Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding, and Human Rights](#)
5. [SSRSB Draft Policy: School Catchment Area](#)
6. Provincial Class Size Initiative
7. Financial sustainability of programming

Recommendation to Review Bridgewater and Park View Families of Schools

Membership:

Outline of the membership of the School Options Committee (categories of members and the number of members).

The School Options Committee (SOC) will comprise of voting and non-voting members as outlined below. Appointments to the SOC will be for the duration of the review. The school board and the superintendent are responsible for forming the School Options Committee.

Voting		
	School Advisory Council (SAC) representatives	Two SAC members from each Bridgewater School and two SAC members from each School within the Park View Family of Schools.
	Community/business representatives	Two community/business representatives from the region who are not elected officials, parents of impacted students, or employees of the school board.
Non-Voting		
	School Board Staff	Central school board staff (facilities, programs, etc.) as determined by the school board superintendent.
	Other Members	<p>The superintendent may also request representatives from the following groups to join the SOC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The principal (or designate) from each school identified as part of the review; • Planning staff from those municipalities in which the schools under review are located; and • Representatives of other directly impacted groups in the school region, as determined by the superintendent.

Reference: School Review Policy, Directive D

Recommendation to Review Bridgewater and Park View Families of Schools

Procedures:

Outline the procedures of the School Options Committee with respect to the structure of meetings, the election and authority of the chair, and decision-making.

A facilitator will be appointed by the superintendent from a roster maintained by the Department. The role of the facilitator is to guide and support the School Operations Committee in fulfilling its mandate.

The role of the facilitator is distinct from the role of the chair. He or she does not have decision-making capacity but will assist the members of the committee to effectively communicate, collaborate and, where possible, achieve consensus. The facilitator will assist the chair in ensuring that meeting agendas are followed and that members are engaged and on-task.

Reference: School Review Policy, Directive E

A chair will be elected from among the voting members of the School Options Committee within the first two working meetings of the SOC. The school board will provide the individual elected as chair with information on his or her role, i.e. on standard meeting procedures. Generally, the chair will be responsible for ensuring that the committee follows the meeting agendas, that the established norms are maintained, and that correct decision-making procedures are followed.

Reference: School Review Policy, Directive H

The committee should establish group norms at the beginning of the review process outlining expectations for individual committee members' participation on the SOC.

The School Options Committee will meet regularly ("working meetings") to consider, create, evaluate and refine solutions to the issues identified in the Recommendation to Review. Working meetings of the SOC are not public meetings. Non-members may attend meetings if they are invited by the SOC. The SOC may, from time to time, invite individuals to the working meetings in order to assist the committee with its work.

Minutes of key decisions and key actions will be taken by a member of the SOC at each meeting and approved at subsequent SOC meetings. Minutes will be posted on the School Board's website as soon as they have been approved, along with any presentation material provided to or by the SOC.

Reference: School Review Policy, Directive I

It is recommended that decisions of the SOC be determined by consensus. When a consensus vote cannot be reached, a vote will determine the decision under consideration. When a vote

Recommendation to Review Bridgewater and Park View Families of Schools

occurs, a majority will consist of 50 percent plus 1 of all the voting members present at the meeting the day the vote is held. A quorum consists of 50 percent of the voting members of the SOC. A reconsideration vote requires assent of the reconsidered decision by a 2/3 majority of all voting members. Once a vote has been taken, it represents the decision of the SOC.

Reference: School Review Policy, Directive L

Outline of the procedures to be followed for public meetings and the responsibilities of the School Options Committee respecting public consultation.

The School Options Committee will hold at least three public meetings to present its work and seek input and feedback about the review scenarios under consideration.

Public meetings must be well publicized through a range of methods and preferably held at the schools under review. All public meetings must be advertised at least two weeks prior to the meeting date.

The SOC must ensure that a wide range of school and community groups are invited to participate at public meetings. These groups may include School Advisory Council members, parents, guardians, students, and staff of the schools involved in the review, as well as the local communities and other interested parties.

Public meetings should begin with an explanation of the school review process, including the mandate of the SOC, and a summary of the work conducted to date. The objectives and reference criteria of the review should be outlined. Opportunities for members of the public to speak and, where possible, for dialogue with SOC members must be provided. Public meetings will be facilitated by the facilitator appointed to support the SOC.

A summary of public contributions will be taken by a member of the SOC at each public meeting and approved at subsequent SOC meetings. Summaries will be posted on the school board's website as soon as they have been approved, along with any presentation materials provided to or by the SOC, in a dedicated section for each ongoing review.

Reference: School Review Policy, Directive J

The school board and the School Options Committee are to work together to ensure that all information relevant to the review is made public by posting it in a prominent location on the school board's website and making it available in print upon request.

Reference: School Review Policy, Directive K

Recommendation to Review Bridgewater and Park View Families of Schools

Schedule:

Provide a timeline for the review, in accordance with Ministerial Policy.

The timeline for the review will be 182 days and include the following:

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Mar 28, 2016	Up to 31 days	SOC submits Report and Recommendations to the superintendent. Staff submits Staff Technical Report (optional).
Apr 27, 2016		SOC facilitator and chair present the Report and Recommendations at a public school board meeting.
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