

**South Shore Regional School Board
School Review 2015-2016
BHS/PVEC School Options Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 11, 2016
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

1. Record of Attendance

In attendance – Gary Walker, Heather Mackenzie-Carey, Shelley Mann, Stephanie Martin, Siobhan Doyle, Tina Grace, Melissa Risser, Hope Demone, Sarah Tingley, Andrea McGinnis, Kim Benjamin, Palma Champoux, Iris Charlton, Allen Sullivan, Pam Hebb (in part), Anne Burgess, John Biebesheimer, Erica Moore, Leif Helmer (in part), Cheryl Veinotte

Mitch Foley and Suzanne Mosher were absent.

2. Review of Agenda

MOTION by Melissa Risser, seconded by Kim Benjamin, to approve the Agenda.

Motion Carried

3. Minutes of January 21, 2016 (revisions and approval)

MOTION by John Biebesheimer, seconded by Erica Moore, to approve the Minutes.

Motion Carried

4. Boundaries

As requested by the Committee, Gilbert Jackson reviewed information obtained from Bus Planner around travel times for students if the boundaries of the schools in Bridgewater and schools with connecting boundaries (Bayview, Bluenose, Pentz, Hebbville, and Newcombville) were changed, identifying which students would have a shorter or the same amount of time on the bus by being sent to the Bridgewater schools, with no additional cost to the Board.

5. Debrief of February 2, 2016 Public Meeting

The following scenario was brought forward at the February 2 public meeting: move all students from Bayview Community School to Bridgewater Elementary and Junior High Schools.

Board Members and staff will be asked to attend the next two public meetings.

6. Attendance at Public Meetings

At the request of the public and Committee Members, School Board Members and staff have been asked to attend the next public meetings; they may sit at the front to be better able to answer questions. Committee Members are expected to attend and they may sit in the audience.

7. Re-schedule Third Public Meeting

Due to the public's request to have Board Members attend the public meetings, the third and final meeting had to be re-scheduled and will take place on March 30.

8. Information requested

- A. Staffing based on a scenario that moves the grade 9 students from PVECs feeder schools into PVEC
Tina Munro ran this additional scenario and noted that all permanent teachers can be placed.
- B. The percentage of permanent teachers versus the percentage of term teachers (from Human Resources)
The percentage of term teachers in the three schools ranges from 2-7%, averaging about 5%. This changes year-to-year, but is a guideline.
- C. A map indicating what students in grades 5 and 6 live just outside of Bridgewater Elementary School's catchment area would have a shorter bus ride by going to BES rather than their current catchment area school (from Transportation)
Covered above, under #4 – "Boundaries".
- D. Actual student numbers in all elementary schools involved in this process, by grade and by classroom, including split classrooms and the number of student at each grade level in the split classes (from Programs and Student Services – Jim Dexter)
This information was provided by Jim Dexter (refer to spreadsheet called "Current Feeder School Enrollments, by Grade & by Class (16-02-11)").

9. Scenarios

The Committee worked in groups to come up with additional information on each of the five scenarios, using these five objectives - Programs, Catchment Areas, Cost/Utilization, Grade Configuration, and whether or not Bayview will be needed. A summary of each scenario is noted below. It should be noted that, although these topics were brought up in the working group sessions, they may not necessarily represent a consensus of the Committee.

A. Status Quo

- Nothing changes – BCS stays P-9
 - PVEC – 10-12 with 650 students
 - BHS – 10-12 with 204 students
- Future senior high school program choices will be limited and will continue to decline
- BHS still has the programs required to graduate
- Possible loss of programs, including specialized programs, at both senior high schools
- Still have long bus runs for some students; no ability to change
- Cuts may be to programs that are not needed to graduate
- Staff may change or get cut
- No transition of students would be needed
- With fewer program offerings, students outside the area might not be attracted to the area
- Bayview is needed
- This is still an option for the SOC to consider

B. BHS grades 10-12 to PVEC

- 854 students
- Program options would be improved for all students
- BHS could lose teachers in French Immersion

- Junior high school utilization would go down to 35%
- Could use excess space for Board Office
- Can't "grandfather" everyone in change of boundaries
- Could change catchment areas to improve elementary and middle school configurations
- Could move BES grades 5 and 6 to BHS
- No change in permanent staffing
- More efficient class sizes
- No change in busing expenses
- playground supervision money would be needed for grade 6s as they move up
- Bayview is still needed

C. Move grades 9s from PVEC feeders to PVEC

- 850 students
- Does not change grades 10-12 programming and could actually deprive grades 10-12 of existing programs
- Catchment area would not change
- Staff utilization at PVEC would be less efficient
- Utilization at the feeder schools would decrease
- Grade 9s would be "on their own" and grades 10-12 would be on their own
- Bayview would lose 44 students but the school would still be required

Based on discussion and the results of the working groups, this scenario will be removed from the table and will not be discussed any further. Agreed by consensus.

D. Move grades 9-12 from BHS and PVEC feeders

- 1153 students
- Required grade 9 programming could have a negative effect on grades 10-12
- Would affect catchment areas for grades 9-12
- Increased costs for busing
- Increased time on buses
- School would be over capacity
- Utilization at the feeder schools would decrease
- Bayview may not be needed
- Creates more problems, rather than solving them
- Age of kids could create problems
- Jeopardizes all feeder schools that already have declining enrolments

Based on discussion and the results of the working groups, this scenario will be removed from the table and will not be discussed any further. Agreed by consensus.

E. Move BHS grades 10-12 to PVEC, and move all of BCS to BES and BHS

- More kids, so more opportunities for expanded programs
- Opportunities for French Immersion
- No advantage for senior high programming; perhaps disadvantages
- Based on current catchment areas, some students would be on the bus for more than an hour
- Bulging classrooms in schools where the BCS students would be placed

- Cost of \$500,000 due to the addition of six buses
- Utilization of BA, BES, and BHS would be over 100%; province would save money
- Close Bayview; students would go to WNES, BA, Bridgewater, and NGRHS; would be putting students who currently walk to school on a bus for up to one hour

Based on discussion and the results of the working groups, this scenario will be removed from the table and will not be discussed any further. Agreed by consensus.

Further discussion took place regarding pros and cons of the two remaining scenarios, as well as the process in general. Some Committee Members feel that the Board has already made a decision and the Committee is “being the face” of that decision. It was noted that, if the Board has made a decision, this is an opportunity to have an impact on what will happen.

10. Request for Information

- A. One map showing catchment area two kilometers around Bridgewater and one showing five kilometers around.
 1. What would these changes do to school utilization?
 2. What negative things would happen with programming?
- B. Could there be parameters added to scenarios to grandfather current students and their siblings?
- C. Could the two senior high school principals come to the next meeting and talk to the Committee about what programs might be lost if we keep the Status Quo?
 1. What losses, if any, to programs?
 2. What cost losses?
 3. What would utilization be?
 4. What problems could arise?
 - Mr. Walker feels that neither principal would want to be put in the position of answering those types of questions without having their budget and staffing information, which will not be available until the Board receives and approves their budget.

11. Other

The Recording Secretary requested that anyone wishing to speak at the public meeting must do so using the microphone.

12. Next Meeting Dates

- School Options Committee – Thursday, February 18, 6:00 p.m.
- Public Meeting – Thursday, February 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Park View Education Centre
 - The purpose of this public meeting will be to show the five scenarios, along with “drop-downs”, and explain why each one was either dropped or kept. Questions will be entertained after that has occurred.
- Public Meeting – Wednesday, March 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m., location to be determined

A request was made to remind the public that the process is not the Committee’s, nor the Board’s - it is a provincial policy.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.