South Shore Regional School Board
NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

Highlights of Board Meeting
Wednesday January 27, 2010

- The Board concluded its review of Big Tancook Elementary School, approving a motion that the school be kept open and that the decision not be reconsidered until 2020, or if the student population drops below three. Currently, five students attend the one-room school. The decision was welcomed by a delegation of about a dozen residents of Big Tancook Island who attended the meeting.

- The Board adopted the following belief statement:

  "We believe:
  1. Student learning is our primary responsibility.
  2. All students have the ability to learn.
  3. Students learn at their own pace and in different ways.
  4. Learning is a partnership among home, school and community.
  5. Schools must be safe, supportive and socially just, where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.
  6. In the development of the whole person (cognitive, social, emotional, physical and artistic.
  7. Learning is a lifelong process."

- The Board approved a revised structure for transportation services in which the Transportation Officer responsible for driver supervision becomes the Transportation Manager.

- The Board accepted a recommendation from the School Steering Committee on a process for naming the new Primary to Grade 9 school in Lunenburg. The process involves inviting suggestions from all stakeholders, with the Steering Committee developing a short list of five names which will be voted on by students from Lunenburg Junior High, Lunenburg Academy, Riverport and District Elementary and Centre Consolidated. The three names that get the most votes will be presented to the Board, which will make the final decision.

- The Board agreed to send a letter to the Minister of Education, expressing its objection to the 2010-2011 school calendar, which has different times for student breaks for Halifax and the rest of the province. Students in the Halifax region receive a Spring Break in February, followed by a Canada Games Break to allow them to attend or participate in the Games, while the rest of province has a break in March. The Board members said that the calendar should be consistent across the province and that the different break times for boards outside the Halifax region denies students of those boards the opportunity to attend or take part in the games.