

**South Shore Regional School Board  
School Review 2015-2016  
School Options Committee Meeting (BTES)  
Friday, January 8, 2016  
2:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**1. Introductions**

Gary Walker, an outside party who is not an SSRSB employee, is the Facilitator for this review. Mr. Walker does not have voting rights on this Committee; his purpose is to facilitate the meetings and provide assistance when developing the report to the Board. He has over 35 years of experience in education and has facilitated numerous school reviews.

Cheryl Veinotte is the recording secretary.

The committee membership consists of:

- Hillary Dionne – SAC Chair, Big Tancook Elementary School
- Scott Webber – Community Rep, Big Tancook Elementary School
- Shelly Adams – Parent Rep, Big Tancook Elementary School
- Sarah Swinamer – SAC Chair, Chester District School
- Sue LeBlanc – Parent Rep, Chester District School
- Donna Larder – Community Rep, Chester District School

**2. Opening Comments**

Mr. Walker gave members an overview of the meeting process, noting that:

- Meetings will run during the time allotted; if agenda items remain, they will be brought to the next meeting;
- There will be no official breaks; members may excuse themselves when needed;
- All members are equal and have a voice;
- All information for and from the Committee will be made available to the public, via the School Board's website.

**3. Contextualizing the Work/Review of the Terms of Reference**

The Committee's objectives are to come up with recommendations based on the needs of the children in the community and to consider facility utilization. The mandate is to recommend whether or not Big Tancook Elementary School will remain open and explore alternative solutions to provide Tancook students with education. The SOC will submit a report to the Board detailing its recommendations and the Board will make the final decision by the end of March.

The Minutes of meetings will cover basic information and will not be a verbatim account of discussions. Minutes are not public until after the Committee’s approval at the next meeting, after which they will be posted to the Board’s website.

Due to the small size of the Committee, communication will be via email.

The Terms of Reference were briefly reviewed.

**4. Elementary School Discussion**

An informal gathering of islanders who came forward expressing ideas about the school and its future took place in the summer of 2015 in preparation for this review. Hillary Dionne handed out notes from that meeting and will send them to the recording secretary.

Discussion took place regarding the status of BTES. Some topics of note include:

1. To date, one student is registered for 2016-2017.
2. Would Board provide a teacher to homeschool student(s) on island, or help parents do the homeschooling?
3. Students are required to have 300 minutes of instruction per day.
4. There are many volunteers at Tancook who will need to be given an opportunity to help at school.
5. Someone on island just got their Bachelor of Education.

The two options for the school are:

Option 1 – Status Quo – Keep school open and everything remains as is.

Option 2 – Close School – How will Tancook students be educated?

<b>Pros</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creative programming with community</li> </ul>
<b>Cons</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could be either forced to homeschool or leave the island for education</li> <li>• Students board ferry at 8:00 a.m.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Long day for young children</li> <li>○ No separation of elementary and middle level students</li> <li>○ Will lose time in their day due to ferry schedule or late ferry arrival (no fault of the students)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• CDES would require a sick room, with a bed and someone to care for Tancook students who cannot get home right away</li> <li>• Emergency plan for when ferry cannot bring students back to the island (including health and safety of students)</li> <li>• Every-day plan for students who have to wait until the ferry docks in Chester; CDS dismisses at 1:40, but the ferry doesn’t leave until 3:40; currently, the students “hang out” in the community</li> </ul>
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student(s) under 12 are required to have adult accompaniment on ferry to the mainland, as ferry crew is prohibited from providing child care. Would</li> </ul>

	Board provide this, perhaps in the form of a teacher assistant? What would that person do for the rest of the day? What would happen on collaborative learning team days?
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Brief discussion took place regarding what will happen to the building if Big Tancook Elementary School closes. Can it be used by the community? Who upkeep? Who pays?

**5. The Schedule**

Regular SOC Meetings will take place as scheduled by the members. As per provincial policy, three public meetings must also occur.

**6. Expectations of the Committee and the Staff**

Expectations of the Committee are noted above in the Opening Comments. Staff are expected to provide information to the SOC when requested.

It was noted that public meetings and meetings with the Board will have to take the ferry schedule into consideration.

**7. Role of the Chair**

The Chair will:

- speak to the Board, when necessary, on behalf of the Committee
- develop agendas
- present the final report to the Board at a meeting in March

In addition, the Chair is responsible for ensuring that:

- the Committee follows the agenda
- norms are maintained
- correct decision-making procedures are followed

**8. Establishing the Chair**

Members agreed that Hillary Dionne will chair this Committee.

**9. Questions/Comments**

There were no additional questions or comments.

**10. Adjourn**

The date of the next meeting is to be determined.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.