

**South Shore Regional School Board
School Review 2015-2016
School Options Committee Meeting (BTES)
Saturday, January 23, 2016
10:00 a.m.**

MINUTES

1. Record of Attendance

Hillary Dionne, Scott Webber, Shelly Adams, Sarah Swinamer, Sue LeBlanc, Donna Larder, Gary Walker, and Cheryl Veinotte were in attendance.

2. Scenarios for Big Tancook Elementary School

Discussion took place around the pros and cons of a potential school closure. At the SOC's January 8 meeting, Hillary Dionne, SOC Chair, provided a summary (Appendix A) of an informal gathering of Islanders who came forward in the summer of 2015 expressing ideas about the school and its future. In addition to reviewing this document, the following topics were discussed:

- The possibility of moving the student(s) to CDS, but not officially close the school, to allow for possible re-opening of the school with future growth on the Island.
 - This would typically not happen.

- If the school stays open,
 - Do classes have to happen Monday through Friday?
 - Yes – the Education Act says that students must be provided with 300 minutes of instruction per day
 - Does this apply to such a unique situation, where the students are getting much more one-on-one time with the teacher?
 - Yes – it is important to have a consistent learning environment.
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- If the school closes,
 - Must create normalcy for elementary students – they should be coming and going to school with the other Island students.
 - Must have a TA or another adult, as well as a substitute for that person, to supervise students on the ferry.
 - Arrangements must be in place for early dismissals due to inclement weather, parent-teacher, collaborative learning days, etc.
 - If families choose to keep their children home on scheduled early dismissal days due to the long stay before the ferry leaves, is it possible to video link to the classroom so they do not miss instructional time?

- Must have a suitable “sick room” at CDS to ensure student comfort in times of illness, when they may have to wait for hours to get home on the ferry; must have supervision during such times.

As of January 16, one student is registered for 2016-2017.

3. Next Meetings

The Public Meeting will take place at Big Tancook Island’s Recreation Centre on Wednesday, February 17, from 12:00-1:00 p.m. The purposes of this meeting are:

- a) Process
- b) Mandate
- c) Scenarios
- d) Questions

Due to the nature of the BTES review, Superintendent Geoff Cainen requested a variance to the School Review Policy. This variance was granted, so the Committee may proceed with only one public meeting.

The objective of the Committee’s attendance at the public meetings is to listen to the community speak and determine what information needs to be included in the scenarios.

Information regarding the public meetings is transparent, with notification going out to families and the community in numerous ways – email to all schools, ALERT (PowerSchool) to every student’s home, school newsletters, school websites, Board website, Board Facebook page, Board Twitter account, etc. It will be on the local radio stations and there will be an advertisement in a local newspaper about a week before the meeting.

Date of next SOC Meeting – February 20, 10:00 a.m.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.