

**South Shore Regional School Board  
School Review 2015-2016  
BHS/PVEC School Options Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, March 30, 2016, 6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**1. Record of Attendance**

In attendance – Gary Walker, John Biebesheimer, Hope Demone, Siobhan Doyle, Stephanie Martin, Palma Champoux, Andrea McGinnis, Kim Benjamin, Mitch Foley, Iris Charlton, Anne Burgess, Pam Hebb, Shelley Mann, Tina Grace, Heather Mackenzie-Carey, Allen Sullivan, Maja Kelley, Leif Helmer, Sarah Tingley, Cheryl Veinotte

Regrets – Erica Moore, Melissa Risser

The following staff were present to answer questions at the beginning of the meeting:

1. Geoff Cainen, Superintendent
2. Jeff DeWolfe, Director of Programs and Student Services
3. Andy Selig, Coordinator of Operations
4. Gilbert Jackson, Transportation Analyst

**2. Approval of Agenda**

*MOTION* by John Biebesheimer, seconded by Kim Benjamin, to approve the agenda.

***MOTION CARRIED***

**3. Approval of Minutes**

*MOTION* by Palma Champoux, seconded by Heather Mackenzie-Carey, to approve, as amended, the Minutes of the March 2, 2016 BJSHS-PVEC SOC Meeting.

***MOTION CARRIED***

**4. Review of Last Meeting. Questions.**

- A. Clarification/Verification of projected enrolments (number of students and corresponding years for 2017- 2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020), with an explanation of how those numbers were established.

*Mr. Selig provided a spreadsheet (Appendix A) with accurate projected enrolments for the years requested. The Superintendent noted that enrolments are affected by transfer students – this would include students who transferred in years prior to senior high school, students in families where one parent lives in each school’s catchment area, students who register for IB, and many other reasons. This leads to approximately 18-20% (about 45) of students who live in the BJSHS catchment area going to PVEC from BJSHS. Some of these students have never attended BJHS.*

*If a student transfers to PVEC for IB, they must register for a minimum of three pre-IB courses in grade 10 and they must maintain at least two IB courses in grade 11. If they do not, they are expected to return to their home school. However; often times, a student's circumstances change over the course of their grade 10 year and the students provide valid reasons to remain at PVEC if they do not maintain two IB courses in grade 11. PVEC's administration and the Director of Programs and Student Services monitor registrations in IB.*

- B. Could Bridgewater have two high schools with specific, but different, specialized programming (i.e., an Arts/French Immersion school or a Science/Trades/ Technology school)?

*The Superintendent contacted the Deputy Minister's Office with this question. The answer was "no, because every school offering high school programming in Nova Scotia must offer the full Public School Program".*

*Mr. Cainen and Mr. DeWolfe added the following comments:*

- Beginning in 2018, changes are coming to the high school course complement, where every student will need a full grade 11 Math course (220 hours), which will eliminate one elective.*
- Every graduate will require a Career Education course, which will eliminate another elective.*
- Other changes may also occur.*
- Once these changes come into effect, students will be required to take fewer electives because of restrictions on the common path that students will be required to take.*
- The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is currently re-writing all high school curriculum, so it is unknown what courses will still be available when that has been completed.*
- There will still be opportunities for students, because schools will still need flexibility for students who do not need the 220 hour courses; however, there will be so many required courses that smaller schools will have very limited elective options, but larger schools will still have some flexibility. For example, Physical Education will continue to be mandatory; in a large school, there would be more opportunities to offer such courses as Phys Ed, Dance, and/or Yoga, where a small school will likely be left to only offer Phys Ed.*
- The province is moving towards a Math and Science focus. Calculus and Pre-Cal are the courses that schools will be offering. The technology-rich courses, and other courses, such as Arts, Economics, Philosophy, and Law, will be more likely offered at larger schools because of the higher enrolments, whereby schools with smaller enrolments would not be able to offer these types of courses.*
- Students entering grade 10 in September 2017 will need 21 credits to graduate. Current senior high students require 18 credits to graduate.*

- C. If BJSHS grades 10-12 students move to PVEC,  
a. what would the impact be to the International Student Program?

*Response from Jeff DeWolfe*

- *Nova Scotia International Student Program has set a restriction that a school cannot have more than five students from one country. There are currently students from eight or nine countries in PVEC and BJSHS. There is a cap of 50 international students at PVEC, so there would be a slight decrease in student numbers, but no decrease in the experience of having international students in our schools.*
- *It is hoped to make up the loss of students by re-introducing the program to Forest Heights Community School.*
- *New Germany has built a successful program.*
- *Looking to expand the short-term program with two new schools – Chester Area Middle School and South Queens Middle School.*
- *There is still growth in our Board with the ISP, with a possible net increase of 10 students next year.*

- b. would Advanced Placement be lost, over time?

*Response from Jeff DeWolfe and Geoff Cainen*

- *Yes, but it would be phased out over a couple years (it would be carried over to PVEC for one or two years of student cohorts, to allow them to complete the program they started in grade 10).*
- *The Board would make the necessary arrangements to allow students currently taking AP to complete the program.*
- *If there was enough interest in pre-IB at BJSHS, the Board would arrange to have someone trained so that the pre-IB courses could be taken there. Board staff would have to determine how many students would be needed to support this option.*
- *The provincial IB Coordinator and IB staff at PVEC would work with BJSHS staff to ensure that students could take Pre-IB. BJSHS would be designated as a satellite office for the transition year.*
- *This could be in place for September 2016 because, “although the teacher training for IB is for the grade 11 and 12 component, the Pre-IB is really a sit-down with the cohort of teachers to determine expectations of students, what thresholds will be expected, and what readings and writings are the students going to do”.*
- *Professional development opportunities exist for teachers interested in IB training.*
- *The main difference between IB and AP is that the province recognizes IB – every Board must have at least one IB school. AP determines if a student gets advanced standing at universities.*
  - *AP – cost for exams*
  - *IB – Board gets the equivalent of one FTE, which is broken down into .5 for*

*the IB Coordinator at PVEC and .5 distributed among other staff who are offering IB courses*

- D. Clarification regarding a hub busing model (i.e., would there be a handful of stops created and students would be responsible to get to one of those stops; would students who live 3.6 kilometers or more from the school be picked up a stops near their homes, etc.).

*Response from Gilbert Jackson*

- *Mr. Jackson reviewed a map (Appendix B) of what a hub busing model, or Central Pick-Up Model, would look like with the 3.6 kilometres' walking distance. The Board's current infrastructure could be used to pick up students outside of the 3.6 kilometers so that they wouldn't have to walk more than 800 meters to the nearest bus stop. It is possible that students who live within the walking distance could catch a bus, but that would have to be determined at a later date and it would also depend on space availability.*
- *Traffic congestion should not be much of an issue, as the reno at PVEC has seen significant improvements in the flow of traffic. Also, there will be an additional student parking area behind the school.*

- E. What will happen with scholarships?

- *Mr. Cainen noted that, as part of the transition, a team comprised of BJSHS, PVEC, and Board staff would be formed, and one of that team's tasks would be to review all scholarships that are available to both schools and make a plan as to how they should be distributed.*
- *Some scholarships are specific to BJSHS and will have to be reviewed with the appropriate individuals to find out if they can be transferred to PVEC and what, if any, stipulations would be put in place.*

## **5. Superintendent Topics/Questions**

### **A. Boundaries and Feeder Schools**

- Pentz and Petite went through the old school review process a few years ago.
- At a Board Meeting in February, staff submitted a capitol plan to the province, which included a request for a new school for Pentz and Petite. The rationale behind this request was that if the Board does not ask for a new school, they have not done what the former Board said it would do for those communities.
- The Minister's office has asked the SOC to continue their work and know that the Minister is aware of and is in receipt of the Board's positive request for a new school for Pentz and Petite.
- The boundary portion of the Committee's work is not critical. It is, however, important that the Committee "future-proof". Future-proofing is making decisions about what will happen with students at all levels (i.e., if the high school students are moved, make recommendations on what will happen with the lower grades in all of the schools involved as well).
- SSSRB cannot have an open boundary system, due to class cap sizes, staffing,

and busing. If a family wants their child to attend a school other than their catchment area school, they have to apply for a transfer. (NOTE – This does not mean that the request will be approved. Each request is evaluated on its own merit.)

- In regards to requiring a specific minimum number of students to get a new school, Mr. Cainen reiterated that future-proofing cannot only be for those two schools. Whatever happens with Pentz and Petite, some students will be served better (in terms of time spent on the bus) by going to a different school.

Concerns were raised over the potential decrease in utilization of BJSHS and BES if the grades 10-12 students are moved to PVEC. The Superintendent suggested that it may be a great opportunity to consider a campus model that would bring the students together and encourage the mix of students, rather than separating them. Mr. Cainen also noted that the A&A request list to province will be revised after this review is completed. An A&A could be requested for BJSHS and BES to make both buildings more suitable for the grades they have with a modern concept (i.e., appropriate space for learning commons and cooperative learning). It should be noted once again that PVEC is undergoing a renovation and this is not an expansion. The footprint remains the same.

- B. What plans will be put into place for the influx of special/high needs students into PVEC from BJSHS?
  - The reno includes a complete re-do of the learning centre areas, with the addition of another learning centre. The learning centres will be well-equipped with furniture and fixtures to provide those students with what they need. Program and transition planning will be critical to those students. Staff from both schools, with the support of staff from the Board Office, will meet to develop a plan for each student.
- C. Big Tancook was a unique situation and cannot be compared the BJSHS and PVEC situation, because the Board had to take into consideration the possibility of sending a four year old child on a ferry. This SOC is talking about the possibility of sending 15-18 year old students two kilometers down the road. It is important for this Committee to know that the Board will definitely consider the report submitted at the end of this review.

## 6. New Business

### A. Discussion on High Schools

Before anything can be decided regarding the catchment area and grade configuration questions, the Committee must make a decision on the high school piece first. Discussion took place and the following motion was made:

**MOTION** by John Biebesheimer, seconded by Siobhan Doyle, to move the grades 10-12 students from Bridgewater Jr./Sr. High School to PVEC.

## Recorded Vote:

Allen Sullivan	y	Andrea McGinnis	n	Anne Burgess	y
Heather Mackenzie-Carey	y	Hope Demone	y	Iris Charlton	n
John Biebesheimer	y	Kim Benjamin	n	Leif Helmer	n
Maja Kelley	y	Mitch Foley	y	Palma Champoux	n
Pam Hebb	n	Sarah Tingley	y	Shelley Mann	y
Siobhan Doyle	y	Stephanie Martin	n	Tina Grace	y

Absent – Melissa Risser, Erica Moore

***MOTION CARRIED (11 for; 7 against)***

- B. Highlights of discussion catchment areas include:
- Possibly leave decisions involving catchment areas/boundaries with Board staff, as they have the expertise in this area.
  - Consideration to families who live on the outskirts of current boundaries, such as the top of Jubilee Road.
  - Option to transfer if a family wants their child to go to a school other than their catchment area school.
- C. Brief discussion took place around Bayview Community School. It had been decided at previous meetings that Bayview will remain open.

**7. Next Meetings**

- A. SOC – Tuesday, April 5, 6:00 p.m. at the Board Office
- B. Public Meeting – April 21, 6:00 p.m., location to be confirmed

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

## Projected Enrolments from 2017-2021

### Scenario 1 Status Quo

2017-2018	P	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Park View											201	215	229	645
Bridgewater High											67	81	68	215
Bridgewater Junior								58	71	84				213
Bayview	41	40	36	48	35	35	32	49	49	37				402

2018-2019	P	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Park View											218	201	215	634
Bridgewater High											92	67	81	239
Bridgewater Junior								57	58	71				186
Bayview	39	41	40	36	48	35	35	32	49	49				404

2019-2020	P	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Park View											200	218	201	619
Bridgewater High											79	92	67	237
Bridgewater Junior								64	57	58				179
Bayview	40	39	41	40	36	48	35	35	32	49				395

2020-2021	P	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Park View											200	200	218	618
Bridgewater High											66	79	92	236
Bridgewater Junior								66	64	57				187
Bayview	40	40	39	41	40	36	48	35	35	32				386

### Scenario 2 BJSHS 10-12 to PVEC

	10	11	12	Total
2017-2018	268	296	297	860
2018-2019	310	268	296	873
2019-2020	279	310	268	856
2020-2021	266	279	310	854

"Enrolment projections for Grades 1 through 12 are calculated by moving forward the previous year's enrolment in the previous grade level. Primary Projections are calculated based on using the average grade size of the Primary through Grade 2 numbers at the school from the previous year."

The above definition is taken from the glossary of the Long Range Outlook.

In addition there are 8 students added to BJSHS in grade 10 to account for international students, this is also done at PVEC using a factor of 11. These additional numbers are rolled through with the grade levels until graduation.

