



Dr. JH Gillis Regional Feeder System

School Options Committee (SOC)

October 26, 2016

Dr. JH Gillis Regional High

How have we arrived at this point?

The Strait Regional School Board approved the following two motions on Wednesday, October 5, 2016:

Motion #1:

- The Strait Regional School Board initiate a review of the Dr. JH Gillis Regional High School Feeder System and that this review will follow the Provincial School Review Policy adopted by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for the Province of Nova Scotia.

Motion #2:

- The Strait Regional School Board authorize through the Superintendent of Schools to establish a School Options Committee (SOC) to conduct a review of the Dr. JH Gillis Regional High School Feeder System.

Guiding Documents

- Provincial School Review Policy (October 17, 2014)

"The School Review Policy describes the process to be followed by a school board when the permanent closure of a public school is a possibility. The process as outlined in this policy ensures that communities are engaged and informed prior to and at every stage during a school review, and that members of a community are able to contribute to the examination of possible solutions to identified issues."

The policy outlines the process through sixteen (16) directives (A-P) along with supporting appendices.

Guiding Documents (continued)

- Dr. JH Gillis Regional High School Feeder System SOC - Terms of Reference

(October 5, 2016)

Directive F:

"The School Options Committee will be provided with finalized Terms of Reference at or prior to its first meeting. The Terms of Reference will provide the SOC with the mandate, review objectives and reference criteria for the review as determined by the school board."

Terms of Reference

- Dr. JH Gillis Regional High School Feeder System SOC - Terms of Reference

(October 5, 2016)

The Terms of Reference for the Dr. JH Gillis Regional High School Feeder System SOC is contained in the Recommendation to Review document approved by the Strait Regional School Board on October 5, 2016 and adheres to the Provincial School Review Policy.

Dr. JH Gillis Regional High School Feeder System SOC: Terms of Reference

- Mandate;
- Review Objectives;
- Reference Criteria (6);
- Membership;
- Procedures;
- Meetings
 - Working; and
 - Public
- Information Requests;
- Schedule; and
- Reference Documents.

Reference Criteria: Components

- Grade configurations;
- Class size and composition;
- Access to and equity of programming;
- Maximizing use of school facilities;
- Making best use of available resources (financial, labour and capital) across the board; and
- Limiting factors such as transportation time limits, geographically isolated schools.

SOC - Membership

- Voting Members (12)
 - SAC Chair / designate; (5 members)
 - One parent representative (5 members)
 - Community / Business representative (2 members)
- Non-Voting Members (9)
 - Principal (5 members)
 - Board Staff (2 members)
 - Recording Secretary
 - School Review Facilitator (ex-officio)

School Review Facilitator

The School Review Facilitator's role is to assist the SOC to effectively communicate, collaborate and achieve consensus where possible.

The School Review Facilitator will:

- Facilitate Public Meetings;
- Liaison between SOC and the Board (including information requests);
- Assist the SOC chair when presenting to the elected board; and
- Serve as the SOC chair until the chair is elected.

Election of Chair

The chair will be elected from among voting members of the SOC within the first two meetings the SOC.

The chair will:

- Chair working meetings;
- Ensure that the agenda is followed;
- Ensure established norms are maintained; and
- That the correct decision-making procedures are followed.

Meetings

- Working Meetings:

The SOC will meet regularly (“working meetings”) to consider, create, evaluate and refine solutions to the issues identified in the Recommendation to Review document that meet the review objectives and reference criteria detailed in the Terms of Reference.

These meetings are not public meetings. Minutes of key decisions and actions will be posted on the SRSB web site (www.srsb.ca) under the School Review section once they are approved at the subsequent meeting.

Meetings (continued)

- Public Meetings:

The SOC will hold three (3) public meetings to present work and receive feedback.

A summary of public contributions received at each meeting will be recorded, once approved by the SOC at the subsequent meeting, it will be posted on the SRSB web site (www.srsb.ca) under the School Review section.



Report and Recommendation

At the conclusion of the review the SOC will submit a “Report and Recommendation” to the Strait Regional School Board, through the Superintendent of Schools, for consideration.

Mandate of the SOC (as outlined in the Terms of Reference)

Mandate:

With the approval of the following motion:

That the Strait Regional School Board initiate a school review of the Dr. JH Gillis Regional High School Feeder System and that this review will follow the provincial school review policy adopted by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for the Province of Nova Scotia.

Mandate of the SOC (continued)

The School Options Committee (SOC) will conduct a review of the Dr. JH Gillis Regional High School feeder system. This review is to consider and make written recommendations to the board respecting the Dr. JH Gillis Regional High School feeder system.

The review must meet the requirements of the Provincial School Review Policy including:

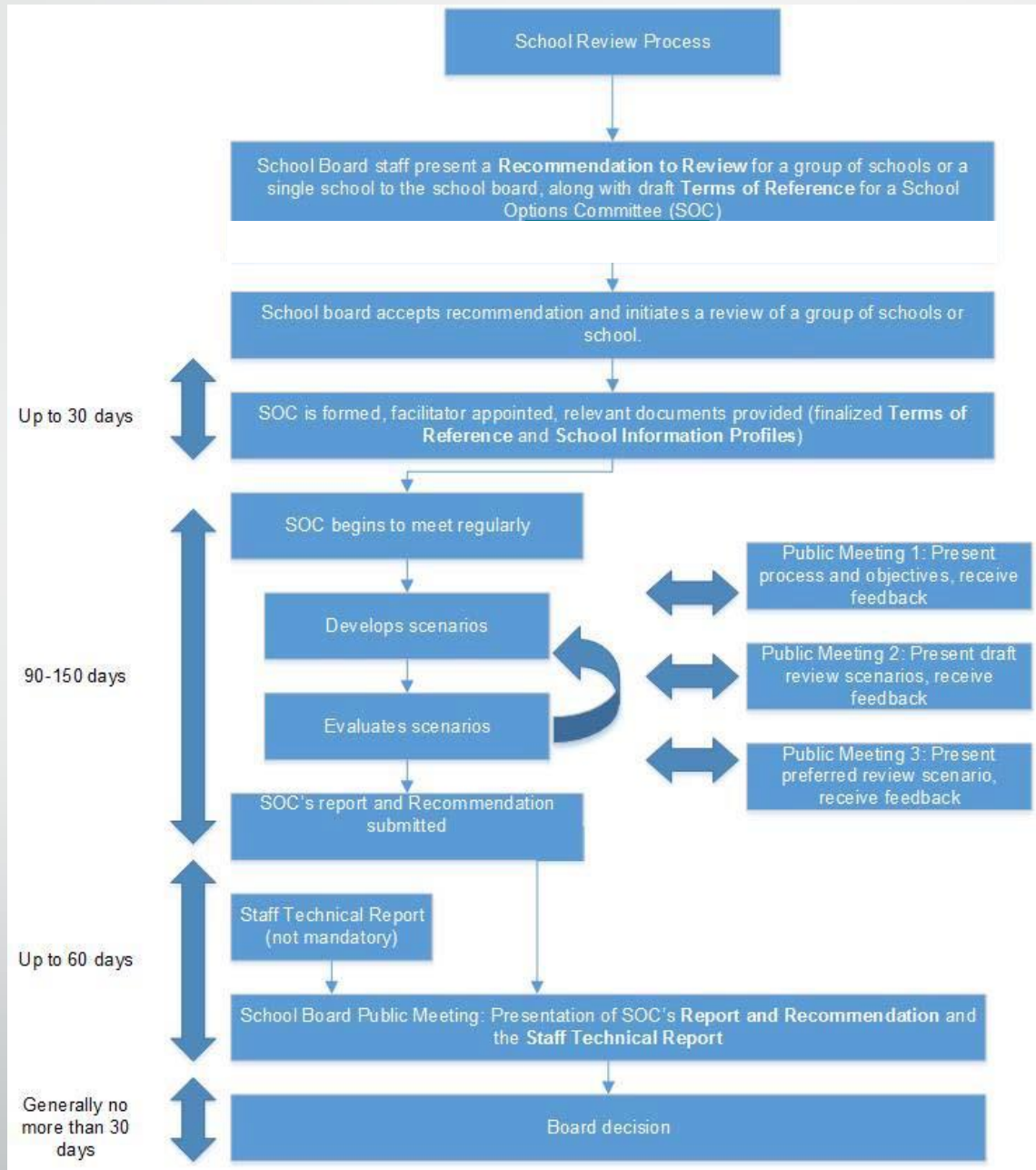
- conducting a review with public consultation, of the Dr. JH Gillis Regional High School Feeder System as requested by the school board, according to the objectives and within the parameters provided by the board; and
- submitting a Report and Recommendation to the school board which will inform the board's final decision.

Review Objectives (continued)

Review Objectives:

The objective of the Dr. JH Gillis Regional High School feeder system school review is to:

- Determine, prior to the decision notice date of April 30, 2017, whether or not Antigonish Education Centre will be required after the lease is up on this P3 building;
- Address the issue of excess space;
- Reorganize the system to optimize the use of school facilities; and
- Create scenarios/options consistent with the objectives and reference criteria identified in the school review process for the Dr. JH Gillis Regional High School Feeder System.



Key Dates for the SOC

October 5, 2016 – Motion to initiate review approved by SRSB

October 26, 2016 – School Options Committee established

January 24, 2017 – Earliest date review can be completed (90 days)

March 25, 2017 – Latest date review can be completed (150 days)