

**Dr. J. H. Gillis Regional Feeder System School Review
School Options Committee**

**Working Meeting #11
Monday Mar 6, 2017
Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High**

Attendance

Committee Members:

Voting:

Deepak Prasad, Dr. J. H. Gillis Community / Business Representative – SOC Chair
Karla Chisholm, AEC School Advisory Council Parent Representative;
Maria Fraser, AEC School Advisory Council Chair
Amanda MacDonald, H.M. MacDonald School Advisory Council Chair
Jacqui Briand, H.M. MacDonald School Advisory Council Parent Representative
Allan Armsworthy, Dr. J. H. Gillis School Advisory Council Chair
John Blackwell, Dr. J. H. Gillis School Advisory Council Parent Representative
Mary Anne Burke, SACS School Advisory Council Parent Representative
Beth Maloney, SACS School Advisory Council Chair Designate
Minu Sharma, SAJS School Advisory Council Chair
Angela Penney, SAJS School Advisory Council Parent Representative

Non-Voting:

Kirk Johnstone, Principal SACS
Jason Dayman, Principal H.M. MacDonald
Wanda Fougere, Principal Dr. J. H. Gillis
April Weaver, Principal AEC
Glenn Austen, Principal SAJS
Bob MacEachern, School Review Facilitator
Sherman England, SRSB Director of Operations
Kevin Walker, SRSB Coordinator

1. Call to Order D. Prasad, Chair

The Working meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. Record of Attendance

Regrets: none

3. Additions to Agenda

4.5 Protocol – Conduct of SOC members
7.5 February 13

4. Approval of Agenda

MOVED and SECONDED (Blackwell, J./Penney, A.)

MOTION CARRIED.

4.5 Protocol – Conduct of SOC members

Deepak Prasad reminded all SOC voting members that they need to feel free to vote on the final recommendation as they see fit without influence from other members.

5. Adoption of Minutes

5.1 Working Committee Minutes – February 13, 2017

MOVED and SECONDED (Armsworthy, A./ Penney, A.)

MOTION CARRIED

5.2 Public Meeting – February 22, 2017

MOVED and SECONDED (Blackwell, J./ Fraser, M.)

MOTION CARRIED

The SOC reviewed the input from the attendees at the 3rd public meeting. There was a healthy discussion regarding the concerns, comments and questions that were raised by members of the public. This included input from Principals who provided context to the daily operations of the schools and the interactions of various age groups within the same facility including security of younger children.

6. Business arising from Minutes

None

7. New Business

7.1 Financial Implications (Chris Grover, Director of Finance, SRSB)

Discussion of annual operating costs of Antigonish Education Centre; also, the potential closure of Antigonish Education Centre would realize the immediate savings of over \$200,000 in salaries for administrative, secretarial and library technician positions. So combined with the elimination of operating costs, the annual savings would be in the vicinity of \$750,000.

Maria Fraser asked about revenue for school rental.

John Blackwell asked about the cost to retrofit St. Andrew Junior School and in his response, Sherman England discussed the 'mid-life retrofit' that would be required for this building likely in the next five (5) years.

7.2 Capital

Discussion around provincial funding opportunities – Capital construction projects and TCA. John Blackwell questioned the province’s willingness to invest in an addition at St. Andrew Junior School.

Allan Armsworthy referenced the Provincial Auditor General’s statement to the media dated February 3, 2010, under the section “Contract Management of P3 schools”:

The fact that the principals and other school board staff were not aware of the service requirements is just one of the flaws in this system. We found that procedures in place to monitor contract compliance are wholly inadequate. (p.2)

Chris Grover outlined that there are a lot of moving parts to the funding model.

Beth Maloney brought up a parent concern regarding the amount of gym time available to students and a discussion ensued regarding the Public Schools Program, Time to Learn, and high school physical education graduation requirements and scheduling options.

Discussion took place around outside play areas and what could be done to address these questions.

In response to a question on student population of AEC in 2000, Kevin Walker referenced the P-4 population of Antigonish Education Centre in 2000 as being 634 and that in 2021, the P-6 population would be 670.

Chair Prasad indicated that he would forward the request to the Board through Superintendent Rice that Antigonish be the location of the public Board Meeting where the SOC Report and Board Technical Report are presented.

7.3 Draft SOC Report

Discussion was held on the format and contents including appendices.

7.4 SOC Recommendation

MOVED (Penny, A.)

That the SOC support the closure of Antigonish Education Centre as it addresses the utilization question in the terms of reference.

Point of Order:

Allan noted the motion was out of order and that a motion of reconsideration would be proper.

The chair called for a recess.

The meeting was reconvened and the chair upheld the point of order, that a motion of reconsideration was the proper motion

MOVED and SECONDED (Penny, A. / Burke, MA.)

For the reconsideration of the motion of February 21, 2017: as stated below:

MOVED and SECONDED (Penny, A.; / MacDonald, A.)

That the SOC support the closure of Antigonish Education Centre as it addresses the utilization question in the terms of reference.

Angela requested a secret ballot...the chair informed a secret ballot was not appropriate

Recorded vote was called:

Yes (MacDonald, A; Burke, MA; Penny, A.; Briand, J.: Maloney, B; Sharma, M.: and Prasad, D.)

No (Armsworthy, A; Blackwell, J; Chisholm, K; Fraser, M.)

Motion passed.

MOVED and SECONDED (Penny, A.: / Burke, MA.)

Amendment to the motion:

And that the recommendation meets 4 of the four (4) review objectives set out in the Terms of Reference for the Recommendation to Review document established by the Strait Regional School Board, with Antigonish Education Centre be identified for permanent closure.

The remaining four (4) schools will be configured in the following manner:

- H.M. MacDonald Elementary – Grade Primary - Six
- St. Andrews Consolidated Elementary – Grade Primary – Six
- St. Andrew Junior School – Grade Primary – Six
- Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High School – Grade Seven - Twelve

Recorded vote was called:

Yes (MacDonald, A; J; Burke, MA; Penny, A.; Briand, J./ Maloney, B; Sharma, M., and Prasad, D)

No (Armsworthy, A; Blackwell, J; Chisholm, K; Fraser, M.)

Motion passed.

7.5

Clarification

There was a request for clarification regarding test results in the 1010 classroom at Dr. John Hugh Gillis as reported in the Working Committee meeting of February 13, 2017 under 7.1. regarding the presence of mould.

From page 6 of the Pinchin and Leblanc Environmental Limited Report dated January 27, 2017: section 5.1 - Airborne Mould (Spore Trap) Results - page 6:

"The concentrations of the indoor samples ranged from 26 to 400 spores/m³. The concentrations of each of the indoor samples were greater than the concentration of the outdoor reference sample. However, the spores identified do not present a concern at the concentrations measured.

Sample results suggest that airborne mould levels were acceptable in each sample location on the sampling day."

7.6

Final Comment

John Blackwell expressed concern that the final majority recommendation of the SOC represented a change from the SOC Preferred Scenario presented at the third public meeting on February 22, 2017.

8. Reports, correspondence, communications

none

9. Future meetings;

none

10. Adjournment.

MOVED (Burke, M.A.)

To adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED