

**Minutes for**  
**Antigonish Education Centre School Advisory Council Meeting**  
**March 27, 2017**

1. Call to Order
2. Record of Attendance: A Weaver, K Grant, E Milner, K Delorey, M Fraser, K Chisholm  
Regrets: T Landry
3. Additions to Agenda: 7.3 Principal's Report, 7.4 Guidance Report
4. Approval of Agenda: moved by K Grant, seconded by K Chisholm
5. Adoption of Minutes: Minutes of last meeting (held in November, before Work to Rule) were not available.
6. Business arising from Minutes: none
7. New Business:

7.1 School Review

M Fraser explained to Council that the School Options Committee (SOC) has completed their mandate with regards to School Review for the SRSB. Based on a vote at the final committee meeting, the SOC will submit a Recommendation to the SRSB to close AEC and house grades P-6 at St Andrew Junior School and grades 7-12 at Dr JH Gillis Regional High School.

If this goes ahead it will take effect in 2021 and the estimated population at SAJS will be approximately **670** students and **997** at Dr JH Gillis.

This Recommendation will be presented to the School Board at a public meeting on Wed., April 5<sup>th</sup> at SAJS. After this, the Board will vote before submitting their decision to the NS Department of Education, near the end of April.

The four SOC members who voted to keep AEC open have submitted a Minority Report. This will be presented to the SRSB and highlights many of the reasons they voted for AEC to remain open.

K Chisholm informed Council of the ways people can get informed on this topic and voice any concerns they may have:

- Follow the social media (Facebook) posts on "Antigonish Students and Schools Matter"
- There is an online petition "Save Antigonish Education Centre from Closure" at Change.org

- Write to their elected school board member
- Join the concerned parents group, their next meeting is April 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Attend the public SRSB meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup>

It was agreed that the SAC would write a letter of support for AEC to be addressed to members of the School Board.

#### 7.2 School Routines following Work to Rule

Principal A Weaver explained changes that have taken place at AEC since Work to Rule began in December.

- 6 paid supervisors are monitoring cafeteria and playgrounds
- Children are having lunch in cafeteria
- There will be no Choir or Run Club this Spring
- Some special presentations are being planned for students this Spring
- School support money (funds saved by government on salaries on the one day teacher's strike) will soon be coming to the school – administration is looking at ways to spend this.

#### 7.3 Principal's Report

Primary enrollment for the upcoming year is currently at 105. This would bring the school population to 510 next year. This is higher than expected. This year's population is 502.

TOTS is currently underway, but is being affected by weather related school cancellations. The Primary Orientation day is April 6<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-12:30. Children will take the bus to school, but have parents pick them up mid-day.

The school will partner with Early Intervention for a 6 week school readiness program.

Sean Barker, a teacher at AEC, is a member of the NS Department of Education's Council to Improve School Conditions.

#### 7.4 Guidance Report

Regular programming is continuing.

8. Future Meeting: May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017

9. Meeting adjourned

