

School Council Joint Meeting
Wednesday, May 4, 2016

School Councils for Holy Trinity High and Elementary as well as Cape St. Francis
NLESD Staff Tony Stack, Waimea Harding, Jim Sinnott. Lloyd Collins, Debbie Martin, Ken
Morrisey, Debbie Martin.

Welcome by Tony Stack
Introductions around the table

New school projection - completion December 2017 and open January 2017.

Intermediate Grade 7 students will stay on to HTH in 2016-2017 school year and not move
into new school.

Staffing will be based on the new school being staffed as a "school" but grade 5 and 6 staff
will be housed at current schools until completion of new school.

HTH staffing will not be affected this year by the new school opening.

Elementary school - redundancies and reassignments within the community are
underdoing and deadline for redundancy notification is May 7th. Administrator positions
for the new school will be advertised. These admins will be placed with grade 5/6 students
at the elementary schools and move with them at the time of opening

Number of classes:

Cape St. Francis: 2 grade 5s, 2 grade 6s English Stream

HTE: 6 gr 5s and 6s English stream and 5 grade 5&6 French Immersion classes.

15 classes total

IRT/PE positions etc... may require some changes at time of move to new school, but
homeroom teachers in place in September will remain the same.

Phase 2 2017-18 HTH will reduce in student numbers and staffing will be adjusted
accordingly.

Patricia Mahon posed question of proposed start time/scheduling changes.

Tony Stack responded that no decision has been made on bussing. Cape St. Francis is tied
in to Holy Trinity High bussing for students that live in Pouch Cove, Flatrock and Bauline
Areas. Changes at Cape St. Francis Elementary will affect HTH and vice Versa.

Bussing costs have doubled and student enrollment is going down. Bussing routes are
being reconsidered as one bus costs approximately \$100,000 and is only used for 10 years

There are two kinds in the province Board owned and the tendered contracts.

Contracted buses can be single runs and double runs. Double runs are less expensive and only adds fuel costs as drivers need to be paid a min of hours per day. Reducing a single run saves money. Approximate savings: 65 to 70,000.00 dollars saved for every bus off a route. This money can be better used in schools.

Bussing contracts are up for renewal 2016 this is the time to reexamine all areas of the province to promote double runs where possible. This decision is completely unrelated to the current budget and was planned last year when renewals were forecasted for this year.

Research shows high school is best to open later to improve academic benefits. Many schools are mixed Jr./Sr. and variations of other configurations. Change is coming in dialogue with principals. The high school will either remain the same or open later. Unique characteristic such as lack of daycare facilities in our area may be a strong consideration for HTH opening earlier than the elementary school rather than later.

If HTH opens earlier than the Elementary school, both HTE and Cape St. Francis would be pushed to 10 mins later opening than now – OR - Elem schools open 8:10 and high 9AM ish close 3PM ish

Middle school 5-7 would have same schedule as the high school

Either of these options above costs the same.

Savings of 4 buses = \$300,000 per year can be had with changes in our schedules once the new school is open and at that time some tweaking of routes will take place

NLESD is open to feedback from schools and the parents and School Councils can submit the feedback to NLESD.

Councils felt that there is adequate feedback and concern that the Elementary opening early is not a viable option for many families.

Parent Tammy Curtis mentioned the risk of small children waiting for buses on main road in early morning winter conditions is a serious risk of injury for small children.

Mary Thorne Gosse indicated significant negative feedback received by Torbay Town Council from parents and community about the possible change and residents prefer HTH open first.

Many high school students like the early dismissal for extracurricular, part time jobs, etc...

Patricia Mahon indicated wait lists for limited day care and after school programs are 4 years long and since this infrastructure is inadequate, families would struggle to find safe and adequate day care options.

Possible start and end times to accommodate less bussing were:

Option 1

Open 8:15 to 2:20 high school

Open 9:05 to 3:10 OR 9:00 to 3:10 Elementary

or

Option 2

Elementary open earlier 8:10 /8:20 or 8:25 and
High School open 9:10 to 3:15

Proposal was raised to leave high school same and move the elem to 10 minutes later.

Andrew Hickey asked if a ten minute later time for Elem drop off would inconvenience parents who needed to get to work and indicated that many Parents would not be aware of the possible 10 minute delay.

Kim Keating mentioned 8:20 there are many students dropped off. If we move Elementary to 10 mins later parents may not get to work on time this could be problematic.

NLESD will take feedback from Principal's and bring back to school councils to try and accommodate all parties as best that can be done.

Tammy Curtis suggested schools get the message out to parents as to what the options are and offer them an opportunity for feedback. Not all parents are aware that a change is even being considered.

Wilhelmina Hardy mentioned the pros and cons of start times from an academic POV. Teenagers often stay up late and come in sleep deprived early mornings. If parents are dropping off early at HTE maybe the early mornings might work?

It will be difficult to please everyone.

New School

Question posed how will parents be kept informed of the move date as the 2016 school year evolves? Response was when they have a firm date it will be announced.

Concerns for sound proofing in temporary classrooms at HTE was requested. Jim Sinnot said they would work with Principal Debbie Peddle to address any needs.

Debbie Peddle asked reps to bring concerns to admin before going online.

Meeting adjourned.