



CHARLES P. ALLEN HIGH SCHOOL

School Advisory Council

2011-12 Co-Chairs: Jo-Lynn Fenton & Elaine Loney

Update on New CPA High School

The new CPA High School is taking shape on Innovation Drive. Excitement is growing as construction of the school and HRM community centre proceeds!

The Update

School opening: The expected opening of our new school is Sept. 2013. CPA is becoming increasingly overcrowded and certainly, we look forward to the new school.

New school name: The school, with overwhelming support of the school community, asked the HRSB in April 2012 to keep the school's distinguished name when CPA moves to the new facility. We await their decision.

Cafetorium enhancement: Through the area rate for the community centre, the HRM enhanced the cafeteria to make it useful as a performing arts space. This includes catwalks, additional acoustical treatments and A-V equipment. The HRM enhancement will benefit our students and the larger community for many years.

Boundary Review: There will be a boundary review in the next school year. Check the HRSB website for approved Board Motions: <http://www.hrsb.ns.ca/content/id/1224.html>

The Site

The Innovation Drive site provided by the Province was good news for the community. Despite the site's challenges, it is the centre of the school catchment area. The school's new location fit with the HRM planning strategy, enabling HRM to upgrade the field to artificial turf and build a community centre at reduced construction cost. The community centre is partly funded by an area rate paid by Bedford & Kingswood area residents

Concerns and Issues

1. Will the school be large enough for the current enrollment and allow growth? We hope so but we are apprehensive. This is why: The school board requested a school for 1200 students and would not change their request, despite the opening day projected enrollment of 1326 and enrollment projections of 1400+ three years after opening, and projected enrollment of 1550 by 2018. CPA enrollment for fall 2012 is very likely to be over 1300, a full year before the new school opens. The school and the parent and community members on the School Steering Team pushed for adequate capacity throughout the design process. Eventually more learning spaces were carved out by subdividing some classrooms and reducing some common spaces, not by increasing the building's size. Many teachers will not have their own classrooms in the new school, and more teacher workspace also had to be found. The online Chronicle Herald reported (on April 25) it is a 1500 student high school. Keep in mind this is actually in the upper limit for the school. At 1550 students, it will be "very tight" according to Dept. of Education (DoE) information given to the School Steering team last April. For more information about the capacity issue, including the Minster's response and her answers in the Assembly's question period, check the SAC page on the CPA website http://www.cpa.ednet.ns.ca/?page_id=12 . There are still concerns that we may be headed for a new building with the old overcrowding issues.

2. Field storage structure for school athletic equipment—a new issue. In December 2010, a field house for equipment storage was presented to the school administration as being provided as part of the construction project. The school was asked in late February 2012 if it would fundraise \$69,000 for the school's portion by March 19th. This was a big surprise, as we believed it to be included. HRM will have a field house to store equipment but the DoE will not supply an outbuilding to store equipment. The cement pad and electrical will be provided by the Dept. but it will be left to the school community to fundraise for their portion. The SAC strongly objected to this and the Minister's subsequent explanation that the school "misinterpreted." Cost-sharing was never discussed with the school, and was never discussed at any School Steering Team meetings attended by the school and community representatives. To view the Minister's response, check the CPA webpage under SAC. Lack of clarity about the enhancement process, not the school's interpretation is a huge factor in this issue. We have asked the Minister to reconsider and fully fund the school's portion of the building.

How you can find out more and stay involved

The new school will be beautiful, and a wonderful educational and community asset. We want it to serve our students' needs well into the future. Let's focus on that goal as the building and learning spaces now take shape.

Check the architect's website blog:
<http://www.whwarchitects.com/>

Follow the CPA website and SAC minutes.

Keep in touch with your elected representatives.

The HRSB rep. is **David Finlayson** <david@davidfinlayson.ca>.

The MLAs for the school catchment area can get briefings from the Dept. of Educ. and discuss your concerns. Contact:

Kelly Regan, MLA Bedford Birch Cove <kelly@kellyregan.ca>
and

Mat Whynott, MLA Hammonds Plains-Upper Sackville
<mat.mla@ns.sympatico.ca>.

Milestones

2005: HRSB requests a new high school to replace CPA.

April 2009: Dept. of Educ. announces new high school will be built and open in 2012.

June 2009: Site selection committee recommends 3 sites.

Sept. 2009: HRSB submits site selection report to Dept. of Educ.

Dec. 2010: Dept. of Educ. announces new high to be built on the #1 recommended site on Innovation Drive.

November 2011: Ground breaking

February 2012: Steel is on site.

April 2012: School framework visible from northbound Hwy 102.

Respectfully submitted to the CPA High School Community,

Elaine Loney, Co-Chair, CPA SAC and Member, School Steering Team
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